



THE MAGIC OF MADEIRA

FEBRUARY 20TH - 28TH 2020

Madeira has been described as the island of eternal spring and the island where summer goes to spend winter. Famous throughout the world for its natural beauty, this exotic Portuguese island is often called “the floating garden in the Atlantic.” Captain Cook, visiting Madeira in 1768, remarked that the island was “the recipient of Nature’s most liberal gifts.”

Nature has, in fact, been wildly extravagant—Birds of Paradise flower throughout the year, magenta bougainvillea cascades over ancient walls, and mimosa fills the air with its scent. Year round the temperature hovers around 70 degrees. In the hills above the capital of Funchal (where we’ll spend our nights) are two outstanding gardens—the Botanical Gardens, with terraced beds and greenhouses, and Quinta do Palheiro Ferreiro, a private estate that’s open to the public. And these are just a sample of the stunning settings and gardens we’ll explore as we crisscross the island, experiencing the full range of Madeiran landscapes, from volcanic to tropical.



Of course Madeira is much more than just gardens. Outside Funchal, the terraced hillsides grow grapes for the hearty wine that has been popular for centuries, and during your stay you’ll be encouraged to become a connoisseur! In Funchal, we’ll have a chance to visit the Sacred Art Museum and the 15th century Se Cathedral, experiencing the essence of local life at Funchal’s colorful Mercado dos Lavradores (workers’ market).

This winter, join Discover Europe on a remarkable journey into the heart of Madeira. With guided visits to the island’s legendary gardens as well as free time to explore, you’ll truly experience the full flavor of Portugal’s very own floating botanical paradise.



YOUR HOTEL - BELMOND REID'S PALACE

Photo courtesy of Belmond Management Ltd.

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED):	\$4180
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 990

Airfares are available from many U.S. departure cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

HOTELS:	7 nights’ accommodation at the luxury 5-star Belmond Reid’s Palace including all hotel taxes and service charges
COACHING:	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
MEALS:	Breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
GUIDES:	DISCOVER EUROPE tour director throughout Local guide for all sightseeing and excursions
BAGGAGE:	Porterage of one large suitcase per person
ENTRANCES:	Entrance fees to all sites featured in the itinerary

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.*

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH - Evening departure from your U.S. gateway city.
OVERNIGHT: PLANE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST - This morning you board your connecting flight to Funchal. Upon arrival in Madeira, you will be met and escorted to your hotel where you can check in and relax. Tonight dinner is at Vila do Peixe, a local favorite, and includes a performance of Fado, the hauntingly sad folk music of Portugal. **(D) OVERNIGHT: FUNCHAL**

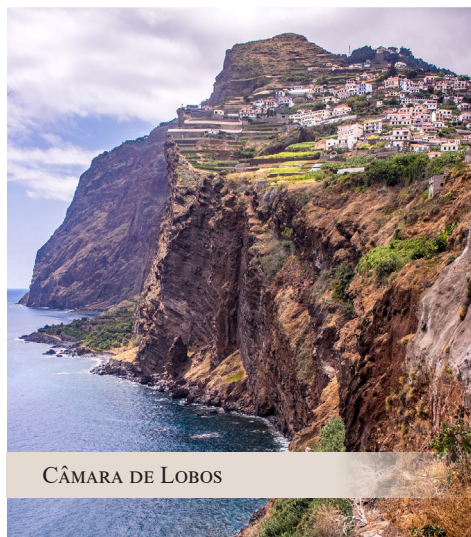
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND - This morning starts on the eastern part of the island, with a leisurely walk along one of the most scenic levadas (man-made canals) for which Madeira is famous—the Ribeiro Frio. Continuing on, you'll explore the lovely old streets of Santana. In the afternoon, you'll return to Funchal, where you'll have time to take high tea on the terrace at the Reid's Palace Hotel. The evening is free. **(B) OVERNIGHT: FUNCHAL**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD - A relaxing day to discover Funchal. The morning includes a walking tour that includes the Mercado dos Lavradores museum with its island specialties from fresh fish and vegetables, to exotic flowers and local crafts. We'll also visit Patrício & Gouveia to see its beautiful embroidery and tour the upstairs "factory." After a stop for lunch (included) in town, we'll enjoy the spectacular, award-winning orchid display at Quinta da Boa Vista, five miles above Funchal. Then you'll have free time for individual exploration. You could visit the Museum of Natural History, housed in the old residence of the Count of Carvalhal, which features marine-type species and geological samples, browse the local stores and do a little shopping. In the evening, you are free to try a local restaurant. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: FUNCHAL**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH - An all-day excursion around the island explores the astonishing range of landscapes, from subtropical to volcanic. You'll begin at Câmara de Lobos, where Winston Churchill came to paint. Then you'll travel to Cabo Girão, the highest sea cliff in Europe and second highest in the world, surrounded by beautifully terraced farmland. From there, you'll visit Ribeira Brava's 16th-century church and its lively seafront market before proceeding through Serra de Água to Boca da Encumeada for a view of both the north and south coasts of Madeira. Lunch is in Porto Moniz, one of the island's most colorful fishing villages. On our way back to the hotel, we'll stop at the Contemporary Art Museum in Calheta. After returning to the hotel, you will have time to rest before we gather for dinner at the hotel. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: FUNCHAL**



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH - Madeira's beauty unfolds on a morning visit to Quinta do Palheiro. Garden enthusiasts will adore this superb estate, owned by the Blandy family, and the surrounding Blandy's Garden, one of the most beautiful parks on Madeira. On the hillside north of Funchal, you can admire the Botanical Gardens. Their elaborate terracing and splendid variety of exotic flowers, vegetables, and herbs provide a comprehensive introduction to the island's flora. After lunch we'll explore the city itself, beginning with a visit to the Museum of Sacred Art, a former bishop's palace with an extensive collection of Flemish masterpieces from the 15th and 16th centuries. Also on the itinerary is a tour of the magical Cathedral Sé, dating from the 1400's. This evening you are free to sample one of the superb local restaurants. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: FUNCHAL**



CÂMARA DE LOBOS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH - The day begins at the old Blandy's Wine Lodge, which now houses the Madeira Wine Museum. You'll tour the cellars, which date from the 17th century, and taste some of the local delicacies, including the Madeira, for which the island is famous. The afternoon includes a visit to Eira do Serrado for breathtaking views over the Nun's Valley before returning to the hotel. The evening is free in the city. **(B) OVERNIGHT: FUNCHAL**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH - This morning's excursion takes us to the glorious Monte Palace Gardens in the fashionable hill town above Funchal. If you wish, you may return to town via the famous toboggans, operated by skilled professionals! In the evening, meet with your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner at O Forte. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: FUNCHAL**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH - Morning transfer to Funchal Airport for your return flights back to the U.S. **(B)**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner