

December
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S FESTIVITIES

Christmas is the "Festivity" *par excellence* of Madeira. During the Christmas season there are several presentations of the traditional culture of Madeira, from the making of the nativity scenes and *lapinhas* (traditional Madeiran nativity cribs), to the Christmas illuminations along the streets of Funchal, to the preparation of typical seasonal dishes such as honey cake, *broas de mel* (honey cookies), *carne de vinha-d'alhos* (pork in wine and garlic) and liqueurs.



Nativity cribs

The "Night at the Market", on 23rd of December, has always been the day on which the people go there to buy vegetables and seasonal fruits used to decorate the nativity scene and *lapinhas*. On New Year's Eve there are parties everywhere. This festive atmosphere culminates with a colourful and diversified fireworks display, recognized officially by the Guinness Book of Records in 2006 as the largest fireworks display in the world.



Christmas illuminations

On January 5th, is celebrated the eve of the Three Wise Men, time when locals gather in groups to sing Twelfth Night Songs at the Municipal Garden of Funchal. In some villages, the culmination of the holiday season occurs on January 15th with the Santo Amaro festivities. At this time, families gather to share the last delicacies of the festive season, and to dismantle the Christmas decorations and "clean the cupboards."



Fireworks display

MADEIRA CULTURAL FESTIVALS

May
Madeira Regional Bands Meeting
 Ribeira Brava annually hosts Madeira Regional Bands Meeting, promoting this musical genre and the work of various entities which dedicate to promote and preserve Philharmonic bands.
Organization: DRAC, Ribeira Brava Municipality and Madeira Philharmonic Bands Association



Madeira Regional Bands Meeting



Madeira Music Festival

June
Madeira Music Festival – Classical music concerts
 This event is held on the first half of June, in some of the most emblematic buildings of the island, enclosing sacred music, ballet and contemporary dance and repertoires for piano and orchestra by great composers.
Organization: DRAC

July
Atlantic Roots Festival
 This event promotes the traditional music of Madeira, associated with the World Music area. Held at Funchal's Municipal Garden Auditorium this event integrates the participation of regional, national and international artists.
Organization: DRAC

October
Madeira Organ Festival
 This festival is comprised by a wide range of concerts held at various churches and venues in the island, where people are given the opportunity to listen to the works of the most renowned composers of ancient and sacred music, complemented by chamber music groups or by an orchestra.
Organization: DRAC
 For further information:
www.festivaisculturaismadamadeira.com

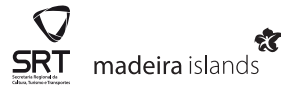


Madeira Organ Festival



madeira islands

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events

Events all year round!

Make the most of your visit to Madeira Islands. At any time of the year you will find an assorted selection of events that will enrich your visit. Join in one of the most memorable events which integrate our Tourism entertainment calendar. The diversity of subjects, ranging from traditional culture to history, to music, to sports and pyrotechnic shows, gives you the chance to choose the best time for you to visit Madeira Island, among a selection of events that takes place throughout the year.



Flower Festival

April | May

Madeira Islands Open Golf
Madeira Islands annually hosts "Madeira Islands Open Golf" an event integrated in the European Tour, one of the most credited golf circuits in the world, in recognition to the excellent conditions that Madeira Islands three main golf courses offers for the practice of golf. If you play golf or if you are simply a golf lover, here you will find the ideal conditions to enjoy this sport while relishing the breathtaking natural scenery of the island.



Madeira Islands Open Golf

August | September

Madeira Wine Festival
The Madeira Wine trade reached its peak in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, promoting the island name throughout the main trading ports in the world. This activity which connects farmers, producers and traders, reaches its peak during the harvesting period; therefore, Madeira Wine Festival takes place during the harvest months. The event takes place between Funchal, stage to various entertainment activities and live scenes, and Estreito de Câmara de Lobos where a "Live wine Harvest" occurs.



Madeira Wine Festival



Madeira Carnival Festivities

February

Madeira Carnival Festivities
Madeira Carnival owes its international prestige to its flamboyant Parade of Floats that takes place on Saturday night. Though, it offers various entertainment activities, mostly associated with Madeira carnival traditions. Other highlights are the Children's Carnival on Friday morning, the numerous performances by theatre and entertainment groups, apart from performances by local bands taking place throughout the week and the traditional "Trapalhão" Parade (Slapstick Parade) on Tuesday, which invites everyone to participate, including visitors.



Atlantic Festival

June

Atlantic Festival
The Atlantic Festival sets the beginning of summer in Madeira combining a range of initiatives with particular highlight to the pyro musical shows, the Madeira Music Festival and the Regional Arts Week. The pyro musical shows combine fireworks and music are held at 10:30 p.m., during the four Saturdays of June, in Funchal Harbour, lasting approximately 20 minutes.



Columbus Festival

September

Columbus Festival
Prior to the discovery of America, Christopher Columbus visited Madeira a few times. This connection to the archipelago grew stronger with his marriage to the daughter of the Captain-donoe of Porto Santo island. It is said that Columbus studied here the maps that later would lead him to his great discovery. Columbus Festival is held as a tribute to this entrepreneur, starting with the disembarking of Christopher Columbus on this island, recreating the historical period in which he lived in the island. This event integrates a sixteenth-century market, theatrical productions and circus arts.

April | May

Flower Festival
"The Island of Flowers" is a designation which describes Madeira Islands and the close connexion of its inhabitants with flowers. In every corner, locals grow and praise their flowers. As a tribute to this bond the Flower Festival is held depicting two main highlights, the Float Parade on Sunday afternoon, displaying a wide variety of flowers and the "Wall of Hope" held on Saturday morning. Thousands of children build a "wall" with flowers picked from their gardens, in a symbolic ceremony for Peace and Love.



Flower Festival

July | August

Madeira Wine Rally
The Madeira Wine Rally, held for over half a century, is the most famous and challenging automobile event in the region. Organised by the Madeira Sports Club this race, is followed by thousands of islanders, who seek the best places to observe the skill of the drivers in our very distinctive roads. The rally takes place on the last weekend of July gathering famous national and foreign pilots. This race integrates the Portugal's Rally Championship.



Madeira Wine Rally

October

Madeira Nature Festival
The Nature Festival is one of the most recent events within the tourist entertainment calendar, based on a concept of harmony between Man and Nature. The official programme includes activities on the sea, land and on the air, related to local culture and ethnography, in a typical festive Madeiran environment. The object of the festival is to promote the extraordinary natural heritage and to incite the discovery of Madeira islands as a tourist destination.

Photos: Turismo da Madeira; DRAC; Club Sports Madeira; Carlos Costa; Henrique Seruca; Marcial Fernandes; Tiago Sousa © Desenquadrado



Madeira Nature Festival