

Madeira extension

May 28th- May 31st

We have a party of 18 coming to Madeira after the cruise. We're staying three nights in the capital city of Funchal at the Vine Hotel.

Sunday, May 28th

Funchal

I won't know our departure time from the ship to the airport until I speak with the personnel on board ship. I would anticipate a departure about 10:00 AM. You'll be notified by the cruise staff about procedures and times to disembark. I will check us in at the group desk upon arrival at the airport.

I will have your tickets with me. They will include a carry-on bag, one checked bag of 20KG (44.9 pounds), and a seat assignment. There is a snack involved as well, but I'm not sure what shape that takes.

U2 7753 28MAY Porto to Funchal 12:30 PM 2:30 PM

Our local guide will meet us at the airport. I anticipate that we will have all of our bags collected and ready to depart for the hotel by 3:30PM with an estimated arrival at the hotel by 4:00 PM.

A change to the original letter. The only way to fit a catamaran cruise into the schedule is to book a sunset option. We're set to cruise on a 3-hour cruise departing from the Magic Dolphin pier, about 15 minutes by foot from the hotel. The cruise will include drinks and a light meal consisting of wraps, salads, and fruits.

We'll effect a rapid check in at the hotel, then meet in the lobby at 5:15 PM for the walk to the sailboat, about 15 minutes away on the harbor.

Most of the town of Funchal, including wineries, is closed on Sunday. Even the Monte Toboggans only operate until 1:00 PM.

The Vine Hotel

R. dos Aranhas 27, 9000-044 Funchal +351 291 009 000

The hotel is air conditioned, with flat-screen television, direct-dial telephone, free wi-fi access, Hair dryer, electronic safe, and mini-bar. There is a wonderful

rooftop pool onsite. Breakfast is included each morning. This hotel is located just steps away from the old town (Zona Velha) and not too far from shore.

Monday, May 29th

Funchal and Madeira Wine

Walking tour of the old town. We'll take the cable car to Monte, and walk about 10 minutes to the start of the Toboggan run. We've got a group lunch planned before we participate in this most activity, wholly unique to Madeira. At the bottom of the hill, we'll take taxis to a winery for a taste of the fortified wine that Madeira is known for. We should finish up close to the hotel about 5:00 PM. Dinner is on your own this evening. Your guide or the hotel desk can provide you with suggestions. Overnight Funchal (BL)

Tuesday, May 30th

Vista drive with of the Island

We'll get started again today at 9:00. Our day was originally planned to include a visit to the vista at Pico Arieriro, followed by the village of Camacha. Our guide Luisa has explained that the drive to Arieriro is crowded and congested, and Covid shutdowns have all but ruined the village of Camacha for tourism. I'm taking her suggestion for an alternative day that will include a drive to Cabo Girao for the scenery and a walk on the [Skywalk](#). We'll have lunch at a seafood spot in a village nearby. After lunch we return to Funchal and may have another wine stop, depending on our time. Overnight Funchal (BL)

We were originally slated to have a farewell dinner in Funchal this evening. Because of the difficulty in finding a quality restaurant for a group this size, coupled with the fact that everyone on the Madeira extension is coming for Fado, I will cover the costs of the Fado dinner and show. This means dinner will be on your own for the last night in Madeira. I suggest you check with the hotel desk for recommendations, ask our guide Luisa, or check out options on [tripadvisor.com](#). (B,L)

Wednesday, May 31st

Flights to Lisbon and Fado

We have a mid-morning departure from Funchal to Lisbon. To check in for this 9:30 departure, we should plan to depart from the hotel at 7:00 AM. You can never allow for too much check in time.

We are scheduled on Easy Jet Flight 7622 departing at 9:30.

U2 7622 31MAY FNC LIS 9:30 AM 11:15 AM

The flight is a just under 2 hours long. We arrive in Lisbon prior to the lunch hour. Everyone by now has made their own arrangements for accommodations in Lisbon. Some people are staying near the airport. Others are extending beyond one night to stay in the central part of the city. Baggage restrictions are the same as the outbound. I will print boarding passes before I leave for Spain to distribute those to you there.

I decided to stay at Marriott property about 2 km from the airport as I had a free night to use. If you're interested in that option, it is the [Moxy Oriente Lisboa](#).

I have now confirmed details for the Fado dinner and show. I visited this place with a Ciscoe garden tour group in 2014. It was a lot of fun and the singers were incredibly talented. A lot of locals as well as international visitors come for dinner and the show.

I have made a dinner reservation for the group on May 31st at 8:00 PM. The show begins at 9:00 and goes until 1:00 AM, though I doubt most people would stay beyond 11:00. A little Fado goes a long way.

It would be ideal if we all plan to **arrive at the restaurant at 7:45** so that we can get seated together for dinner and before the show begins. We're all coming from different hotels and directions, so plan your travel time accordingly. The address is: [Clube de Fado](#). Rua de São João da Praça, 94, 1100-521 Lisbon. An Uber should be under €20 each way. After the show, you'll Uber or taxi back to your hotel.

I am setting up a whatsapp group for the tour. Text me at 425 417 3322 to be included in that group. Be sure to download the whatsapp app on your phone.

Brad