

PRE-SYMPOSIUM BOTANICAL FIELD EXCURSION MADEIRA ARCHIPELAGO

Saturday, 7 September - Saturday, 14 September

PROGRAMME

07/09/2024, Saturday

Departure to Hotel Encumeada, briefing and dinner.

08/09/2024, Sunday

Madeira Island: Pico Arieiro – Encumeada*

This trail crosses high-altitude tree heath vegetation and mosaics of high-altitude rock vegetation (in some areas, invaded by the European shrub *Cytisus scoparius*). It offers breathtaking over the island's heavily disturbed southern slope and the temperate laurel forest on the northern slope.

For those who may find this trail too difficult, there is an alternative, shorter programme will be available, from Achada do Teixeira to Pico Ruivo, followed by the first 2 km of the trail to Pico Arieiro.

Trail	Distance (km)	Max. - Min. Altitude (m)	Accumulated (ascent-descent) (m)	Tunnels
Main	12,85	1800 - 1000	1000 - 1700	0
Alternative	5,4 + 2	1852 - 1582	304 - 304	0

09/09/2024, Monday

Madeira Island: Encumeada – Chão da Ribeira

The trail crosses temperate laurisilva dominated by *Ocotea foetens* and *Clethra arborea*, old trees in the best preserved part of Madeira's laurisilva; secondary vegetation, caulirosetted communities dominated by the neoendemics *Musschia wollastonii*, *Euphorbia mellifera*, *Sonchus fruticosus* and *Isoplexis sceptrum*. Some very rare plant species can be observed, such as *Pittoporum coriaceum* and *Goodyera macrophylla*.

An alternative programme will also be available, from Encumeada to Ginjas, along the Folhadal Levada.

Trail	Distance (km)	Max. - Min. Altitude (m)	Accumulated (ascent-descent) (m)	Tunnels
Main	16,1	1048 - 490	100 - 800	8
Alternative	8	1048 - 1009	39 - 39	3 + 3

* The trail may be partially closed, in which case the departure will be from Pico Ruivo.

10/09/2024, Tuesday

Madeira Island: Prazeres – Paul do Mar – Prazeres

This circular route crosses inframediterranean oleaster (*Olea maderensis*) microforests, including patches of secondary vegetation, and remains of both marmulano (*Sideroxylon marmulano*) microforest and barbusano-tree (*Apollonias barbujana*) forests, in a Natura2000 protected area. It also crosses stretches of rock vegetation. Several endemic plant species can be observed, such as *Argyranthemum haematomma*, *Teucrium heterophyllum* and *Jasminum odoratissimum*, among others.

For those who may find the ascent too difficult, the alternative is to walk down from Prazeres to Paul do Mar, enjoy the beach, and come back up by bus.

Trail	Distance (km)	Max. - Min. Altitude (m)	Accumulated (ascent-descent) (m)	Tunnels
Main	6,1	570 - 10	600 - 680	0
Alternative	1,4	512 - 19	0 - 493	0

11/09/2024, Wednesday

Desertas Islands: Disembarkation point – Top of Ilhéu Chão – Disembarkation point

This is an excellent opportunity to visit one of the Deserta islands. Its vegetation cover includes small patches of madeiran oleaster (*Olea maderensis*) inframediterranean microforests, patches of secondary vegetation dominated by *Jasminum odoratissimum*, and halo-nitrophilous vegetation dominated by *Suaeda vera* and *Bassia tomentosa*.

Trail	Distance (km)	Max. - Min. Altitude (m)	Accumulated (ascent-descent) (m)	Tunnels
Main	4	150 - 0	150 - 150	0

12/09/2024, Thursday

Porto Santo Island: Base of Pico Branco – Pico Branco – Base of Pico Branco

This is a round trip in a landscape where the effects of the rabbits, which are yearly reinforced by the local authorities, are clearly visible in the highly degraded ecosystems. They are dominated by annual vegetation, with patches of secondary mediterranean laurisiva dominated by heath (*Erica platycodon subsp. maderincola*). Extremely rare plants can be observed, such as *Cheirolophus massonianus* and *Erysimum arbuscula*. The vegetation of the naturally protected cliffs includes very rare species, such as *Pericallis menezesii*, *Cheirolophus massonianus* and *Erysimum arbuscula*.

As this is a round trip, it is possible to turn back at any point for those who find the whole journey too tiring.

Trail	Distance (km)	Max. - Min. Altitude (m)	Accumulated (ascent-descent) (m)	Tunnels
Main	5,96	450 - 180	340 - 340	0

13/09/2024, Friday

Porto Santo Island: Walk along the dunes

Morning walk along the dunes, where remains of sand dune vegetation can be observed.

Return to Funchal after dinner.

Trail	Distance (km)	Max. - Min. Altitude (m)	Accumulated (ascent-descent) (m)	Tunnels
Main	4	30 - 10	20 - 20	0

14/09/2024, Saturday

Arrival in Funchal at 01:00, transport to the hotel. Free day.