

Madeira Sets the Scene for a Magical Christmas and New Year

From dazzling Christmas lights and centuries-old traditions to spectacular New Year's Eve fireworks, Madeira offers a festive escape with a difference



Images (L-R): Christmas Market © Francisco Correia, Christmas Decorations © Francisco Correia and Market Night © Nuno Andrade.

26 October 2026. From 1 December 2026 to 10 January 2027, Madeira will come alive with festive celebrations, from Funchal's spectacular Christmas lights and traditional markets to centuries-old customs and world-famous New Year's Eve fireworks.

With Booking.com's recently published *2027 Travel Predictions** revealing that 81% of global travellers prioritise how they want to feel when choosing a holiday destination, Madeira's mild winter temperatures and festive atmosphere offer the perfect setting to embrace the joy and excitement of the season.

Below, Visit Madeira highlights some of the key events and experiences visitors can look forward to this Christmas and New Year:

Christmas Lights Switch-On

On 1 December, Funchal officially welcomes the festive season with the spectacular switch-on of its Christmas lights. Thousands of twinkling lights illuminate the capital's streets, squares and waterfront, transforming the city into a dazzling festive wonderland. Accompanied by music and entertainment, the switch-on sets the scene for the Christmas season, inviting visitors to soak up the magical festive atmosphere.

Traditional Christmas Nights

Madeira's festive traditions take centre stage from 9 to 23 December, with Traditional Christmas Nights bringing music, local flavours and celebrations to towns and villages across the island. The festivities reach their peak on 23 December with Funchal's famous Market Night, when the streets surrounding the Farmers' Market (Mercado dos Lavradores) fill with locals and visitors enjoying Christmas carols, regional delicacies and a lively atmosphere.

Childbirth Masses (Missas do Parto)

One of Madeira's most distinctive Christmas traditions, the *Missas do Parto* take place from 16 to 24 December, inviting visitors to experience a special part of the island's festive heritage. Held in parish churches

across Madeira in the early hours of the morning, these services honour the Virgin Mary in the lead-up to Christmas. Following the masses, the celebrations continue outside the churches, where locals gather to share traditional cakes, drinks and *carne de vinha d'alhos* sandwiches (pork marinated in wine and garlic). For visitors, it's a wonderful opportunity to experience the island's strong sense of community and Christmas spirit.

New Year's Eve Fireworks Show

As the clock strikes midnight on 31 December, Madeira will welcome 2027 with a dazzling fireworks display over Funchal Bay. With the city's natural amphitheatre providing a spectacular backdrop, bursts of colour will illuminate the harbour and surrounding hillsides as locals and visitors come together to celebrate the arrival of the new year. The display, which earned Madeira a Guinness World Record for the world's largest fireworks display in 2006, has become one of the island's most anticipated annual celebrations, offering a memorable way to welcome 2027.

For more information on things to see and do in Madeira this Christmas and New Year, visit: <https://visitmadeira.com/en/whats-on/events/christmas-and-new-year-festivities/>

*Booking.com's 2027 Travel Predictions report: <https://news.booking.com/bookingcom-2027-travel-predictions-reveal-the-ultimate-travel-flex>

ENDS

About Madeira. Belongs to all

- Madeira. Belongs to all is the consumer-facing brand of the [Madeira Promotion Bureau](#), which aims to promote Madeira as a tourist destination to consumers and the travel trade.
- Madeira, otherwise known as 'the islands of eternal spring', is just a short, three-and-a-half-hour flight from London. It covers 740km² and has a population of only 260,000. On the same latitude as Morocco, the Atlantic archipelago has a sub-tropical climate, a rich volcanic soil and a unique ecosystem. It is one of the only places in the planet where banana trees grow next to vineyards.
- Located approximately 1,000km from the European mainland - and just 500km from the African continent – Madeira enjoys an amazingly mild climate, ranging from 25°C in the summer to 17°C in the winter, with very mild average temperatures and moderate humidity.
- In 1999, Madeira's indigenous forest, the Laurissilva, was declared a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site. The Madeira Natural Park is a protected area that covers around two-thirds of Madeira Island's territory, equivalent to 67% of its surface.

For more information, visit www.visitmadeira.com / @visitmadeira



About Madeira Promotion Bureau

Madeira Promotion Bureau aims to promote Madeira in the national and international markets.

For media information and images, please contact Hume Whitehead Ltd:

Richard Hume (richard@humewhitehead.co.uk / +44(0) 20 3375 4051)

Laura Boo (laura@humewhitehead.co.uk / +44(0) 20 3375 4056)