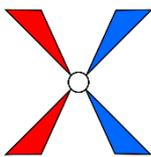


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bncdoc.id	CA7
bncdoc.author	Farrow, Susan
bncdoc.year	1990
bncdoc.title	Madeira: the complete guide.
bncdoc.info	Madeira: the complete guide. Sample containing about 41184 words from a book (domain: leisure)
Text availability	Worldwide rights cleared
Publication date	1985-1993
Text type	Written books and periodicals
David Lee's classification	W_misc

<p><1046/c></p>  <p>Key: Footprint ConEn1 Footprint ConEn2 Footprint ConEn3</p>	<p>café provides a good vantage point to watch the world go by. But don't sit too close to the road, as some of the old buses and trucks leave a trail of black smoke as they struggle up Funchal's twisting, narrow streets. At night, after dinner, it is very pleasant to stroll from hotel to hotel or to the many bars and small restaurants or, later, to the discothèques. You are not likely to encounter any problems on the streets in Madeira, apart from the occasional drunk trying to find his way home. Nor does the island appear to be over-full of tourists, not even in Funchal where over ninety per cent of the hotels are located. At present there are some 12,000 hotel beds, nearly all in Funchal, compared with 200,000 in the Canary Islands and over 36,000 in the Algarve. The government policy is to expand the total number of beds in the island to around 20,000 and to encourage this expansion to be outside Funchal, thereby opening up the wonderful countryside and expanding the economy of the many small villages. A number of new small hotels/pensions have recently opened in Ribeira Brava, Porto Moniz, Santana, Caniço and São Gonçalo. The government is also opening pousadas (small country hotels) for walkers who wish to visit the scenic beauty of the island. The existing rest houses (with simple catering facilities) are often fully booked by government employees, so it is best to check with the Tourist Office first. There are also ideas and schemes to purchase and renovate many of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century quintas around the island and to re-open them as small hotels. These quintas are large houses in their own spacious grounds which often include a small farm. For the size of the island, Madeira must have one of the highest concentrations of five-star hotels anywhere in the world. Before the 1974 Revolution, as well as having the world-famous Reid's Palace Hotel and the Savoy Hotel, the island boasted a Sheraton, Hilton (now Madeira Palácio), Holiday Inn (now Atlantis) and the then under construction Casino Park Hotel designed by Oscar Niemeyer -</p> <p>a total of six luxury five-star hotels</p> <p>. In addition to these, there is a good selection of four- and three-star hotels and apartment hotels from which to choose, as well as pensions. In recent years a great number of two-, three- and four-star hotels and apartment hotels have opened. Many of them offer an excellent service at a more economical price than the five-star hotels and most of them have a swimming pool, tennis courts and gardens along with night-time entertainment and a relaxed family atmosphere. A good example would be the Hotel Duas Torres, a little way out of Funchal, just before the Hotel Madeira Palácio on the road towards Câmara de Lobos. It has a family restaurant, friendly bar with draught beer and pregos (steak sandwiches), discothèque and swimming pool as well as self-catering facilities. Also to be recommended are the Hotels Girassol and Quinta do Sol, both close to Reid's, and the Hotel São João in the centre of Funchal itself. The São João has a varied programme of nightly entertainment and games to amuse its guests. In the centre of Funchal are a number of relatively inexpensive,</p>
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budget-priced hotels which, while of a basic and simple nature, are very clean and comfortable. **The Hotels Madeira and Carmo** are both used by tourists and Portuguese businessmen from the continent. Very good value can also be found in **a pensão or boarding-house** and **several** of these are situated in Funchal. These are excellent if you are considering a long stay of two or three months. Madeira has not been left behind in the present craze for time-sharing apartments. There are **a number** of existing and planned developments in this area with, we regret, the usual sales touts pestering tourists on street corners. Most visitors stay in the hotels, where service is the finest in Europe. Traditionally, the time to visit Madeira was in the winter months (October to April), to escape the cold northern European winters, and the low season was in the summer months. This pattern now appears to have been broken, and Madeira experiences an all-year-round trade with those who want summer sun tans as well as those who want to get away from cold winters. There has also been a change in the holiday habits of the Madeirans themselves, who used to retire to their summer villas at Monte or Santo da Serra to escape the heat or flocked to the rocky shoreline around Funchal to bathe every day. Today, with the regular air and sea link to Porto Santo, it seems, in the traditional holiday months of August and September, as if the entire population of Funchal has moved to Porto Santo. Regular faces that greet you in the banks, shops and offices in Funchal are to be seen on the eight-kilometre long beach of white sand. Apart from these two months the beach at Porto Santo is almost deserted. There is a good hotel in Porto Santo,