

THE UK'S FAVOURITE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

# lonely planet

JULY 2018

**LOS ANGELES**  
WALKING IN THE  
CITY OF ANGELS

**ESTONIA**  
LOCAL LIFE  
ON AN IDYLIC  
BALTIC ISLAND

**+SECRET EUROPE**  
UNDER-THE-RADAR  
SPOTS TO ADD TO  
YOUR WISHLIST

## ORIGINAL ITALY

Take a sun-soaked  
trip around  
Sicily

WIN  
a dream  
trip to  
*Morocco*



YOGA RETREATS ♦ SPANISH FOOD TOUR ♦ WELSH ROAD TRIP ♦ COSTA RICA FOR FAMILIES

# explore

YOUR WORLD OF DISCOVERIES

Escape to  
Croatia, get  
active in Northern  
Ireland, tune out on  
a yoga holiday, plot a  
weekend in Amsterdam,  
make discoveries  
on Madeira,  
and more

**SPOTLIGHT ON**

# Madeira

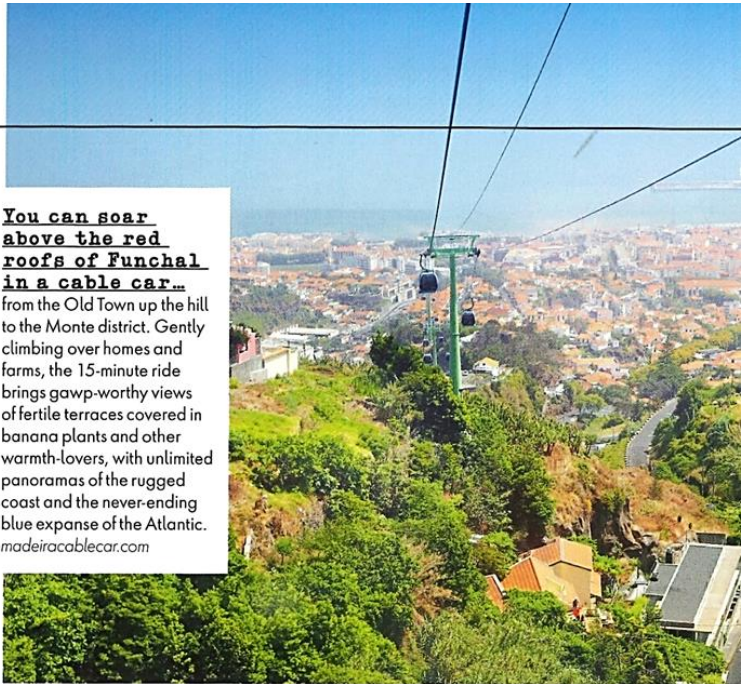
Ten reasons to look again at this island now living up to its active potential

The Portuguese island of Madeira lies closer to the African continent than to mainland Portugal. It's a place whose geography brings surprises right from the start: flat land is a precious rarity, so the runway of Madeira's Cristiano Ronaldo International Airport is partly built out on columns to make for more room. The island has an abundance of greenery, however, from exotic imports to Unesco-listed native laurisilva forests. Adventurous activities here rise to the challenge of the dramatic landscape, while the hilly capital Funchal is graced with many Portuguese heritage buildings dating back up to five centuries. *Jet2 is among the airlines serving Madeira, with flights from nine UK airports including London Stansted (from £165; jet2.com).*



**4** You can sleep amid wine-inspired décor... at The Vine in Funchal. In this sleek boutique hotel, ceiling art shows glasses being poured and other hints of the grape. Some rooms have egg-shaped baths. Don't miss sunset cocktails at the rooftop bar by the infinity pool, looking over the city and coastline. [hotellthevine.com](http://hotellthevine.com)

**1** You can soar above the red roofs of Funchal in a cable car... from the Old Town up the hill to the Monte district. Gently climbing over homes and farms, the 15-minute ride brings gawp-worthy views of fertile terraces covered in banana plants and other warmth-lovers, with unlimited panoramas of the rugged coast and the never-ending blue expanse of the Atlantic. [madeiracablecar.com](http://madeiracablecar.com)



You can race in a wicker basket... downhill from Monte. The toboggans were used as public transport in the 19th century; today *carreiros* wearing straw hats and thick, rubber-soled boots for braking push you down the winding roads at speeds of up to 30mph. [carreirosdomonte.com](http://carreirosdomonte.com)

You can handle the roughest of landscapes... on a 4WD adventure with an experienced local behind the wheel, traversing dense forests and tackling narrow bends. The heights bring fresh views of deeply carved valleys running down to the ocean. [mex.pt](http://mex.pt)



You can taste eight different types of passion fruit... at a historic farmers market that dates back to the 1940s. The Mercado dos Lavradores centres around an open courtyard bursting with exotic fruits, flowers and vegetables, plus locally caught fish. Thanks to its rich volcanic soil and subtropical climate, almost anything can grow in Madeira, so this is a great place to stop off and stock up on goodies to take home. [mercados.cm-funchal.pt](http://mercados.cm-funchal.pt)

WORDS: CLAIRE RICHARDSON; PHOTOGRAPHS: DISCOVER MADEIRA/MADERAALLYEAR.COM, JAN WODACZYK/AGE FOTOSTOCK, THE VINE FUNCHAL, MARTIN SIEMANN/AGE FOTOSTOCK/ROBERT HARRING, RUGO RES, CLAIRE RICHARDSON



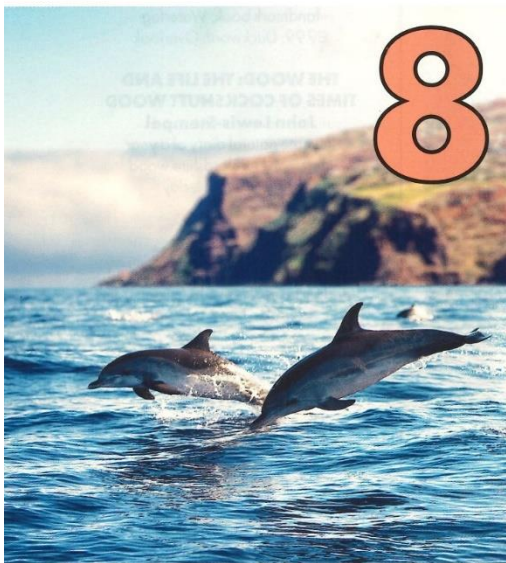
**You can quaff Poncha cocktails...**

while bopping along to classic '80s tunes at Old Town Funchal nightspot 23 Vintage Bar. The Poncha is Madeira's signature cocktail and traditional cold remedy, usually made with sugarcane spirit, honey and lemon juice. [facebook.com/23VintageBar](https://www.facebook.com/23VintageBar)



**You can test your nerves on a waterfall...**

as part of a canyoning expedition. Drops can be anything from 10m to 60m, depending on your ability and your readiness to face heights. On guided trips in the forested interior, you'll safely descend nature's watery obstacles with a bit of jumping and swimming along the way. [madeira-adventure-kingdom.com](http://madeira-adventure-kingdom.com)



**You can keep pace with whales and dolphins...**

on an RIB ride. The boat catches the crests of waves as Funchal's harbour and the steep cliffs fade from view. Madeira's deep waters are home to more than 28 cetacean species, and you only need to go a mile or so out before spotting surfacing pilot whales and playful dolphins jumping alongside the boat. [rota-dos-cetaceos.pt](http://rota-dos-cetaceos.pt)

PHOTOGRAPHS: BORGHEE/GETTY, ADVENTURE KINGDOM, 23 VINTAGE BAR, LUCAS DA ROS/ACORNERS



**You can have banana with your fish...**

in a truly Madeiran taste combination. Local black scabbard fish is served with banana fritters at Santa Maria - an Old Town restaurant with tables spilling out onto the cobbles. [santamariafunchal.com](http://santamariafunchal.com)



**You can use old irrigation channels as hiking trails...**

to reach viewpoints perched majestically in the mountains. These waterways, known as levadas, are unique to Madeira. On the short Vereda dos Balcões hike, follow a levada through thick laurisilva forest, to emerge at a platform above the deep valley of Ribeira da Metade. [madeiraallyear.com](http://madeiraallyear.com)