


madeira islands 



porto santo guide 

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✿ porto santo

Porto Santo is the smaller of the inhabited islands of the Madeira Archipelago. It lies in the Atlantic Ocean, at the South-western tip of Europe, about 500 km from the coast of Africa and 1000 km from Continental Europe. It takes around 1hr 30 min to fly from Lisbon to Porto Santo Island.

First discovered back in 1418, by Portuguese sailors, this archipelago is formed by the islands of Madeira and Porto Santo as well as the uninhabited Selvagens and Desertas Islands. The friendliness and hospitality of its locals, the mild climate all year around, the spectacular unspoilt landscapes and the richness and variety of the natural, historical and cultural resources are just some of the reasons why you should discover this paradise yourself.

A golden isle, washed by turquoise sea and where peace and quiet reign supreme, is all you need for a truly relaxing holiday.

This Atlantic island boasts 9 km fine golden sands ideal for sunbathing and swimming.

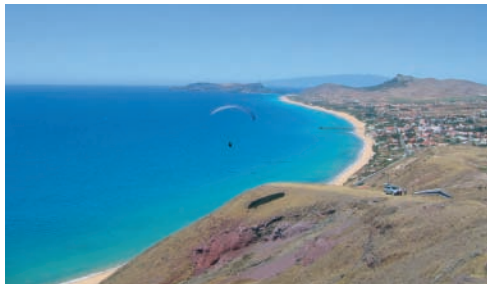
Health and wellness go hand in hand on this magnificent beach as, in addition to its crystalline waters, its sands have rare therapeutic properties. The sand is soft, fine and smooth and consists mainly of calcium carbonate in the form of calcite, which has special thermal qualities.

Vila Baleira can tell stories and legends of the distant and recent past, in fact a visit to the Christopher Columbus Museum will allow you to get to know the house in which he once lived.

The primitive beauty of the landscape enchants anyone walking the paths or cycling the island's trails.

The safety, along with the warm welcome of its locals, the pleasures that nature has to offer, the beautiful beaches of fine sand, and the calm sea currents, turn Porto Santo island into a privileged location amongst other similar destinations.

Come and get to know an island where calm and tranquillity reign!



The logo features a stylized white flower icon to the left of the text "wellness at porto santo".

wellness
at porto santo



The white sands, the long shore and the warm and crystalline waters are not Porto Santo's only charming attractions. This holidaymaker's paradise is also covered for the countless therapeutic properties of its sands and waters, which combine in various forms of treatments.

The treatment of orthopedic, rheumatic and psychiatric diseases is merely an example of the many healing opportunities of this destination, located only 50 km away from the island of Madeira.

And that's not all. The seawater's richness in iodine, calcium and magnesium is another reason why this island is the ideal place to recover from the body's lack of mineral salts, caused by stress and fatigue.

porto Santo's therapeutic sand

Unlike most beaches, the sand on Porto Santo is essentially carbonated, formed by sediments of corals, seashells and sea-urchins. With scientifically proven results, these sands relieve rheumatic pains and help recover bone fractures, and are used in the treatments developed by the Geomedicine Centre on the island.

porto santo's water


Seawater is used in thalassotherapy treatments, due to its substantially elevated quantities of chromium, strontium


and iodine, all benefic elements for your health. Likewise, Porto Santo's spring waters, both bicarbonate and sodic, are also rich in essential components to the well-being of our body.

thalassotherapy

Stress, exhaustion, fatigue, sedentariness, dietary deficiencies, intoxication caused by tobacco, osteoarthritis, digestive disorders and postpartum recovery are some of various treatments offered by the island's center of Thalassotherapy, which means "cure by the sea" in Greek. Come visit this unique center in Porto Santo and relax while you take care of yourself and of your health.





 how to get
to porto santo

by air

There are daily flights between Madeira and Porto Santo, and also from Lisbon to Porto Santo all year round.

Porto Santo Airport

2km from Vila Baleira

Phone: (+351) 291 980 120; Fax: (+351) 291 980 121

E-mail: anam@anam.pt

www.anam.pt

ICAO code: LPPS

IATA code: PXO

by sea

Ferry-boat

A modern ferry called Lobo Marinho belonging to the Porto Santo Line carries passengers and vehicles between Madeira and Porto Santo every day taking around 2 hrs. 30 min. The vessel can carry up to 1.153 passengers.

Porto Santo Line (inter-island ferry)

E-mail: info@portosantoline.pt

www.portosantoline.pt

in funchal

Head office and sales:

6, Rua da Praia

9000-503 Funchal

Phone: (+351) 291 210 300; Fax: (+351) 291 226 434

Port of Funchal

Phone: (+351) 291 241 881/2; Fax: (+351) 291 214 888

in porto santo

6/7th, shop, Rua Estêvão de Alencastre

9400-161 Porto Santo

Phone: (+351) 291 982 938; Fax: (+351) 291 982 543



porto santo marina

Porto Santo Marina operated by Assistência Náutica 33°/16° is located inside Porto Santo Harbour. It has berths at floating pontoons for 165 vessels of 4 to 15 metres in length. All berths are equipped with water and electricity supplies.

Showers, toilets, a laundry, a repair shop, a reception and a fax service are some of facilities available.

Assistência Náutica 33° 16° - (Porto Santo Marina)

16° 18'40"W 33° 03'21"N

Phone: (+351) 291 980 080; Fax: (+351) 291 983 742

Email: marinaportosanto@quintadolorde.pt

www.quintadolorde.pt

transportations

taxis

Av. Dr. Manuel Gregório Pestana Júnior
Phone: (+351) 291 982 123

buses

Tours of the island from and the Port
Downtown near petrol station
Phone: (+351) 291 982 780 / 291 982 403

rent-a-cars

Bravacar
Porto Santo Airport
Tel. (+351) 291 708 900
www.bravacar.com.pt

Moinho
Hotel Vila Baleira- Ij 1
Tel. (+351) 291 982 141
Porto Santo Airport
Tel. (+351) 291 983 260 / 291 982 780
www.moinho-rentacar.com

Rodavante
Porto Santo Airport
Tel. (+351) 291 982 925
www.rodavante.com

SIXT
Porto Santo Airport
Tel. (+351) 291 983 033
www.sixt.pt



 what to see



christopher columbus museum house

The Christopher Columbus Museum House, Porto Santo's main cultural attraction, marks the discoverer's presence on the island. The museum recreates the environment in which the explorer lived for a time.

Columbus's house consists of two buildings, the older of which dates back to his time on the island.

There we can see portraits of Columbus from the 16th to the 20th century and maps showing his different routes. Open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sundays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., closed Mondays and public holidays.

On summertime: From July to September from Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12.30 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Closed Mondays and public holidays.

2 and 4, Travessa da Sacristia

9400-176 Porto Santo

Phone: (+351) 291 983 405

Fax: (+351) 291 983 840

E-mail: casacolombo@casacolombo.pt

www.museucolombo-portosanto.com

quinta das palmeiras

This mini-zoo and botanical garden in Linhares on a hill in the central western part of the island houses a vast number of birds and plants in an area of 5,380 m² covered with luxuriant vegetation.

On summertime open from 10 am to 5 pm.

In winter open from 10 am to 1pm and from 3 pm to 5pm.

Sítio dos Linhares

9400-020 Porto Santo

Phone: (+351) 291 983 625

E-mail: quintadaspalmeirasportosanto@hotmail.com

www.quintadaspalmeirasportosanto.com



handicraft centre

This centre is in the town centre near the old quay and displays and sells handicrafts from the Madeira Islands. You can also watch craftsmen working here.

Centro de Artesanato Porto Santo
Av. Manuel Gregório Pestana Júnior
9400-741 Porto Santo

nossa senhora da graça chapel (our lady of grace)

This chapel is one of the oldest churches built in Porto Santo before 1533.

It was destroyed in 1812 and rebuilt in 1951. It is closely connected with the island's history and it was here that many of the inhabitants took refuge from pirate attacks.

fort of san jose

The old fort of San Jose is located in a high part of the city and consists of a set of 8 small iron cannons, which once served as a defence system of the island. Its construction has undergone profound changes since the beginning of the 17th century and from the 20th century on it became private property.

mother church

One of the main monuments in Porto Santo is the Mother Church also known as Nossa Senhora da Piedade (Our Lady of Mercy) and its located in Largo do Pelourinho, in the city centre.

This building was burned down several times by pirates and corsairs. Today it houses lovely altars and paintings by Martim Conrado and Max Romer and leaves no one untouched by their beauty.

windmills

Porto Santo's landscape is marked by its traditional windmills. As its terrain is fairly low, the island is exposed to winds from all quadrants. The windmills were built here in order to grind flour to make bread.

The first one was built in 1794 and was the most impressive building constructed in Porto Santo in the 18th century. Years later, the island had the most picturesque scenery with countless wooden windmills, some of which still remain operative until nowadays.

municipal hall

Even though it lies in the heart of the city of Vila Baleira, this building, which is also known as the "Chamber House", formerly served as the islands prison. The origin of the building goes back to the 16th Century, even though nowadays this building has already undergone some alterations in order to make it more functional.

monument to the discoveries

Better known by the moniker of "Pau de Sabão" (Soap Log), this is an impressive four-square monument, having craved on each of its sides images alluding the Portuguese discoveries. Formally inaugurated on 28th August 1960, this monument, executed by António Aragão, now stands on Alameda do Infante (Infante Lane).

portela

This belvedere is 1.6 km from Vila Baleira and is marked by a palm-lined street and three windmills. From here you can see Porto Santo Beach down to the west and cone-shaped Pico de Baixo and Ilhéu de Cima to the east. On the way to this viewpoint, stop and visit Nossa Senhora da Graça Chapel, built in 1851.



pico castelo

A small fort was built on top of this peak in the 16th century to ward off frequent attacks by French and Algerian pirates. Today, this belvedere offers a fine view of Porto Santo.

pico do facho

At 517 metres, Pico do Facho is the highest on the island. In earlier times torches were lit up to give notice to the local population of the approach of enemy ships.

For those who seek adventure you can explore Serra de Fora and the large Serra de Dentro Valley on the eastern slope of Pico do Facho and enjoy unique landscapes, charming islets and the rough seas of the northern area.

pico das flores

Located on the west coast, this peak is a magnificent panoramic viewing point, which overlooks the beautiful island of Porto Santo. From there and looking west you can spot Desertas and Madeira islands. Morenos, an adjacent belvedere to this peak is a lovely place to have a picnic and enjoy yourself.

pico ana ferreira

The Pedreira belvedere is at the top of this peak and offers a view over Ilhéu de Fora, Pico do Facho and Pico do Castelo. The quarry consists of irregular prismatic columns known as the Piano. Climb to the top and be rewarded with a panoramic view of the town.

fonte da areia

Natural springs are very important on an island with limited amounts of water.

Previously, this spring provided the tastiest water on the island and was also used for medicinal purposes. The inhabitants consider it a holy spring even nowadays. Fonte da Areia doesn't spring water like it used to, but the wind has left its mark on the sandy rocks creating a spectacular scenery of erosion.

You can get to the spring on a road going west from Camacha, towards the sea.

ponta da calheta

There is probably no better way to enjoy Porto Santo Beach than to walk along it from the town to Ponta da Calheta. Listen to the magic sound of the waves and drink in this indescribable beauty.

Wait for nightfall and admire the last rays of the sun as they kiss the sea and golden sands.





zimbralinho

Going west, between the Flores belvedere and Morenos you will find Zimbralinho a beautiful and tranquil place. Walk along the trail and you will see a pebble beach with a drinking fountain. Now you can walk down towards the fantastic blue waters of the sea.

morenos

Going west, after Pico da Ana Ferreira and Zimbralinho, you will encounter an ideal, verdant picnic area.

ilhéu de baixo or ilhéu da cal (limestone islet)

This islet has rich limestone mines. Its slopes are pitted with caves leading into countless mining galleries. Between this islet and Ponta da Calheta is Boqueirão de Baixo, which is 400 metres wide and accessible only to small boats when the sea is calm.



 what to do



beach

At Porto Santo you can combine the pleasures of bathing in the sea with the therapeutic qualities of its sand, and the peacefulness turn this island into an exceptional holiday destination.

Health and wellness go hand in hand on this magnificent beach as, in addition to its crystalline waters, its sands have rare therapeutic properties.

Discover the benefits of this tranquil, inviting beach. Relax and recover the energy and enthusiasm that you need.

walk on dunes

This walk, about 12 meters wide, extends to the area contiguous to the dunes. It has a floor made of stone colours and simple garden benches that will accompany the entire route, decorated with palm trees and vegetation. You will find the simplicity and silence matched to the pleasure of walking.

municipal library

The Municipal Library is located in Dr. Silvestre Nuno Teixeira street, next to the to the Cultural Centre and Congress in Porto Santo. The library has about 23

thousand books constantly updated. It offers its users, video, internet access and a free space for children and teens.



An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely in the Azores, featuring a prominent rocky peak (Pico da Formosa) and a coastline with waves. Several paragliders are visible in the sky against a blue background with scattered clouds. A semi-transparent olive-green box in the top-left corner contains a small icon of a flower and the text "sports and leisure activities".

 sports and
leisure activities

On the island of Porto Santo you will find some Tourist Animation Companies specialized in the organization of leisure activities, which will help you, make the most of your vacation in the best possible manner.

For further information please consult www.visitmadeira.pt

game fishing

Just like Madeira, Porto Santo has an international reputation for deep-sea fishing. Given the abundance and quality of the fish from the tuna family, these islands are the ideal place for catching blue marlin weighing in at over 500 kg.

diving

Porto Santo has long been visited by divers thanks to the clearness and temperature of its waters and the beauty of its seas.

Go snorkelling in this fantastic world. The most popular place with divers is in the southern part of the harbour, where the SS Madeirense, which plied for decades between Porto Santo and Madeira, has been sunk.

Hundreds of divers have already visited this submersed treasure and they are unanimous in saying that it is an excellent attraction for diving fans.

sailing, boat trips, canoeing and rowing

The warm climate, the clarity of the waters, and the gentle rhythm of the waves offer excellent conditions for pleasurable boat trips around the island, on a sailing boat, or for canoeing and rowing.

jet skiing, waterskiing, windsurfing and kite-surfing

Try these sports in the bright blue waters of the bay. Challenge the wind and enjoy a beach with perfect conditions for the excitement of windsurfing or kite-surfing.





horse riding

Porto Santo has a horse-riding centre with a riding school that organises pony trekking around Porto Santo, along routes of varying degrees of difficulty.

Hipicenter
Sítio da Ponta
9400-085 Porto Santo
Phone: (+351) 291 983 258
Mob.: (+351) 917 775 542
E-mail: hipicenter@yahoo.com
hipicenter.tripod.com/hipic1.htm

jeep safari

Drive a 4x4 around Porto Santo and enjoy some unique scenery. You will never forget the sensation of overcoming tricky natural obstacles.

hang-gliding and paragliding

The island's golden sands and clear blue sea make it very attractive to novices and experienced flyers alike. Climb

one of the peaks and soar off for an unforgettable flight. There are good take-off points and plenty of alternatives for landing.

cycling and motorcycling

Porto Santo is fairly flat and so cycling is a very popular way of exploring it, pedalling pleasantly and calmly to the island's magic corners.

golf

Porto Santo Golf Course was designed by the former world champion, Severiano Ballesteros and opened in 2004. It has 18 par-7 2holes and nine par-3 holes on a pitch and putt circuit.

The course occupies a vast area affording players spectacular views of the north and south coasts of the island.

Porto Santo Golfe

Sitio das Marinhas -P.O 174

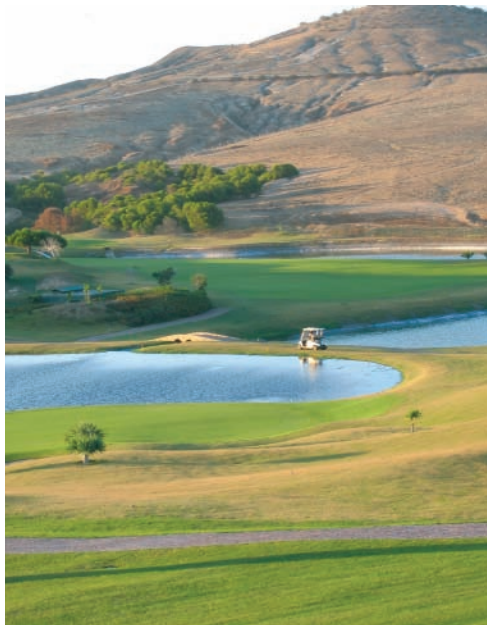
9400-055 Porto Santo

Phone: (+351) 291 983 508

Fax: (+351) 291 983 504

E-mail: sdps@netmadeira.com

www.portosantogolfe.com





tennis

Porto Santo boasts the region's best tennis complex and one of the best in the country.

The complex is in Campo de Baixo next to the golf course and is fully equipped for top competition tournaments.

It has a main stadium with stands seating 1,000 spectators, five secondary courts and two paddle courts.

Open everyday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Porto Santo Ténis

Campo de Baixo

Porto Santo

Phone: (+351) 291 980 600

Fax: (+351) 291 982 584

E-mail: msilva.sdps@netmadeira.com

walks

Walking through wonderful landscapes and enjoying their wild beauty is a good way of relaxing, discovering the charms of nature and getting back lost energy. In Porto Santo you can enjoy the simplicity and silence of walking.

The recommended routes for hikes within the Autonomous Region of Madeira are considered as small routes (PR) and have been established and regulated by Regional Legislative Decree no. 7-B/200/M
In the island of Porto Santo, one can walk throughout 2 recommended walks:

PR 1 Vereda do Pico Branco e Terra Chã
(ER 111 - Terra Chã);

PR 2 Vereda do Pico do Castelo
(Moledo - Pico do Castelo).

Some walking routes are in current undergoing maintenance to ensure the safety of walkers, so we advise you to consult the updated status of each walk on www.visitmadeira.pt prior engaging walks on the Islands.





 culture
traditional
festivities

twelfth night celebration

Commemorated on 6 January each year, Twelfth Night is feverously celebrated on the island of Porto Santo, with the festivities taking place at dawn, when the Porto Santo community, in pilgrimage and bedecked in formal garb, warble out popular folk songs and go from one house to another, admiring the traditional nativity scenes right through to daybreak.

the festival of st amaro

This festival, celebrated on the 15th January, is just as intense as that celebrated on Twelfth Night. The population, dressed up to the occasion brings typical musical instruments such as braguinhas and rajões (typical string instruments) and mandolins, gathering in groups of families or friends and sing these traditional songs which are passed on from generation to generation.

festivities of st john

Out of all the festivities, the most representative, and also the most eagerly awaited, is of course that dedicated to St John, who is the patron saint of the Island, and whose

feast day is commemorated on the June 23rd to 24th integrated in the Municipality commemorations.

These Festivities are a real open book bringing out the popular culture of the island of Porto Santo, and show, through several cultural and recreational activities for the people at large, the very identity that characterises the island of Porto Santo and the people who abide thereon.

our lady of grace festival

Celebrated in the middle of August (14th to 15th August), this religious party rallies round hundreds of followers and admirers, and includes liturgy and a procession, which is followed by a typical religious festivity “arraial” with food and beverage stalls and musical entertainment.

our lady of mercy

Thanks to the symbolism and the tradition that has been conquered, this is also a religious festival that includes traditional music, bands and general food and drink, in what amounts to a true arraial on Porto Santo. This festival takes place between 30 and 31 August, next to the temple of the same name.



vineyards festival

During the last days of August, in the city centre, all those who visit Porto Santo are introduced to the different wines produced on the island, all within an atmosphere in which the scent of wine wafts through the air.

columbus festival

In September, Vila Baleira devotes a week to Christopher Columbus who came to the island and lived here for several years.

Christopher Columbus' first contacts with Madeira were in 1478, at a time when Funchal was dedicated to the sugar trade. However, closer ties with the Madeira Archipelago arose through his marriage to Philippa Moniz, daughter of the first landowner captain of Porto Santo. Between 1480 and 1482, Columbus lived on the archipelago, with his son Diego having been born on Porto Santo.

The festival remembers the discoverer's presence in the Madeira Islands on his voyages to the Americas during the epic age of the discoveries.

Visitors can enjoy music, exhibitions, street entertainment and medieval scenes. A theatrical recreation of the arrival of Columbus and his companions at the quay and a historical parade marks this historical week.



 useful
information



Before planning your trip, find out about how to get to the Madeira Islands, the papers you need, customs formalities and health precautions.

papers

If you are visiting the islands from a European Union country belonging to the Schengen Agreement there are no restrictions on entry. Visitors from countries that are don't take part not party to on this the agreement, it is required to have and need identification document, which, under Portuguese law, means a valid passport and, in some cases, a visa.

customs formalities

Goods leaving the island are not subject to any limitations. However, if the customs officers feel that the quantity is excessive, you may be asked to prove that the articles are for your personal use.

vaccinations and health care

You do not need any vaccinations before travelling to the archipelago. Emergency treatment at state hospitals is free of charge for European Union citizens and there are good

private health care services for visitors from other countries. There is one health centre in Porto Santo.

Centro de Saúde
Rua Dr. José Diamantino Lima
Phone: (+351) 291 980 060
Fax: (+351) 291 980 061

pharmacies

Pharmacies are open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rua João Gonçalves Zarco
Phone: (+351) 291 982 577

information technology

Information and communication technologies are highly developed in the region. The international dialling code for Madeira is +351.

phones

There are public phones in the main streets of the larger towns. Some take only phone cards, which you can buy



in cafés, tobacconist and post offices. To call abroad, dial 00 followed by the country code.

time

In Madeira summer time is GMT. The clocks go forward one hour on the last Sunday in March and back an hour on the last Sunday in October, as in the rest of the European Union.

water and electricity

The electric current in Madeira is 220V.

In Porto Santo the water is desalinated and is also quite safe to drink.

banks and shops

The banks are open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Exchange bureaus are open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. every day except Saturdays, when they open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. At other times you can exchange money at hotels.

police

If you need help from the police, dial 112. There is a police headquarters in Porto Santo is to be found at downtown area – Matas – with phone: (+351) 291 982 423 and also at the airport – phone: (+351) 291 982 289.

fire brigade

In case of fire call Bombeiros Municipais do Bombeiros Voluntários, phone: (+351) 291 982 115 and fax: (+351) 291 983 924, at Porto Santo airport.

safety

The islands in this archipelago are among the safest places in the world for a holiday. Provided that you take the usual precautions dictated by common sense anywhere in the world you are not likely to have any problems here. Most hotels have safes or other places for keeping valuables.

porto santo tourist office

Centro de Artesanato

Av. Dr. Manuel Gregório Pestana Júnior

9400-171 Porto Santo

Phone: (+351) 291 985 244



note

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DIREÇÃO REGIONAL DO TURISMO DA MADEIRA

Av. Arriaga, 18 | 9004-519 Funchal | Madeira
Tel.: (+351) 291 211 900 | Fax: (+351) 291 232 151
info.srt@gov-madeira.pt | www.visitmadeira.pt
www.facebook.com/turismodamadeira

BODY.MIND.MADEIRA.