

Shopping for your first grocery load:

If you should arrive late on a Saturday night, as we did, most of shops are closed Sunday BUT Pingo Doce is open Sunday until 8:00.

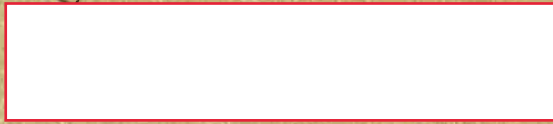
How do you get there? Go back the way you came. It's across from the beaches in Calheta Av. D. Manuela I

For convenience store (no fresh bread & small selection of veggies & fruit) head up the hill the other direction on foot (Caminho dos Serrões BUT not open).

Also walking distance is Quinta Alegre. It is a nice hotel where you can grab a coffee or eat a meal.

Picturesque village Jardim do Mar

Superbe semaine
L'île est splendide, nous
reviendrons ♡



Feb 27 - March 5, 2016

We had a great time and really hate to leave. I could look at the view forever! The steep and narrow roads were definitely scary for me.

We explored the island a bit. Drove up to Porto Moniz to go swimming in the sea pools there, but it was too cold. We did get our feet wet. We loved watching the big waves crash into the rocks and fill the pools. We ate a delicious lunch at a restaurant overlooking the pools (Restaurante Orca).

We also went a couple of times into Funchal and explored around. We ate at two restaurants: Santa Maria and Restaurante O Tapissol. We really enjoyed both.

We took a Tukxi tour around to different lookouts and were able to take awesome pictures of the city and shoreline. Our guide was very knowledgeable and we had a lot of fun.

We went up to Santana and were a little disappointed, felt a little like a tourist trap.

One thing I recommend is take the road across the island from Ribeira Brava, the views are incredible. Try though to go on a clear day and bring a sweater as it was a lot colder at the top.

I would love to come back when it is warm enough to swim but this time of year was great as we were not in a sea of tourists.

It was a real vacation.

Thank you

19-26 March 2016

This week went by very fast. We still did everything we hoped to do. If you haven't read the first entry in this book, I would recommend to do so in order to find a store that is open for food and drinks. You will notice on this Island that when you ~~research~~ research something you will have a hard time finding the address, hours of operation etc... what we did is punched in the name of the town and then followed signs to go to the location. For whale, dolphin and fishing I would recommend to go to Funchal Marina. We saw two types of dolphins when we went. Earlier in the week we went fishing and whale/dolphin watching in Calheta Marina with a company called Nautipos. The Captains were nice but the owners are not great. For fishing/private cater they are cheaper but not worth it. If you have a ~~chance~~ ^{chance} to go to the volcanic caves in Sao Vicente. You will also learn about Madeira and ~~how~~ ^{how} the island was made. If you put Funchal Marina in your GPS follow that until you come to a round-a-bout that the first exit says for Local only continue around + go through the tunnel the next round - but take the first exit ~~and~~ continue along the coast and go straight. Follow the road until you get to a water fall that is on the road. Really worth it. There is a lot to do just need to find it. We found the beach in Machico was nicer than the one in Calheta.

Thank you

9-16 April 2016

We really enjoyed exploring the island this week. Weather did not cooperate but we discovered that the sun is always shining on Madeira, you just have to find it. Micro-climates exist all over the island we found the webcams @ www.golocalmadeira.com very helpful.

We found a nice modest restaurant very near the Pingo doce grocery store in calheta. The calamari frita was incredible. Both the seafood rice and canoe were excellent. Rocha Mar was a regular stop. Staff very friendly.

The Chalet was excellent only comment is to not leave anything sweet on the counter. The art will find it overnight,

Overall a great stay

Thanks

