

2017

Events - December

Christmas and New Year Festivities | Funchal December, 1st to January 7th 2018

In Madeira Island, the Christmas and New Year's celebrations fill Funchal's city centre with light, colour and music, in addition to an extensive entertainment program, featuring ethnographic, religious and artistic traditions.

All the preparations for this festive season begin in early December, particularly with the making of typical sweets such as the honey cake and biscuits.

On the other hand, the New Year's festivities are an occasion that brings together both locals and visitors, culminating with a spectacular fireworks display at Funchal's amphitheater, officially recognized, in 2006, by the Guinness World Records as the largest fireworks display in the world.

Follow up more detailed information regarding this important tourist event at: www.visitmadeira.pt

Madeira Dig Festival | Ponta do Sol and Calheta December 1st to 4th

The Ponta do Sol Inn and the Casa das Mudanças Arts Centre, in Calheta, will be hosting the Madeira Dig Festival, a noteworthy high quality cultural event that highlights Madeira as an attractive tourist destination for a young and active segment, taking the audience into an avant-garde voyage through the world of serious new contemporary music. Both internationally and nationally acclaimed artists and DJs will be taking part in this edition such as the band - the Ectoplasm Girls (Sweden), Maja S. K. Ratkje (Norway), Carl Stone and Greg Fox (USA), The Necks (Australia), amongst others.

The Madeira Dig Festival was created in 2004, filling a gap in Madeira's cultural scene concerning the areas of multimedia and digital arts.

For more detailed information go to: <http://madeiradig.com>

6th Madeira Micro International Film Festival | Ponta do Sol December 5th to 8th

The ancient Cine Sol building, located in the village of Ponta do Sol, will be the stage of the sixth edition of the Madeira Micro International Film Festival.

This cinematographic festival, held in partnership with other organizations, such as the Estalagem da Ponta do Sol and the European cultural marketing company Digital Berlin, will also include some workshops.

More information at: <http://mmiff.com>

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Childbirth Masses

December 16th to 24th

In December, Madeira celebrates one of its main Christmas traditions: "the Childbirth Masses". All around the island, parishes hold religious services in celebration of the birth of Jesus, a ritual highlighted the liturgical chants sung by local choirs.

After mass parishioners gather in the church yard in a very lively social gathering, while tasting some of the typical Christmas gastronomic delicacies.

These eucharistic services take place in the early morning, usually around 6am.

Night at the Market – Farmers Market | Funchal

December 23rd

December 23rd is the official day for Madeirans to do their traditional Christmas shopping in a ritual that takes thousands to the streets of the Farmers Market in Funchal.

It is the perfect day to visit the market and get to know and buy all types of local products: fruits, vegetables, flowers, sweets and typical Christmas beverages.

The market and the bars around it stay open all night making it one of the longest and most fun-filled nights of the year in Funchal.

In this contagious buzz, which also appeals to many visitors, the true spirit of the "festivity" is noticeable.

58th Tour of the city of Funchal – St. Sylvester's Race | Funchal

December 28th

Promoted by the Madeira Athletics Association, the Tour of the City of Funchal is considered one of the oldest races of its kind in Portugal and Europe, a sports competition that has attracted several national and international athletes to the island, bringing a lot of adrenaline to the downtown area of the island's capital.

For more information go to: <http://www.atletismomadeira.pt>