

2017

Events - May

Feast of Saint James the Less | Funchal May, 1st to 3rd

Every year, on the 1st of May, the city of Funchal pays tribute to its patron saint, Saint James the Less. Funchal's Old Town, particularly Santa Maria Street, and Corpo Santo Square experience a special kind of aliveness with a religious feast depicting a typical Madeira feast, the "arraial", whose highlight occurs with the procession in honour of Funchal's patron saint.

Flower Festival May, 4th to 21st

Every year the celebration of spring and the richness of the flowers in bloom, the city of Funchal becomes the stage for this sumptuous spectacle that pleases both the eyes and the nose. The theme for this year's Flower Festival is inspired under the motto "Let's Florish Madeira"

The festivities begin on Thursday, May, 4th with the opening of the Flower Market in the Central Square of Avenida Arriaga, the Flower Exhibition at the Praça do Povo and the construction of delicate floral carpets along the main streets of Funchal.

On Saturday morning, May, 6th, hundreds of youngsters take part in the Children's Parade, each carrying a flower to place in a mural known as the "Wall of Hope", located at Praça do Município. Doves are released to mark the end of the wall's construction and there will also be a show for the children.

On the following day, Sunday, May, 7th brings another dazzling event: the Grand Flower Parade. Hundreds of participants and flower-themed float cars will make their way through the city streets in lavish style to the sound of music, displaying arrangements of many different species of flower typical to the island and leaving soft and ephemeral perfumes in the air.

These festivities also include other entertainment activities such as the Madeira Auto Parade, held on May, 14th presenting the glamour of classic vehicles and motorcycles, and the beauty of Madeira flowers, considered one of the largest national exhibitions of its kind, a unique opportunity to admire some of the best vehicles and auto parts.

This event intends to recreate a former parade held in Funchal between 1980 and 1990.

Also, between the 19th and 21st these celebrations will include concerts and workshops in a tribute to the flowers of Madeira.

Follow up this event at: <http://www.visitmadeira.pt>

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Enduro World Series | Machico **May, 13th to 14th**

For the first time, Madeira Island will host the Enduro World Championship (EWS), in the city of Machico, in the 13th and 14th of May.

Madeira will integrate the listing of countries like New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, France, United States, Canada and Italy, where the remaining 7 stages of this championship will take place.

This Mountain Bike competition will bring to Madeira Island around 900 people, among athletes, coaches, physiotherapists, family and friends, including therefore the region among the best places to practice this sport worldwide.

International Museum Day **May, 18th**

This year's International Museum Day, which is celebrated on the May, 18th features the theme "Museums and contested histories: Saying the unspeakable in museums", in an allusion to the relationship that can be created between the visitor of a given museum and the displayed collections.

For this occasion the entrances on museums are free, an opportunity that allows visitors to see its exhibits and works of art but also to take part in various activities promoted for this commemorative day. The opening hours are also extended so that more visitors have the opportunity to visit the museums.

Some of the museums of the Region also promote to the "European Museums Night", one of the most popular and anticipated initiatives, allowing visitors to enjoy the institutions' cultural offerings in a unique timetable.

Onion Festivity | Caniço **May, 19th to 21st**

The onion festival is one of the most emblematic festivities of Caniço, which main attraction is the onion parade, involving several decorated floats and an auction. The event takes place at Largo Padre Lomelino and comprises various exhibitions and musical entertainment performances.

School Sports Festival | Funchal **May, 23rd to 26th**

The Regional Secretariat of Education, in collaboration with the Regional Directorate of Education, promotes another edition of the School Sports Festival.

This gathering marks the opening of a week-long sports competition held between the schools of the Region, at the Marítimo Stadium.

Under the theme "Zarco's dreams", this event is a tribute to the celebration of the 40 anniversary of the Autonomous Region of Madeira, a festivity in tribute to the resilience of its locals in overcoming the difficulties of the past, in building their island, an educational project of sportive and cultural dimension.

This colourful and magical gymnastic show integrates 1,800 participants between the ages of 8 and 90 years.

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Trout Festival and Cider Route | Santana **May, 24th to 28th**

The municipality of Santana hosts another edition of the Trout Festival/Cider Route, an event which coincides with the Meeting of Cultural Groups in the municipality of Santana

Cider and trout are two culinary elements little-known by visitors, who will thus have the opportunity to savour these products during this festival, through visits to the Ribeiro Frio aquaculture station; participation in trout fishing contests; presentations and food tastings based around trout and cider; and exhibitions that demonstrate the handmade cider production process, a drink that is very appreciated by the people of Madeira.

The event extends to the localities of Achada do Cedro Gordo, Pico do Cedro Gordo and Chão do Cedro Gordo, in the parish of São Roque do Faial, municipality of Santana.

"Aqui Acolá" Festival | Ponta de Sol **May, 25th to 28th**

The historical core of the Ponta do Sol municipality will host the 3rd edition of the Festival "Aqui Acolá", a cultural initiative that aims to heighten the cultural landscape and the economy of this emblematical location.

The programme covers a range of artistic, classical and contemporary manifestations, including musical performances, dance, painting, sculpture, theatre, and poetry and photography exhibitions, among other activities.

Sé Festivities | Funchal **May, 26th to June 4th**

The municipality of Funchal and the local parish of Sé promote this lively typical madeiran festivity that fills the main city centre streets with lots of entertainment and colour. Some of the main downtown streets are decorated with open air terraces in a unique opportunity to taste and drink the traditional local delicacies of the island while enjoying musical performances by regional philharmonic bands as well as other musical groups in an event that endures a week.

Madeira Classic Car Revival | Funchal **May, 27th and 28th**

The Madeira Classic Car Revival is an annual automobile event comprised by the most representative types of old classic and vintage vehicles existing in Madeira Islands, such as automobiles, motorbikes and bicycles manufactured prior to 1980.

Promoted by the "The Classic Motor Exhibition" Association – ACME, this auto show aims to award prizes to the most beautiful and representative old vehicles on display, with the "Best of Show" award. This exhibit will be held at Praça do Povo, location which will also depict other entertainment activities and parades. On Sunday, May 28th, at 11am, will be taking place the "Rampa dos Barreiros" a sports car race, in tribute to the historical car race held in 1935.

More information at https://www.facebook.com/acme.madeira?hc_location=ufi