

2019

Events - May

Feast of Saint James the Less | Funchal

May 1st to 3rd

Every year, on the 1st of May, Funchal pays tribute to its patron saint, St. James the Less.

Funchal's Old quarters, and in particular the Santa Maria Street, and Corpo Santo Square depicting a very lively ambience characteristic of the local religious festivities - "arraial".

Flower Festival | Funchal

May 2nd to 26th

Celebrating the arrival of springtime and the exuberant blossoming of flowers typical of this season, Funchal is the setting of a sumptuous and inebriating show filled with colour and fantasy - Flower Festival,

This year, this touristic attraction is carried out between 2 and 26 May, a tribute to the celebration of the 600th anniversary of the Discovery of Madeira and Porto Santo Islands.

The festivities begin on Thursday, 2 May, with the opening of the Flower Market in the Central Square of Avenida Arriaga, and the Flower Exhibition at Praça do Povo.

Additionally, other entertainment activities integrate this event such as music concerts and the construction of delicate floral carpets and floral installation along the main streets of Funchal.

On Saturday, 4 May, thousands of youngsters take part in the Children's Parade, each carrying a flower to be placed in a mural known as the "Wall of Hope", located at Praça do Município.

This occasion includes a children's show which culminates with the releasing of doves. On the following day, On the following day, Sunday, May 5th is held another dazzling event: the Grand Flower Parade. Hundreds of participants and flower-themed floats make their way through the city streets in lavish style to the sound of music, decorated with intricate flower arrangements of different sorts exuding soft perfumes.

The Flower Festival, one of the Islands' most colorful celebrations, is more than just a tribute to the flowers of the Madeira Island. It's an occasion that contributes for the preservation of some of the genuine Madeiran traditions transforming Funchal city center into a magnificent artistic and cultural expression center stage.

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

Maktub Soundsgood | Paúl do Mar

May 4th

This reggae music festival is held annually in Paúl do Mar, thus indicating the beginning of the bathing season in that area.

This year marks the 8th edition of an alternative music festival which has greatly contributed for the enhancement of the regional events calendar, offering sounds that fit perfectly in the relaxed and sunny environment of this lovely village located by the sea.

Visit Madeira and discover some of the musical events that make this tourist destination a large centre stage filled with surprises.

Follow up this festival on: <https://maktubsoundsgood.bol.pt/>

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Sugarcane Harvest Festival | Porto da Cruz **May 10th to 12th**

From May 10th to 12th the Associação Cultural Flores de Maio organizes the 4th edition of the Festival 'Apanha da Cana', an agricultural exhibit held in the parish of Porto da Cruz, in Praça da Alagoa, at the Centro Cívico and at Engenheiros do Norte, Lda.

This event intends to promote both the local sugarcane rotary and the cultural and architectural heritage of this parish presenting a set of activities held in the centre of the village, including various artistic and cultural endeavours. Additionally, other more active activities are featured in the event's program including the harvest of the sugar cane apart from hiking trails with tourists, who will get the chance to discover the beautiful landscapes of this village.

Onion Festival | Caniço, Santa Cruz **May 17th to 19th**

The onion festival is one of the most emblematic festivities of Caniço, whose 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.

'Fica na Cidade' Festival (In the City) | Funchal **May 17th to 23rd**

From May, 17th to 19th the Municipality of Funchal hosts the fifth edition of the music Festival 'Fica na Cidade' ('stay in town').

This cultural event intends to bring to the city center of Funchal a set of musical starring various national, international and regional artists.

During the course of eight days, this cultural festival will host a total of 36 concerts, featuring 150 performers/artists depicting various musical styles such as Rock, Pop, Jazz, apart from other performances and street entertainment shows to be held in four different stages located at Funchal downtown, such as: Praça de Colombo, Largo do Chafariz, Rua da Carreira and the historical Funchal Old Quaters.

International Museum Day **May, 18th**

The 2019 edition of the International Museum Day, which is celebrated on the 18th of May, features the theme "Museums as cultural hubs, The future of tradition".

For this occasion, museums are free, and it is possible to visit their exhibitions and works and participate in initiatives prepared exclusively 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 adhere to the "European Museums Night", one of the most popular and anticipated initiatives, allowing visitors to enjoy the institutions' cultural offerings programmed for specific timetable

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Trout Festival and Cider Route | Santana **May 22nd to 26th**

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.

Regional Philharmonic Bands Meeting | Ribeira Brava **May 23rd to 26th**

Promoted by the Regional Directorate for Culture, this cultural initiative was created to safe keep Madeira's musical heritage and to pay tribute to the important role played by the regional Philharmonic bands in favour of the public entertainment initiatives and the indisputable joyfulness that they instil into Madeira's traditional feasts.

This event takes place on Sunday with a procession of all the regional bands throughout the main streets of this village. Then all bands get together at the coastal avenue and each band presents its individual musical repertoire.

This meeting ends with a combined anthem composed specifically for the occasion. Trophies are then handed out, followed by a celebration.

Madeira Classic Car Revival | Funchal **May 24th to 25th**

The "Madeira Classic Car Revival" is an annual automobile event, representative of the history of the old and classic vehicles of the Regional, namely cars, motorcycles and bicycles produced until 1980.

Organized by the Classic Automobiles Club of Madeira (CACM), this automobile exhibition aims to award the best and most beautiful examples, to be distinguished with the "Best of Show" award, an exhibition which shall take place at Praça do Povo, a place where also other activities and parades will be taking place.

On the 24th 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://bit.ly/2UP6oKS>

Festival Aleste | Funchal **May 24th to 26th**

The festival Aleste is one of the latest cultural events dedicated specially to music, a musical festival commitment to improve the diversity and the quality music concerts in Madeira Island. The event, which attracts international interest, will host its sixth edition, featuring a line up of alternative music at Ponta Gorda Bathing Complex, in Funchal, a natural stage by the sea.

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Book Fair| Funchal **May 24th to June 2nd**

Avenida Arriaga will be the center stage of the annual Book Fair, a cultural event which will involve most of Madeira's bookshops and some Portuguese publishing houses.

This initiative is being run by Funchal Municipal Council and includes a diverse range of activities, from conferences, book launches, concerts and exhibitions which will take place in the Auditorium of the Municipal Garden and Baltazar Dias Municipal Theatre.

School Sports Festival | Funchal **May 28th to 31st**

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

This colourful gymnastic show integrates over one thousand participants, between the ages of 8 and 90 years old.

"Aqui Acolá" Festival | Ponta de Sol **May 30th to June 2nd**

The historical core of the Ponta do Sol municipality will host the 4th edition of the Festival "Aqui Acolá", a cultural initiative that aims to heighten the cultural landscape and the economy of this emblematical location.

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

For more information: <http://www.festivalaquiacola.com/>

Ultra Skymarathon Madeira| Santana **May 31st to June 1st**

The Clube Aventura of Madeira, in partnership with the Portuguese Camping and Mountaineering Federation, promotes the 7th edition of Ultra Skymarathon® Madeira.

This is the seventh skyrunning competition in Portugal, integrating for the sixth consecutive time the Iberian circuit of the Skyrunner® National Series championship of Spain, Andorra and Portugal.

Skyrunning is a variant of the technical mountain run, with steep slopes and a high technical degree, which will surely attract many participants, not only due to its characteristics but also for the natural and beautiful sceneries and landscapes of the Northern coastal area of the island.

With the picturesque city of Santana and its surrounding areas as the stage, this sporting competition has contributed for the promotion of this municipality's natural heritage, associated to the touristic potential of its pedestrian paths and to this locality's culture and traditions.

This event consists of three races with different distances, the Ultra Skymarathon® Madeira (USM 55km 4000m D+), the Santana Sky Race (SSR 21 km 1350m D+) and the Mini SkyRace (MSR 13km 400m D+).

To follow up more details regarding this race go to: <http://www.madeiraskyrunning.com>