

GARDENS OF MADEIRA

Explore the gardens and scenic wonders of Madeira
whilst enjoying the luxury of Reid's Palace,
A Belmond Hotel

26th April to 3rd May* 2025
& 18th to 25th April 2026

NOBLE CALEDONIA

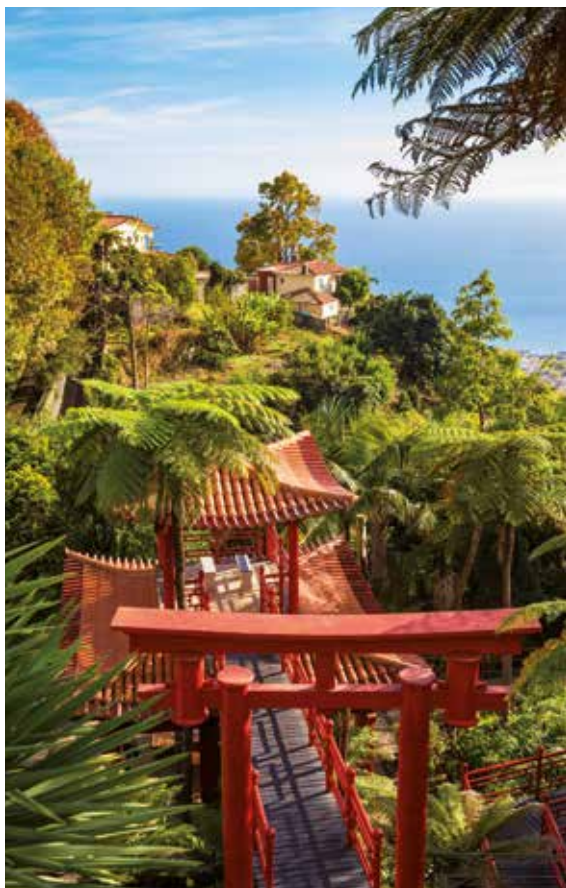
The delights of Madeira have been enjoyed by travellers for many a year. This gem of an island, a mere dot in the ocean some 400 miles off the coast of Morocco has escaped the worst of tourism development. True, there is little in the way of beaches, but this has probably been her saving grace as what she lacks on this front she more than makes up for in others.

Madeira is scenically stunning – stark mountain peaks give way to lush cultivated terraces, where every patch of land is utilised to such colourful effect. Wine, bananas and exotic flowers, which form the backbone of the island's economy, create the amazingly lush landscape and together with the unique architecture make Madeira a very special place. Not only is it visually stunning, it also has a historic and cultural depth rarely found on isolated islands of its size. The first Portuguese settlers arrived in the early 1400's and exploited Madeira's fertile soil and perfect climate. Growing 'white gold' the island grew rich on abundant sugar cane harvests and diversified into wines and growing provisions for the ever-increasing sea trade.

We have chosen the iconic Belmond Reid's Palace for our stay. Some hotels have such a strong attraction that their appeal can be greater than that of the destination itself. Belmond Reid's Palace is such a hotel, being one of the best-loved resort hotels in the world. A fine tradition, marvellous location and an ownership that has lavished vast sums of money and love means that today it is one of the finest hotels in the world.

Madeira is a wonderful place for a relaxing week and when you can pull yourself away from the beautiful gardens and pool terraces of Belmond Reid's Palace, there is much to explore. Our itinerary has been designed to allow for time spent enjoying the hotel as well as the included guided excursions, which focus on the island's wonderful gardens, allowing you to experience some of the breathtakingly stunning scenery, stroll around private gardens and learn something of Madeira's history.





Botanical Gardens



Fortress of Sao Tiago



Traditional house in Santana



Guest Speakers



Rosemary Legrand – 26 April 2025 Departure

Rosemary is a former nursery owner and daughter of the late George Hyde, who was a hybridist of azaleas and rhododendrons. Many of his award winning hybrid plants can be seen at the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley, Surrey, the de Rothschild rhododendron gardens at Exbury, Hampshire and the National Trust Gardens at Kingston Lacy in Dorset. Rosemary had the honour of presenting

Queen Elizabeth II with a collection of her late Father's azaleas named after the Queen's former Head Gardener, Fred Nutbeam, at Chelsea Flower Show in 1996. Her enjoyment of photography is used to great effect in creating the atmosphere of the gardens she discusses in her range of illustrated talks. She has travelled extensively to gardens in many parts of the world to amass a substantial library of pictures. Rosemary is an experienced public speaker and has given presentations to a wide range of organisations since 1992. She is on the RHS Speakers Register and also speaks for NAFAS; she wrote a number of contributions for the book, *1001 Gardens You Must See Before You Die* and an article for the *Royal Horticultural Society Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia 2014 Year Book*.



Caroline Holmes – 18 April 2026 Departure

Caroline Holmes is a garden historian of places, people and plants, a speaker, author of 12 books, TV and radio broadcaster and consultant designer who specialises in evoking historic, artistic and symbolic references. Academic but not dry, Caroline has been a speaker on every continent except Antarctica and is a lecturer for The Arts Society (formerly NADFAS).

Caroline has lectured on many specialist tours and her Garden design consultancies include: Humanist Renaissance inspired gardens for Notre Dame de Calais; Knots, Orchards and Operatic Borders for the Royal Opera House at High House, Essex; and devising the plantings and lore for the Poison Garden in The Alnwick Garden, Northumberland.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Madeira, Portugal. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the luxurious Belmond Reid's Palace for a seven night stay. Enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel this evening. (D)

Day 2 Quinta do Palheiro. Madeira is famed for its beautiful flowers and today's tour will give you a glimpse of some of the vegetation of Madeira. The gardens of Quinta do Palheiro, currently owned by the Blandy family were originally laid out in the 18th century. Some of the original themed gardens have survived to the present day, plus new plants have been introduced, making the gardens even more fascinating. After our visit to the garden, lunch will be served at the Clubhouse Restaurant of Palheiro Golf Course. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure. (B, L)

Day 3 Quinta das Cruzes Museum & Quinta da Boa Vista Gardens.

Quinta das Cruzes Museum is located in the centre of Funchal and features a vast collection of decorative art and antiques from the 17th and 18th century. Once the formal residence of Joao Goncalves Zarco, the museum is surrounded by beautiful gardens offering a variety of exotic flowers, trees and other species of flora. After our visit we continue to Quinta da Boa Vista Garden, well known for the many fine varieties of orchids and its 20-year-old orchid exhibition. Today this family run garden is dedicated to the preservation of many species of plants and flowers, some of which are close to extinction. Quinta da Boa Vista is proud to present not just the best orchid collection but rare exotic plants from all around the world. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure before meeting this evening for dinner at Restaurante do Forte in the Fortress of Sao Tiago which offers superb regional, national and international gastronomy. Dinner will be served in the middle roof terrace with a view to the sea and mountains (if the weather does not permit the use of the outdoor areas, dinner will be held under cover on the ground floor of the fort). (B, D)

Day 4 Ribeiro Frio, Balcoes & Santana. This morning we head towards the central mountain range, over Poiso Pass to Pico de Arieiro, the third highest peak of the island which offers magnificent views on a clear day. After a stop at the Terreiro da Luta viewpoint, we continue to Ribeiro Frio and enjoy a short leisurely walk to Balcoes. This area is also known for the Laurisilva forest and several Laurisilva forest species and some indigenous flora and fauna can be observed along the walk. We will see the village of



Monte Tropical Garden and Palace



Curral das Freiras

Santana, famous for the traditional houses with thatched roofs before a stop for lunch at one of the nearby vineyards. As we make our way back to the hotel, we will stop at a viewpoint to enjoy the views from Porto da Cruz village on the way. The remainder of the day and evening are at leisure. (B, L)

Day 5 Reid's Palace. Today we will have a full day to enjoy this legendary hotel and its beautiful grounds. Relax by the pool, stroll through the subtropical gardens or take a rejuvenating dip in the Atlantic from the private sea platform. Alternatively, head into Funchal and explore Madeira's characterful capital. This afternoon we will meet to experience the hotel's elegant afternoon tea. (B, T)

Day 6 Botanical Gardens. Since the 17th century, Madeira had wanted a Botanical Garden – a dream that came true in 1960. The Botanical Gardens, with an area of over 35,000 square metres, has more than 2000 exotic plants from all continents, some of which are endangered species. This fantastic garden has several ornamental trees and shrubs, an orchid area, lawns, and lovely viewpoints. After our visit to the garden, we will drive up towards the eastern end of the island to the parish of Sao Gongalo, for lunch in a typical Madeira restaurant. After lunch we return to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure. (B, L)

Day 7 Monte Palace Tropical Garden & Eira do Serrado. This morning we visit Monte, a charming village high in the hills overlooking Funchal. We will reach Monte by cable car experiencing wonderful views along the way. Once at Monte we will visit the Monte Palace Tropical Garden. This garden collection has been enriched with plants from all over the world and about 100,000 plant species have been planted. The garden also features a collection of cycads (encephalartos) which, because of their age, are considered living fossils. We continue to Eira do Serrado from where we will enjoy incredible views over Curral das Freiras – 'Nun's Valley', a small village situated deep in an extinct crater not far from the highest peak of Madeira. Enjoy a final afternoon at leisure before we meet this evening for our farewell dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 8 Madeira to London. Transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight to London. (B)



Quinta do Palheiro

April 2025 Departure*

Please note that owing to flight times for the 2025 departure, the welcome dinner will take place on Day 2 and on Day 8 there will be a morning at leisure followed by a brief tour of Funchal, lunch and free time before transferring to the airport. Full itinerary can be viewed online.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

CATEGORY	2025	2026
Superior Room	£3895	£4195
Deluxe Sea View Room	£4195	£4495
Superior Room for sole use	£5195	£5495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Seven nights accommodation at Belmond Reid's Palace • Tours as described • Meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, T - Afternoon Tea, D – Dinner) • Wine, beer and soft drinks included with meals • Tour Manager • Guest Speaker • Local guides • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



REID'S PALACE, A BELMOND HOTEL

Set on the cliff tops overlooking the Bay of Funchal and the Atlantic, Reid's Palace, A Belmond Hotel has, for over 125 years, been a standard-bearer for excellence. Scotsman William Reid, who in 1891 founded Madeira's now most celebrated hotel, would take justifiable pride in the world-wide reputation rightly earned by this fine establishment. Many grand hotels with a history find it impossible to adapt to the changing needs of the modern market. Not so Reid's, which has glided from generation to generation subtly adapting to new market needs, yet never discarding its classic style or forgetting its great heritage. The result today is a superbly comfortable resort hotel, which pays great attention to its individual guests' requirements and sets the standard in that small club of truly great five star hotels.

Your Accommodation

All Reid's Palace rooms feature balconies or private patio and face the sea and gardens offering wonderful views of the beautiful coastline. Complimentary mini bar for non-alcoholic drinks, docking station and free internet is also included. In addition each room features air-conditioning, bathrobes, in-room safe, cable TV and DVD player.

Superior Rooms: These offer an average of 26 square metres of living space. The Superior Rooms offer balconies or private patios, sea views or garden views, private marble baths and one king or twin beds.

Deluxe Sea View Rooms: These offer an average of 31 square metres of living space and are located in the most sought-after locations with balconies and great sea views. *Please note that there are a limited number of Deluxe Sea View Rooms with walk-in showers and that these should be requested at time of booking.*



The historic Dining Room



Pool Terrace



Deluxe Sea View Room



Superior Room



The Tea Terrace



Villa Cipriani Restaurant



Swimming Pool



Lobby

Your Space

Set in ten acres of lush semi-tropical gardens overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, this is the perfect place to relax and discover the beauty of the plants and birds that make Madeira such a remarkable place. For more active pursuits there are two heated pools, one with salt water, one with fresh water and a tidal pool by the sea. The property also features two tennis courts, fitness room and sauna. Other facilities include a bridge and games room, library, lounges and bars, beauty salon and boutique.

Your Dining

Dining is always a pleasure at Reid's Palace. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast, or lunch on the Pool Terrace. The William Restaurant, led by Executive Chef Luis Pestana and supervised by the Michelin star chef Joachim Koerper, is a tribute to the visionary and creative man William Reid, founder of the hotel, who having seen a simple rock visualised the future. The restaurant offers a creative approach on modern European food, where contemporary meets Madeira, to create seasonal food of the highest quality. Afternoon Tea is an iconic event at Reid's Palace dating back to when the hotel first opened. The (High) Afternoon Tea boasts Reid's Palace Own Blend Tea. Finally, Villa Cipriani is Reid's informal Italian restaurant, perched on a cliff top.



Hotel gardens



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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Botanical Gardens.