



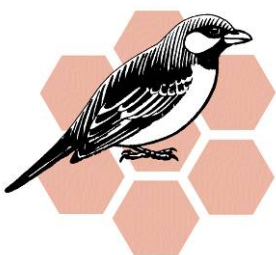
Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Madeira
9 – 16 October 2018

Holiday participants

Jean Dunn
Wendy Corben
Jill Jordan
Margaret Dixey

Barbara Wheeler
Ann Greenizan
Brennan and Karin Auger
Chris Durdin

Leaders

Catarina Fagundes and Hugo Romano www.madeirawindbirds.com
Daily diary by Catarina Fagundes; arrival and Funchal days, additions and wildlife lists by Chris Durdin.
Photos by Brennan Auger, Jean Dunn and Chris Durdin.

Cover: wildlife at sea and on land, namely short-finned pilot whales (JD) and Madeira wall lizard (CD).

Below: group photo (by Wendy with Jean's camera), chain ferns *Woodwardia radicans* behind us.



We stayed at Hotel Rural A Quinta at Santo da Serra <http://www.estalagemaquinta.com/>,
hotel and gardens pictured below.



This holiday, as for every Honeyguide holiday, also puts something into conservation in our host country by way of a contribution to the wildlife that we enjoyed. The conservation contribution this year of £40 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust and an additional donation, leading to a donation of £630 to the Freira Conservation Project.

Honeyguide has supported the Freira Conservation Project on all previous holidays on Madeira. The running total of donations to FCP is £3033. Manuel Biscoito's talk about the project was a holiday highlight. The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 to October 2018 was £125,490.

DAILY DIARY

Tuesday 9 October – arrival and a local walk at Santo da Serra

We were all up at some horrible early hour, be that the four of us staying at the Corner House Hotel in Horley or coming from farther afield, but everyone was at Gatwick North Terminal in good time where we all met up before going to our departure gate. The plane was a little later leaving than the scheduled 07:40 but more than caught that up; we arrived and landed smoothly in Madeira ahead of schedule. Catarina was there to meet us, she called Hugo to bring the minibus and we set off, winding around the back of the airport, at one point passing a group of canaries on wires. It took a little over 15 minutes to reach Hotel Rural A Quinta at Santo da Serra where Ana, the proprietor, soon settled us into our rooms. We met up at one o'clock for a light lunch of cabbage soup and garlic bread.

Catarina and Hugo left us so they could collect Brennan and Karin, who were arriving on a later flight from Germany, and the rest of us went for a local walk. The hotel's garden was immediately productive for butterflies: we'd already seen dancing speckled woods as we arrived, but better still was a very tame and co-operative Madeira speckled wood, an endemic species. Clouded yellows were fairly numerous and a painted lady flew through. The rather bare ponds had several frogs (*Rana perezi*) as well as goldfish, and an island darter – almost identical to a common darter, but recognised as a separate species – was ovipositing into the water. Ann was alert to a crab spider – *Misumena spinifera* – as well as taking an interest in the bees – one of which seemed to be a carpenter bee that Barbara saw disappear into a hole in the building's woodwork.

Walking up the road there was a distinct lack of birds, with just the chacking of a blackcap, but then two plain swifts flew through and we saw more later. Agapanthus was abundant here as in many places; at least bees use this alien's flowers unlike, I strongly suspect, the many hydrangeas. There were espaliers of kiwi fruit in an untidy plot behind a fence, over which clambered the pink flowers and hanging fruits of banana passion fruit. Marvel of Peru, black nightshade and angel's trumpets (*Brugmansia versicolor*) were among the mix of exotic and ruderal plants in Santo da Serra as we made our way past the pharmacy, general store, bus stop and the sign that describes how the parish is split between two municipalities. Small white was a new butterfly: other whites seemed all to be female clouded yellows.

We then turned into the public park/gardens of Quinta do Santo da Serra, a lovely place for a stroll including a fine viewpoint, but surprisingly quiet for birds, putting aside the captive peacocks and Muscovy ducks. Apart from feral pigeons and yellow-legged gulls flying over, there were just a couple of blackbirds, the chattering of canaries and some more plain swifts flying through. Red admiral was an addition to the butterfly list. None of us could name a tall, leggy purple-flowered shrub with velvety leaves: Catarina later told us it was Brazil spider flower *Tibouchina grandifolia* on which the stamens resemble the legs of a spider. A couple of grey wagtails landed on a roof ridge as we returned to the hotel, and we paused to buy bottled water at the general store. The water remains a puzzle: the general advice is that tap water is fine to drink, which is what Hugo and Catarina do at home not far away, but hotel staff say here that water purification chemicals lead them to prefer bottled water, which is cheap but nearly all imported from mainland Portugal or Spain.



Spider plants and a spider. In the park, Brazil spider flower *Tibouchina grandifolia* on which the stamens resemble the legs of a spider.

A crab spider *Misumena spinifera* on lavender in the hotel garden (CD).

Brennan and Karin arrived just after we all reached the hotel, as did the rain which then set in for the evening. We met for dinner at 6pm on account of our early start, the meal taken in a separate building but with a covered route there so the rain didn't matter. Vegetable soup was followed by cod fish pie (with a vegetarian alternative) with some local wines and later a glass of Madeira.

Wednesday 10 October – island tour

It was a surprise as we met for our breakfast at eight o'clock to find that it was barely light, despite being the same time zone as the UK, on account of being so far west. So no early morning walk for Jill but the bonus of light evenings.

After the heavy rain last night, today started with a beautiful sunny morning. We were picked up at 9:00 at the hotel and were driven for about 45 minutes to São Vicente, on the northwest of Madeira. Here we watched for endemic trocáz pigeons on the cliffs, a whimbrel by the riverside and three immature common terns on a rock by the sea. On a short walk along the riverside we could admire how a Canary laurel grows from a crack on a rock, close to sea level.

The next stop was at Chão da Ribeira which was very quiet for birds but interesting in terms of flora and insects. We got to know another three different species belonging to the Lauraceae family, as the Madeira laurel, the Madeira mahogany and the bay laurel and we observed a large cone-head cricket, clouded yellow butterflies, European and Madeiran speckled wood butterflies and island darter.



Compare and contrast: left, European speckled wood with three spots on the trailing edges of the hind wings and right, Madeiran speckled wood, two spots in the same place (CD).

We then drove to Porto Moniz for lunch and then a short walk to admire the natural swimming pools, a special feature of this northwest tip of Madeira. A cormorant was seen on a coastal islet. Thirty minutes later we were by the westernmost tip of Madeira, Ponta do Pargo, admiring the sea cliffs from a viewpoint that also attracted a long-horned beetle, later named by Manuel Biscoito as Black pine sawyer or timberman beetle *Monochamus galloprovincialis*, a pest on introduced pine trees. On the field just opposite the viewpoint we had very good views of Berthelot's pipits, Atlantic canaries, spectacled warblers, kestrels, buzzards and a far away northern wheatear. On a nearby spot, by the lighthouse we had another nice view over the northwest sea cliffs and we got to know that fennel (in Portuguese *funcho*) was the origin of name of Funchal – a place with a lot of *funcho*. We also saw a really nice wasp spider.

The way back to Ribeira Brava was partly through the old winding road and then through all the relatively new tunnels. At the river mouth of Ribeira Brava we watched some coots, ruddy turnstones and two little egrets in between some Muscovy ducks and yellow-legged gulls; a hummingbird hawk-moth fed on the tiny white flowers of bougainvillea. Then another 30 minutes drive took us back to the hotel, where at 19:30 we met Manuel Biscoito who was representing the Freira Conservation Project and who made an interesting presentation of the seabirds of Madeira and the studies made on Cory's shearwaters and on Zino's petrels (=Freiras).

Thursday 11 October – pelagic, Cabo Girão and Funchal

Pick up was again at 9:00 and this time we were driven to the east side of the island, into Quinta do Lorde marina and resort where we boarded the 'Oceanodroma' RHIB (rigid-hulled inflatable boat) and rode in search of marine wildlife. After a few minutes on a flat windless sea we started watching rafts of Cory's shearwaters resting on the water surface. After heading towards Desertas Islands for a bit more than half an hour some short blows were spotted and we soon got close to a group of short-finned pilot whales.

While we were still following this group the first Desertas petrel (Fea's petrel)¹ flew by. Later, when we were heading to Ponta de São Lourenço, we watched a second Desertas petrel and a couple more rafts of Cory's shearwaters. While following the coast line we could admire the interesting geological formations and also hundreds of yellow-legged gulls around their main colony, one grey heron and 12 little egrets.



All at sea: on board Oceanodrama (CD) and a group of Cory's shearwaters (BA).

Back on shore we were driven to Cabo Girão, one of the highest sea cliffs in the world, 580 metres, from where we were overwhelmed by a fantastic view over Camara de Lobos and Funchal but also by the glass-bottom part of this view point. A sparrowhawk flew over and Madeira wall lizards were plainly used to people as they were very tame. Lunch was here at a small snack bar with that view as background.



View from Cabo Girão (BA).

It was followed by a visit to Barbeito's winery where we understood a bit better the different types of Madeira wine, grape varieties and how it is produced. It ended with some Madeira wine tasting and shopping. Before leaving the winery complex we went back to a sloping patch of grass by the vines to watch long-tailed blue butterflies. As well as several of these, feeding on pitch trefoil flowers, there were two species of dragonflies and a spider-hunting wasp.

¹ Desertas or Fea's petrel? Systematics on this species have not yet been definitively established. Provisionally some authorities have 'split' the petrel breeding in the Desertas Islands near Madeira from those breeding in the Cape Verde archipelago, while others consider it a subspecies of the Fea's petrel.

We then drove towards Funchal where we started our walk at Funchal harbour. We passed by the Cristiano Ronaldo museum and statue and then crossed the road northwards to a roundabout with a Christopher Columbus statue and followed the main road towards the cathedral. On the way we observed a couple of kapok trees in the municipal garden just opposite the theatre. As the cathedral was open we decided to go in for a very short visit and then continued the walk eastwards, passing by the sugar museum, then going north up to the city hall and a few hundred metres after the Natural History Museum, just next to São Pedro's church. We then walked to the farmers' market and the cable car station through Rua de Santa Maria where some of the doors were decorated by artists. Back to the hotel where we arrived around 18:30 for a well-deserved rest.



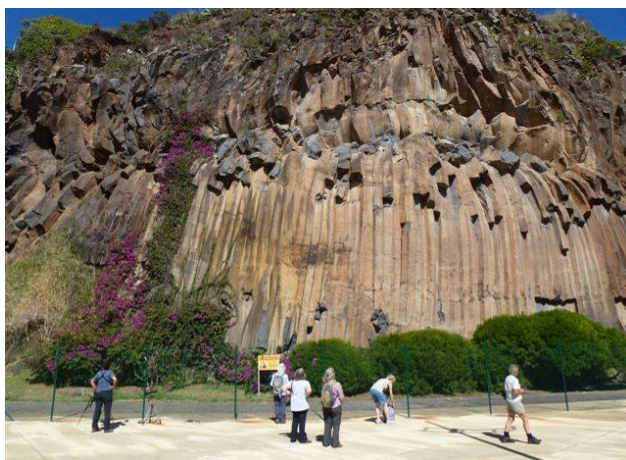
Funchal city hall and the new Cristiano Ronaldo museum (CD).

We had a quick digression away from dinner – Madeira speciality scabbard with banana was served for the non-vegetarians – to see the International Space Station move across the night sky, thanks to Ann who was checking timings on the internet.

Friday 12 October – Ribeiro Frio, Machico and Caniçal

What a lovely sunny day! Pick up was again at 9:00 and we were driven up the mountain first and then a bit down to Ribeiro Frio where our levada walk started. On this 1.5 km walk we were able to see laurel trees, very tall heathers, Madeira blueberry, stonecrops and a few more endemic species of plants. We also had very good views of firecrest and the Madeira subspecies of chaffinch. It sounds and looks so different from European chaffinches that a future 'split' must be possible. At the viewpoint, Balcões, as well as admiring the majestic view Catarina fed the chaffinches with a small piece of bread and suddenly they were all round us and very tame.

We visited Praia do Faial in search for any vagrant birds but only two little egrets, a coot and a grey heron were around. Anyway, we enjoyed the view over the east tip of Madeira and the prismatic columns of basalt.



Basalt columns, hexagonal like the Giant's Causeway; Madeira chaffinch, which sounds and looks distinctive (CD).

Lunch was a cosy restaurant in Machico which was followed by a walk along the river to look for common waxbills. We were in luck with about 20 waxbills in the lush vegetation, allowing good telescope views for what can be a fast-moving and elusive bird.

Moorhens and grey wagtail were also around and on the other side of the river we observed some fruit trees that grow in Madeira such as avocado, custard apple and mango.

Then we went to Caniçal where we watched rock sparrows, canaries and Berthelot's pipits feeding on or by prickly cardoon *Cynara cardunculus ferocissima* as well as other plants native to this barren habitat.

We returned to the hotel and the sun was still shining so two of the group enjoyed a swim at the hotel's outdoor swimming pool just before dinner.



Spot the waxbills, tucked into a dense growth of redshank (CD); Berthelot's pipit (JD).

Saturday 13 October – Funchal

It rained all night, and that had an impact on Ann's morning bulletin on when the cockerel started to call as it didn't. Blustery rain continued, but the TV weather forecasts and advice by text from Catarina showed that Furacão – Hurricane – Leslie had gone north of Madeira and was heading for mainland Portugal. Nonetheless public gardens had been closed for the day in Funchal, flights called off and the cable car also shut for safety reasons. Catarina advised us to stay put and that the safest destination, on account of rock falls across roads, was Funchal, which was the 'free day' plan anyway. It was a chance to catch up on wildlife checklists at a relaxed pace. One addition to these was the stick insect caught in the garden and now in a jar, shown to us by Ana the previous evening; a second was a house centipede that scuttled across the big mat in the meeting room.

Hugo in the minibus and Catarina in their Land Rover arrived to pick us up at 11:30, dropping us opposite the mural of the girl with bubblegum close to the bus and cable car terminals by the sea front. There was quite a sea swell with spray coming onto the front in places, but otherwise it was already warm and surprisingly still. We spent an hour or so at Funchal market, sampling various fruits and buying the odd souvenir but mostly just enjoying the scene, including scabbard fish in the fish market annex. We gathered for lunch at the café under the former textiles factory close to the market where eating outside worked out well, the cloudy patches clearing.



Fruit and veg in Funchal market (JD); monarch butterfly in the park (BA).

There was a wedding taking place in one of the churches Jean had hoped to visit. The church was almost adjacent to the Natural History Museum where several of us went round, in part attracted by an exhibition on Charles Darwin and his interest in soil and worms. That was mostly words (Portuguese and English) on banners and didn't hold our attention for long. It didn't take long to see that the other exhibits were old-style mounted specimens, mostly fish and faded stuffed birds, and we were quick to move on.

My group of four bumped into the other five in the small park/garden of São Francisco where an ombu tree with a giant base was the star plant. From there it was a short walk to Jardim de Santa Catarina – no connection with our leader Catarina. Colourful flower beds were at first admired from the shade but not for long: those flowers attracted many Lang's short-tailed blues and at last there was a monarch butterfly that was still enough to be photographed.

We split again into gangs of five, who went for tea, and four. Mute swans on the park's pond could count as a new bird for the week, depending on your point of view: they were brought in, but at least are a good species (unlike the domestic mallard types) and the cygnet shows they are established and breeding. More clear-cut were black-headed gulls, two and two in different places on the sea front, with the usual yellow-legged gulls. A turnstone fed on rock armour sea defences and some common terns flew past. We all met up at the 5pm rendezvous. We drove past a rainbow and up into clouds and rain again at Santo da Serra.

Sunday 14 October – north-east Madeira around Santana

We started the morning with a quick visit to Santo da Serra Sunday market where we could see some of the vegetables, fruits and plants they were selling. After that we took a very steep road down and then up again until Portela, where we could admire a nice view over Porto da Cruz, Penha d'Águia and Faial. We then drove down to Porto da Cruz where we walked along the sea promenade and admired the coastal views with the rough sea crashing the steep cliffs as well as some plants, both exotic and native species, and birds such as ruddy turnstones, blackbirds and blackcaps.

The next stop was at Santana, at the restaurant of Quinta do Furão, Honeyguide's previous base on Madeira, which has an amazing view. After lunch we walked around the gardens where we watched plain swifts, Madeira wall lizards, painted ladies, bees and admired proteas. This was followed by another walk by the coast, this time by São Jorge's beach. We started by identifying two species of *Calendula*, one with a lanceolated shape leaf which was field marigold *Calendula arvensis* and the endemic *Calendula maderensis* which has a spatulate leaf shape. Several endemic species of coastal plants were growing there such as downy sow-thistle (*Andryala*), willow-leaved carline thistle, globe flower, houseleeks etc. Chris climbed over a wall to photograph some ferns; later study showed they were sea spleenwort *Asplenium marinum*.

On the way to the hotel we drove through a more rural area of Santana and saw some typical houses with thatched roofs before taking that very steep road back to Santo da Serra and passing by the now very busy market.

There was no third sighting of the International Space Station, perhaps too low in the sky, but we took advantage of the clear sky to put the telescope on Mars, Saturn and a crescent Moon.

Monday 15 October – Ribeira Brava, Pico do Arieiro

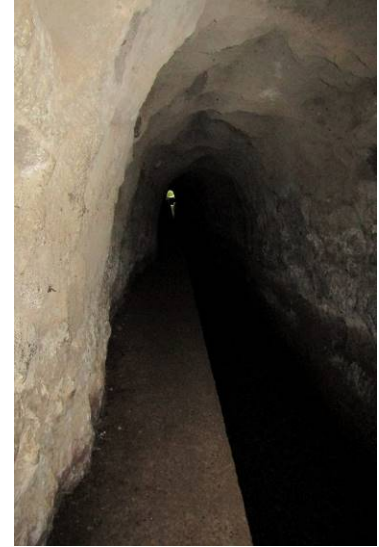
Over breakfast Margaret shared the banana passion fruit she'd bought in the market. Nice taste but a lot of seeds, rather like a pomegranate.

After being picked up at the hotel we headed to the west side of the island. Halfway up to Encumeada we stopped at a viewpoint where we could see the deep Ribeira Brava valley and where there was a Madeira juniper in the garden. Then we continued our way up until the place where we parked the cars to start our walk along a levada through the laurel forest.



Madeira wall lizards on a sword aloe and turnstone, both at Porto da Cruz (JD).

While we walked we found some chaffinches, a couple of firecrests, two trocaz pigeons flying over and a few robins singing. As for plants we admired the huge melliferous spurge, Madeira laurels and some bay laurels as well.



Levada walk and tunnel (BA).

After half an hour walk we reached a tunnel and despite some fears we all walked through to get to the north side of the island where the laurel forest is even lusher. On this side we saw enormous shrubby sow-thistles, some Madeira orchids with dried flowers, the endemic giant bramble, chain ferns with a 'button'² and a few more endemic plant species. On the way back a group member fell which stressed us all but fortunately it was not too serious and we could all keep enjoying the day. A Madeira small copper perched close to us after we'd come through the tunnel again, and some chickens entertained us. Some group members saw a Madeira brimstone in flight on the way back to where the cars were parked, where we had a delicious vegetarian picnic.

After that we were supposed to go up to the plateau Paúl da Serra but the road was closed due to rockfalls. So our guides decided to take us to Pico do Arieiro instead. We drove down to Ribeira Brava, entered the dual carriageway and exited it at São Martinho where we started our ascent to Eira do Serrado and then a very steep road up to Pico do Arieiro. Before getting to the third highest peak we stopped at a viewpoint where we could admire the Nun's Valley (Curral das Freiras) from above. Here we also observed some endemic species of plants such as Madeira heather and *Tolpis succulenta*.

Once at Pico do Arieiro we were able to see a great part of the island as there were no clouds around to hide anything and also the photos explaining the difficult life/conservation of Zino's Petrels on the closed shop that belongs to the Forestry and Nature Conservation Institute.



Up where the Zino's petrels nest: Pico do Arieiro (JD).

During our final meal at the hotel, which started with a tasty but filling bread and garlic soup, several of us took a quick break outside and this time it was Ana from the hotel who found the International Space Station moving low across the night sky.

After the meal we shared holiday highlights, noted on the next page.

² The 'button' on chain ferns is a bud or bulbil towards the tips of the fronds. When it touches the ground it takes root.

Tuesday 16 October – departure

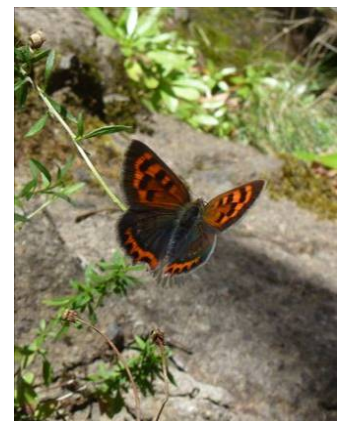
On our departure day it was raining when we left the hotel also leaving behind Brennan and Karin, who were catching a later flight to Germany. As we reached the airport, which is just 11km away, the weather was much drier. Flights were routine and we all arrived home safely.

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Wendy Boat trip and whales; butterflies; scenery; rock formations.
Margaret Pilot whales; lush green of Madeira; International Space Station.
Barbara Boat trip and whales almost within touching distance, and the shearwaters.
Jill Pilot whales, shearwaters, rock formations.
Jean Pilot whales; magnificent scenery; butterflies; meeting up with old friends in the Honeyguide family.
Karin Pilot whales; shearwaters; landscape and how people cope with that.
Ann Short-finned pilot whales and their vocalisations; butterflies and other invertebrates; good gang of people.
Brennan Pilot whales, scoring 10 points; mountain scenery; Manuel's presentation.
Chris Pelagic trip and Fea's petrel.



Large wasp spider *Argiope trifasciata*, the underside of a female. This view shows the zigzag pattern of the stabilimentum on the web; the function of this conspicuous silk structure is uncertain.
Large cone-head *Ruspolia nitidula*.



Traditional house in Santana, not one made pretty for tourists (BA); viewpoint into Ribeira Brava valley, with the river canalised since damaging floods a few years ago (JD); Madeira small copper (CD).

WILDLIFE LISTS

BIRDS

Berthelot's pipit	<i>Anthus berthelotii madeirensis</i>	Seen at both western and eastern tips of Madeira.
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula cabrerae</i>	Park in Santo da Serra and elsewhere.
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla heineken</i>	Seen best at Porto da Cruz.
Black-headed gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	4 in Funchal.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo harterti</i>	Seen in several open areas.
Canary	<i>Serinus canaria</i>	Seen every day around the island.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs madeirensis</i>	Observed especially well in Balcões.
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	1 reported from Cabo Girão viewpoint.
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	1-2 on several areas of open water.
Common tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	São Vicente and Funchal.
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	On offshore rocks.
Cory's shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea borealis</i>	Rafts out at seas on the boat trip.
Desertas (Fea's) petrel	<i>Pterodroma feae</i>	2 sightings on the pelagic trip.
Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia feral</i>	Everywhere.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis parva</i>	Brief glimpses.
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	On several offshore rocks.
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea schmitzi</i>	Several regularly around rivers and towns.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus canariensis</i>	Observed on several days.
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina guentheri</i>	A flock by the road near Pico do Arieiro.
Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Seen regularly in rivers and offshore rocks.
Madeira firecrest	<i>Regulus madeirensis</i>	Seen well at Ribeiro Frio and Ribeira Brava.
(Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Feral ducks only.
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1 on 12 th October.
(Muscovy duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	In most watercourses.
Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Introduced, Santa Catarina Garden, Funchal.
Northern wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	1, Ponta do Pargo, western tip of Madeira.
Plain swift	<i>Apus unicolor</i>	Seen every day.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula rubecula</i>	Heard at the hotel, a few elsewhere.
Ruddy turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Several coastal spots, including Funchal.
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus granti</i>	3 sightings, the best a female over Cabo Girão viewpoint.
Spectacled warbler	<i>Sylvia conspiliata orbitalis</i>	Seen well at Ponta do Pargo.
Trocaz pigeon	<i>Columba trocaz</i>	Several sightings in and near laurel forest.
(Common) waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	About 20 in the river channel at Machico.
Whimbrel	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	1 on grass at São Vicente.
Yellow-legged gull	<i>Larus (michahellis) atlantis</i>	Everywhere.



Trocaz pigeon; island darter (JD).

Mammals, reptile, amphibian, fish	
Short-finned pilot whale <i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>	Perez's frog <i>Rana perezii</i> – pond at the hotel
Brown rat <i>Rattus norvegicus</i> – in a water channel	Grey mullet <i>Mugil cephalus</i>
Madeira wall lizard <i>Lacerta dugesii</i> – everywhere	
Butterflies & moths	
Small white <i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Madeira speckled wood <i>Pararge xiphia</i>
Clouded yellow <i>Colias crocea</i>	European red admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Madeira brimstone <i>Gonepteryx maderensis</i>	Painted lady <i>Cynthia cardui</i>
Madeira small copper <i>Lycaena phlaeas phlaeoides</i>	Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>
Long-tailed blue <i>Lampides boeticus</i>	Hummingbird hawk-moth <i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
Lang's short-tailed blue <i>Leptotes pirithous</i>	
European speckled wood <i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Crimson-speckled moth <i>Utetheisa pulchella</i>



Lang's short-tailed blue in a Funchal park; clouded yellow; crimson-speckled moth (CD).

Dragonflies	
Blue emperor <i>Anax imperator</i>	Island darter <i>Sympetrum (striolatum) nigrifemur</i>
Other notable invertebrates	
Large wasp spider <i>Argiope trifasciata</i>	Black pine sawyer or timberman beetle <i>Monochamus galloprovincialis</i> a longhorn beetle
Crab spider <i>Misumena spinifera</i>	Rosemary beetle <i>Chrysolina americana</i>
Large garden bumble bee <i>Bombus ruderatus</i>	Paper wasp <i>Polistes dominula</i>
Madeiran banded bee <i>Anthophora maderae</i>	Stick insect <i>Clonopsis</i> sp.
Sphecid (spider-hunting) wasp and nest, perhaps <i>Sceliphron caementarium</i>	Field cricket <i>Gryllus campestris</i>
Paper wasp <i>Polistes dominula</i>	Large cone-head <i>Ruspolia nitidula</i> (confusingly called large sabred grasshopper in Sziemer's book)
House centipede <i>Scutigera coleoptrata</i>	Madeiran steppe bush-cricket <i>Montana barrettii</i>



Madeiran steppe bush-cricket *Montana barrettii*;
black pine sawyer or timberman beetle *Monochamus galloprovincialis*;
large garden bumble bee *Bombus ruderatus*

FLORA

Native species

Disc houseleek <i>Aeonium glandulosum</i>	Madeira soft broom <i>Genista tenera</i>
Viscid houseleek <i>Aeonium glutinosum</i>	Madeira cranesbill <i>Geranium maderense</i>
Madeira stonecrop <i>Aichryson domosum / divaricatum</i>	Globe flower <i>Globularia salicina</i>
Downy stonecrop <i>Aichryson villosum</i>	White everlasting <i>Helichrysum melaleucum</i>
Downy sow-thistle <i>Andryala glandulosa</i>	Silver everlasting <i>Helichrysum obconicum</i>
Canary laurel <i>Apollonias barbujana</i>	Canary holly <i>Ilex canariensis</i>
Madeira chrysanthemum <i>Argyranthemum pinnatifidum</i>	Madeira juniper <i>Juniperus cedrus madeirensis</i>
Madeira marigold <i>Calendula maderensis</i>	Bay laurel <i>Laurus novocanariensis</i>
Willow-leaved thistle <i>Carlina salicifolia</i>	Birdsfoot trefoil <i>Lotus canariensis</i>
Prickly cardoon <i>Cynara cardunculus ferocissima</i>	Madeira sea stock <i>Matthiola maderensis</i>
Lily-of-the-valley tree <i>Clethra arborea</i>	Madeira laurel <i>Ocotea foetens</i>
Madeira orchid <i>Dactylorhiza foliosa</i>	Madeira groundsel <i>Pericaulis aurita</i>
Dragon tree <i>Dracena draco</i>	Giant bramble <i>Rubus grandifolius</i>
Pride of Madeira <i>Echium candicans</i>	Madeira dock <i>Rumex maderensis</i>
Pride of Madeira <i>Echium nervosum</i>	Climbing butcher's broom <i>Semele androgyna</i>
Madeira bell-heather <i>Erica maderensis</i>	Madeira pennywort <i>Sibthorpia peregrina</i>
Besom heath <i>Erica scoparia</i>	Shrubby sow-thistle <i>Sonchus fruticosus</i>
Melliferous spurge <i>Euphorbia mellifera</i>	Sow-thistle <i>Sonchus pinnatus</i>
Madeira mountain stock <i>Erysimum bicolor</i>	A hawkweed <i>Tolpis succulenta</i>
	Madeira blueberry (or bilberry) <i>Vaccinium padifolium</i>

Ferns

Maidenhair fern <i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
Sea spleenwort <i>Asplenium marinum</i>	Macaronesian polypody <i>Polypodium (cambricum) macaronesicum</i>
Hard fern <i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Chain fern <i>Woodwardia radicans</i>
Hare's foot fern <i>Davalia canariensis</i>	

Clubmoss

Mediterranean selaginella, Mediterranean clubmoss *Selaginella denticulata*.

Fungus

Madeiran laurel fungus *Laurobasidium lauri* A mass of curly, branched galls on trunks of *Laurus azorica* produced by this parasitic fungus.

Selected plants from around the world

One of the fascinating – but sometimes confusing – elements of Madeira is the huge range of tropical plants from around the world. The formal gardens are well-known but perhaps equally interesting is to see what was planted in streets, around the hotel, growing in gardens or on small-holdings.

The usual suspects were there – bougainvillea, hibiscus, oleander, giant reed, prickly pear, palms, acacias and eucalyptus – and there were also familiar house-plants such as cheese plant and spider plant. This is a list of some of the others that we saw. Some are decorative and harmless, others invasive. Many have more than one English name. It's far from complete, of course: the choice of planted trees and shrubs is selective.

Planted

Blackwood acacia *Acacia melanoxylon* (provisional ID, Australia). An acacia with two types of leaves, both acacia-like and willow-like. Ribeiro Frio.

Sword aloe *Aloe arborescens*.

Custard apple tree *Annona cherimola* (Peru, Ecuador). Machico.

Swan's neck agave *Agave attenuata* (Mexico). Especially roadside planting near airport.

Century plant *Agave americana* (North America).

Amaryllis belladonna (South Africa). Known as naked ladies or belladonna lily. In Portugal one name is *Meninas Para Escola* (girls going to school) referring to the flowers blooming when the girls in their pink uniforms are starting the new school year (source: Wikipedia). Common in Santo da Serra & elsewhere.

Norfolk Island pine *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island). Occasional, widespread.

Angel's trumpets *Brugmansia versicolor* (= *Datura mollis*)

Cassia didymobotya (tropical Africa), Bug spikes of yellow flowers in Santa Catarina garden.

Kapok or silk-floss tree *Ceiba* (formerly *Chorisia*) *speciosa* (South America). Funchal, various towns. The name kapok can refer to several species.

Bony-tip fleabane *Erigeron karvinskianus* (Mexico). Abundant & highly invasive, especially by levadas.

Loquat *Eriobotrya japonica*. In many settlements.

Erythina crista-galli (South America). Porto da Cruz.

Surinam cherry *Eugenia uniflora* (Brazil). Machico.

Jacaranda *Jacaranda mimosifolia*

Swiss cheese plant *Monstera deliciosa* (Central America)

Banana passion flower/fruit *Passiflora x exoniensis*. Santo da Serra and Ribeiro Frio, especially.
 King protea *Protea cynaroides*. (South Africa). Quinta do Furão.
 Peruvian pepper-tree *Schinus molle* (South America).
 African tulip tree *Spathodea campanulata*. (Tropical Africa). Funchal, especially.
 Bird-of-paradise *Strelitzia reginae* South Africa. Widely planted.
 Brazil spider plant *Tibouchina urvilleana*. Santo da Serra and elsewhere.

Established aliens

Agapanthus or African lily *Agapanthus praecox* (South Africa). Abundant on roadsides growing in seriously plague numbers. Mostly not in flower but still large numbers of both white & blue flowers seen.
 Weed blackjack, a bur marigold *Bidens pillosa* (South America).
 Taro, probably *Colocasia esculenta* (tropics, various). Giant leaves sometimes cultivated for edible corms, also growing in river channels.
 Umbrella plant *Cyperus alternifolius* (Madagascar). Papyrus-like plant in water courses.
 Ginger lily *Hedychium gardnerianum* (Western Himalayas). Recognised as one of "The World's 100 Worst Invasive Alien Species" by the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group. Widely seen in fruit, still in flower in several places.
 Marvel of Peru / four o'clock flower *Mirabilis jalapa* (tropical regions of South & Central America).
 Garden knotweed *Polygonum capitatum* (India, Himalayas).
 Mauritius nightshade *Solanum mauritianum* (Tropical Africa and tropical America). Various roadsides.

European species

These are plants that you could find in a European flora, but still often from around the world. Many are arable weeds / wayside flowers. Numbers are those in *Mediterranean Wild Flowers* by Marjorie Blamey & Christopher Grey-Wilson. Plus lots of familiar UK 'weeds' such as sow-thistles, clovers etc.

- 50 Pellitory of the wall *Parietaria Judaica*.
- 112 Virginia poke *Phytolacca americana* (North America).
- 115 Hottentot fig *Carpobrotus edulis* (South Africa).
- 456 Broom *Cytisus scoparius*. Not in flower, but dominant on Pico de Arieiro.
- 475 Gorse *Ulex europaeus*.
- 508 Pitch trefoil *Psoralea bituminosa*.
- 824 Castor oil plant *Ricinus communis* (Tropical Africa).
- 1101 Rock samphire *Crithmum maritimum*. Common by the coast.
- 1108 Fennel *Foeniculum vulgare*.
- 1178 Tree heather *Erica arborea*.
- 1632 Ivy-leaved toadflax *Cymbalaria muralis*.
- 1321 Morning glory *Ipomoea acuminata* (Tropical America).
- 1563 Black nightshade *Solanum nigrum*.
- 1565 Apple of Sodom *Solanum sodomaeum*.
- 1582 Tree tobacco *Nicotiana glaucum* (South America).
- 1611 Weasel's snout or lesser snapdragon *Misopates orontium*.
- 1894 Corn marigold *Chrysanthemum segetum*.
- Shaggy soldier *Galinsoga ciliate*.
- Wood scabious *Knautia dipsacifolia* or something similar, Ribeira Brava.



Three exotics: banana passion flower, Swiss cheese plant (aka Mexican bread fruit) and kapok (JD).