Madeira Wind Birds™

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Madeira
7 – 14 November 2026

Holiday participants

Everard Daniel
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Tessa Needham
Denise Back
Graham Harris
Alison Ward
Robert Carr
Dawn Stevens
Megan McClean
Philip Jenkins
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Leaders

Catarina Fagundes and Hugo Romano www.madeirawindbirds.com

Report by Chris Durdin. Native plants list by Catarina Fagundes.
Photo credits shown by initials, others by Chris Durdin.

Cover: Chão das Feiteiras, monarch in Funchal (ED) and canary (RC).
Below: group photo by Hugo Romano.



We stayed at Hotel Rural A Quinta at Santo da Serra http://www.estalagemaquinta.com/, pictured below, with a *Cymbidium tracyanum* orchid from the garden.





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, leading to a donation of £490 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 £3523. The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 to November 2026 was £170,207.

DAILY DIARY

Saturday 7 November – arrival on Madeira, or not …

A weather alert for Madeira is bad news: winds and heavy rain mean that landing on the coastal airport's runway often cannot happen for safety reasons. Dawn's flight from Bristol was the first to be cancelled, so she stayed at home. Then the flight for the Gatwick contingent of eight was cancelled, and easyJet arranged beds and vouchers for a meal at the Hilton hotel at South Terminal. Meanwhile, Megan had already been on Madeira for a week. She sensibly decided not to try to meet the group at the airport and made her own way to Hotel Rural A Quinta at Santo da Serra. But she wasn't the only Honeyguider there: remarkably Philip's flight from Geneva landed at the second attempt, and Catarina was able to bring him to the hotel.

Sunday 8 November – more bad weather

This time both Bristol and Gatwick flights took off, but the weather prevented either flight landing in Madeira. These became two of the six flights diverted to Faro, where it was pouring with rain. We heard that Catarina took lunch to Megan and Philip to the hotel, as the weather outside was not safe. In Faro, after an age on the tarmac and in the airport, Dawn was sent to a hotel at Quarteira, west of Faro, and the gang of eight to the Hotel Ibis, about 10 minutes' drive by taxi. No meal vouchers this time, but at least we were a little closer, ready for tomorrow.

Monday 9 November – arrival and Santana area

A good breakfast at Hotel Ibis – the fresh orange juice machine was a great feature – was followed by a short taxi ride to the airport. That the easyJet app wasn't working to generate boarding passes didn't matter, with an old-fashioned desk check-in instead. Both flights – the (original) Bristol flight one first, then the main group's flight – landed safely to great applause and the 'internal' flight within Portugal meant no passport process. Once we were outside, Catarina and Hugo picked up all of us in their 'champagne-coloured' minibuses and, united with Philip and Megan too, we were away. Our route took us through tunnels and winding sections of the north coast road until we parked near the restaurant of Calhau de São Jorge. There was a coot in the pool at the river's mouth, near the Muscovy ducks. Catarina ran through a host of plants, some native, some non-native. Among these, an unfamiliar blue flower in the verge was climbing dayflower *Commelina diffusa.* We saw the first of many Madeira wall lizards, and a kestrel (Macronesian subspecies) flew around.




Yellow-legged mud-dauber wasp *Sceliphron caementarium* (TN); monarch caterpillar.

A yellow-legged mud-dauber wasp *Sceliphron caementarium* (a spider-hunting wasp) was at first on its mud nest on the cliff by the path, and then moved onto a patch of wet ground to collect mud. Lunch was an excellent three-course meal at Calhau de São Jorge, with (wisely or otherwise!) wine included. Outside the restaurant, in a gloomy corner, a bristle-fruited silkweed in fruit had two monarch caterpillars on it, which inevitably were much-photographed.

A few distant Cory's shearwaters before we ate became scores, including a feeding raft at times, though some distance out at sea. A blue emperor dragonfly flew around, as did a red admiral, and some group members photographed a speckled wood. We did a short walk on a coastal path, by which a banded argiope wasp spider was admired.

From here we drove a short distance to Faial, parking beyond the go-cart track. On the river, or the



Banded argiope / large wasp spider (AG/CD).

adjacent rocks, we started with a heron and a little egret. Then we found a sanderling, a common sandpiper and a moorhen, and there were plain swifts flying overhead. Megan had mentioned crabs she'd seen in Funchal and was quick to find one here, that one becoming several as we learnt where to search, including on the sheer concrete harbour wall. The red rock crabs held tight as waves crashed over them, resuming feeding an instant afterwards.

We paused for a very short while at the viewpoint called Miradouro da Portela, by which there were two local species of tree heather. From there we went straight to Santo da Serra to get settled in the Hotel Rural A Quinta, a quick wash and brush up before our evening meal. This time, having not planned what we'd eat, we all chose from the menu.

Tuesday 10 November – levada walk, Machico and Caniçal

Our first full day and what might be the start of a routine, with breakfast at 8:00 then Catarina and Hugo arriving to collect us at 09:00. The day was grey with showers, so looking back at the day on our return, we did well to see a lot without getting soaked. Soon into the Vale Paraíso levada walk, Hugo pointed out the hanging nest of a Madeira firecrest, from which earlier in the year they'd witnessed fledging taking place. It took a bit of finding, despite its surprisingly large size. Just beyond that, there was a patch of scrubby woodland with a lot of birds, particularly impressive considering the limited range of species on Madeira. There were several blackbirds, blackcaps, Madeira chaffinches and glimpses of up to three Madeira firecrests. A robin sang, but there was no sign of it. A pigeon – no doubt a trocaz pigeon – landed mostly out of sight on a high branch, but it was tricky to see anything other than its tail. Catarina pointed out many species of trees, some familiar such as sweet chestnut, and others less so, such as Madeira holly. There were fungi in several forms, though no progress on IDs: even Seek app did the digital equivalent of a shrug of the shoulders and a 'don't know'. On the wall of the levada there was a patch of the round-leaved Madeira moneywort *Sibthorpia peregrina*.

We retraced our steps, crossed the road and walked for a while, again by the levada. Here we had an excellent view of a Madeira firecrest, in the open as we looked down on it as it fed. I scanned a water tank with fallen trees and found an Iberian water frog where a tree trunk made a convenient place from a frog to sit out of, but near, the water. A lot of plants were not in flower, but some exotic species that were flowering included trailing abutilon, banana passionfruit and the very large *Solanum mauritianum*, woolly nightshade or bugweed.

We retreated to minibuses from the rain and, after a loo stop in Camacha, we stopped at a viewpoint over Machico. By then we had an outbreak of good weather, enough to bring out a flying monarch butterfly and a hummingbird hawkmoth on some lantana. Catarina's homemade quiche was much enjoyed. There were kestrels, a 'chacking' blackcap and our first collared doves.



Spoonbill and curlew sandpiper in Machico (RC).

We moved to the coast at Machico (where there was another well-placed loo) and almost immediately found eight turnstones either on the beach or in and out of a concrete water channel. We walked alongside the canalised river in Machico, in which dredging was taking place. We peered over the wall to see a buff-coloured cattle egret, plus a little egret and an immature spoonbill to our right with a common sandpiper nearby. A digger caused the spoonbill and little egret to fly, both landing on a wall high over the other side of the channel. There were also many Muscovy ducks, mallards of feral origin, coot and moorhen. Behind us were many fruit trees/plants, from bananas to lemons to guavas, into which some waxbills dropped. Those at the front saw three, I could see one by a custard apple fruit and some group members missed

them. Hugo and Catarina put telescopes on a curlew sandpiper and a ringed plover that were side by side in the channel, and Tessa and Ann saw a white wagtail.



Waxbill (TN); cattle egret (AG).

We drove east to Caniçal and the open eastern point of Madeira at Ponta de São Lourenço. It was busy with people here for the view, though we were after two birds in particular. It was Graham who was first to see the Berthelot's pipit on some open ground. Hugo managed to get most of us onto a spectacled warbler, though probably due to the windy conditions it only occasionally showed itself as it kept low in some scrubby plants. Then it started to rain again.

On the way back to Santo da Serra, text alerts warned us of the approaching Storm Charles, with rain and wind expected tonight and tomorrow morning. We stopped by a reservoir set in a lined volcanic crater, where with the many yellow-legged gulls were singles of shoveler, pintail and tufted duck. The rain came back and we went 'home' to A Quinta.

Wednesday 11 November – free day, rain stopped play and Funchal

Strong winds and rain buffeted Madeira through the night, continuing though abating through the morning. There was no damage at A Quinta, apart from (we heard) some water getting into the room with the pool table. The breakfast-time TV news was dominated by storm footage, from both Madeira and mainland Portugal. This was all on what was to be the 'free day', which started with a morning at A Quinta, left to our own devices in the hotel. There wasn't much natural history, though wasps kept visiting the *Camellia sasanqua* by the entrance, confirmed as German wasps.

Our quiet morning was followed by a light lunch and a pick-up at 2pm to go to Funchal. There were rocks on one stretch of road and blown debris in many places, and muddy river water was visible over large patches of the sea, but no real issues about the drive to Funchal.



Funchal market collage of chillies, orchids, fruit and cork goods; monarch butterfly on lantana.

Megan went in one direction to an art gallery, and Rob headed straight for Jardim de Santa Catarina (a large park) in the hope of finding birds to photograph, though had little to report beyond the mute swans brought into Madeira and a motley collection of wildfowl. The rest of us started in the market, which had fine displays of fruit, vegetable and souvenirs, all in a lovely building. We then went a short distance along

one of Funchal's narrow streets, where purchases were made in a craft jewellery shop, and then we went down to the seaside promenade. Here the area nearest the sea was cordoned off for safety, and the impact of an occasional big wave showed why, though waves weren't an issue for the large numbers of red rock crabs on rock and concrete armouring by the sea. That apart, it was a warm and sunny afternoon, which brought out some insects. A confiding monarch butterfly settled on some planted shrubs, and the many lantana bushes had other insects including a small white butterfly. We walked to Santa Catarina park, which felt like 'monarch central' as there were several flying around, plus any number of Madeira wall lizards. We were short of time to explore more of the park, returning along the main street past many fine civic buildings and back in good time for the 5:30 rendezvous and pick-up by Hugo and Catarina. A heron flew over the hotel garden as we were dropped off, adding to the buzzard that came over at lunchtime.

There was a double celebration at dinner, as both Alison and Philip had birthdays today. The probability that this could happen during a 7-day trip is 0.28% or 1 in 352, according to Google. Denise organised both cards and presents, and Ana prepared a cake that we shared for dessert.

Thursday 12 November– Chão das Feiteiras and São Vicente

A canary perched on a tree top just before Catarina and Hugo arrived at A Quinta. It was a day when we could see the physical impact of the storm in many places, and that included roads that were blocked, or partially blocked, affecting what we could do. The first of these was early on, with a block preventing what was expected to be an open road to Ribeiro Frio. Plan B was Chão das Feiteiras, a delightful open area of grass sprinkled with scrub next to mixed woodland, with many beech trees. Near one of the several blackbirds (all males), Ann noticed a different thrush, namely a fieldfare, and soon there were three. This is a very good record for Madeira as they are less than annual on the island. There were also six goldfinches on a treetop, and a confiding chaffinch in a very small tree that seemed to be finding invertebrates in the luscious growth of hanging lichen. Six siskins flew around, and perched for a while. We heard robins, and this time we also saw one that dropped from the browse-line of some small trees onto the ground to pick up food. We had a good view of a Madeira firecrest in gorse. Invertebrates included gorse bug, a different parasitic wasp and grasshoppers, plus various fungi, most of which we couldn't name through there was a fly agaric and the Seek app gave us the deceiver as another. All of this was in warm sunshine and with the backdrop of a view that included one Madeira's high mountains, Pico do Areeiro.



Madeira chaffinch and siskin at Chão das Feiteiras (RC)

A drive of about an hour was a reminder of Madeira's extraordinary scenery of cliffs, steep slopes and gulleys, with precariously placed properties and windy roads, especially on the north side of the island. This took us to São Vicente, where we had our picnic lunch at a viewpoint looking down over the steep gulley, through which ran a road and the river leading to the coast. Catarina pointed out the pink buildings of an agricultural college, in particular a large hole in its car park which had evidentially collapsed from underneath into the water on the other side of the high concrete river wall. Graham found an island darter, but it didn't linger and most of us missed it.

From here most of us descended some steep steps through a range of mostly Madeiran shrubs, plus a few exotics including a lovely hibiscus with closed, drooping red flowers (sleeping hibiscus *Malvaviscus penduliflorus*). Four group members walked down the road and were collected along the way by Hugo who had taken one minibus down to a lower car park and returned to fetch the other. We reached that car park via a pedestrian underpass which had tiled murals and an impressive collection of ferns, namely maidenhair fern and haresfoot fern, and any number of wall lizards, mostly heads poking out from cracks between stones in the wall.



Wildlife in a wall in an underpass: haresfoot fern and Madeira wall lizards (AG/CD).

From here it was the shortest of drives to be nearer the river's mouth. This took us past a small piece of amenity grassland where I remembered seeing a whimbrel in 2018. There were singles of common sandpiper, turnstone and lesser black-backed gull, plus Muscovy ducks and innumerable feral pigeons. Rocks supported thousands of round, plate-like Madeira house leeks. The walk along the road took us to a football stadium – Estádio dos Juncos (Stadium of the Rushes) – where by peering through the gate we could see a bar-tailed godwit in the centre of the pitch. A man kindly invited us in. The godwit was chased away by a whimbrel, one of the two whimbrels also feeding here. So still whimbrel at São Vicente, just in a slightly different place. A small group of canaries settled on a fence on the other side of the road.



Whimbrel, bar-tailed godwit and grey wagtail on the football pitch at São Vicente.



Canaries on a nearby fence (AG)

The huge rock and cliff face here, combined with the flocks of feral pigeons in the area, felt right for a peregrine, and that's what we watched on our way back. There were two peregrines, a species that is a recent colonist, one perched, one in the air, and two kestrels.



Peregrine (RC)

Two places we tried on the next drive were closed today, which must have been very frustrating for Catarina and Hugo, so the third-choice stop was at the clifftop hotel of Quinta do Furão, Honeyguide's previous base for five holidays on Madeira (2008-2012). The

grounds include a replica of a traditional thatched house of the Santana area, helpfully furnished and open to look inside. We took a short walk between the clifftop and one of the small organic vineyards, mostly admiring planted trees and shrubs, including a dragon tree and Brazilian spider flower.

The main course for dinner at A Quinta was Everard's suggestion, from what he'd enjoyed in Portugal: cod with creamed potato. After dinner, by the lit doorway on our way back into our rooms, a fine moth was helpfully still and seemed to be *Menorpha madarae*, an island species close to waved umber.

Friday 13 November – Paul da Serra plateau
It was sunny for most of the day, with cloud sometimes, and just a little rain when driving. Debris on roads and small landslides were still common, and our guides chose routes to avoid diversions. We started at a viewpoint which Catarina and Hugo knew to be a good place to see trocaz pigeon, which worked well. They were prone to hiding in pine trees, though with a little patience everyone saw them well. There were several blackcaps in a Peruvian pepper tree, a Madeira chaffinch sang, we saw kestrels again and heard red-legged partridge. Madeira globularia was in flower and there were fine views to enjoy.

The main part of the day was in Bica da Cana forest park in the Paul da Serra plateau, heathland at a relatively high altitude in the west-central area of Madeira. We first stopped by a large water body that seemed to have been created by recent rain. There were seven teals (though no male), lesser black-backed gull and Berthelot's pipit here. We had our picnic lunch where some handy tables were a good place to spread the food, though most of us stood in the sunshine to eat. At a nearby viewpoint, we saw spectacled warbler well. We moved to a car park by another open area of heathy vegetation and had even better views of spectacled warblers atop gorse or heather bushes. A little cluster of paper wasps were doing something in a hollow in a rock, though there was no sign of a paper nest.


Trocaz pigeon, spectacled warbler (RC)

We dropped down to the coast on the south, to Madalena do Mar. There was a grey wagtail in a watercourse, and eight grey herons flew over offshore fish farms, plus a monarch over one minibus, but otherwise it was quiet for wildlife. The views along the coast in the sunshine were a reminder of what an extraordinary island this is, and a feature here at 'banana central' was the hillsides and little corners with banana plants, many of which had huge hands of bananas wrapped in protective blue plastic.

Checklists needed little updating, so Ann led us outside to see the International Space Station (ISS) moving across the sky, and we collected holiday highlights. Hugo and Catarina joined us for our final meal at A Quinta, where most of had scabbard with banana.

Saturday 14 November – homeward bound
How nice it is to note that there were no weather issues on the final day. Dawn and Megan had a day in Funchal, as they had late flights to Bristol and Manchester. Philip collected a hire car from the airport for his extra three days, staying at A Quinta. For the rest of the group, it was an uneventful journey – hooray!

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Rob	Trocaz pigeon fluttering into photographic view.
Denise	The three-day safari (journey) to reach Madeira; monarch caterpillars and butterflies.
Tessa	Waves breaking over seascapes; paper wasps; monarch; wasp spider.
Everard	Monarchs, adults and larvae; peregrines; close-up views of spectacled warblers and Madeira firecrest; landscapes.
Graham	Madeira firecrest; spectacled warblers; plain swifts.

Philip	Peregrines; birthday cake.
Alison	Getting here; monarchs; peregrine; trocaz pigeon; flowers; crabs.
Megan	Light allowing good photographs e.g. of spectacled warbler; expertise of group; views.
Dawn	Meeting you all at the airport; close-up views of Madeira firecrest; going west & enjoying the geography; spectacled warbler; the fieldfare place.
Ann	Landing on the tarmac; enjoyed it all, invertebrates including monarchs, lizards, views.
Chris	Getting here; excellent views of trocaz pigeon, Madeira firecrest and spectacled warbler; landscapes.

WILDLIFE LISTS

BIRDS

Bar-tailed godwit	*Limosa lapponica*	2 on the football pitch at São Vicente
Berthelot's pipit	*Anthus berthelotii madeirensis*	Seen at the and eastern tip of Madeira and Paul da Serra plateau.
Blackbird	*Turdus merula cabrerae*	Vale Paraíso levada, Chão das Feiteiras and elsewhere.
Blackcap	*Sylvia atricapilla heineken*	Seen in several places, including Vale Paraíso levada and Funchal.
Buzzard	*Buteo buteo*	Seen in several open areas, including over the hotel.
Canary	*Serinus canaria*	Seen every day around the island.
Cattle egret	*Ardea ibis*	1, Machico.
Collared dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*	Seen on several days.
Common sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	Singles at São Jorge and São Vicente.
Coot	*Fulica atra*	Singles on coastal and urban watercourses.
Cory's shearwater	*Calonectris diomedea borealis*	Scores out to sea from São Jorge.
Curlew sandpiper	*Calidris ferruginea*	1, Machico
Feral pigeon	*Columba livia feral*	Everywhere. Some at São Vicente had the characteristics of rock dove, though mixed in with obvious feral pigeons.
Fieldfare	*Turdus pilaris*	3, Chão das Feiteiras, 12 November. Less than annual on Madeira.
Goldfinch	*Carduelis carduelis parva*	Chão das Feiteiras
Green sandpiper	*Tringa ochropus*	1 on a reservoir near Santo da Serra.
Grey heron	*Ardea cinerea*	Coastal, over the hotel and 8 at a fish farm at sea.
Grey wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea schmitzi*	On the edges of most areas of open water and urban watercourses.
Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus canariensis*	Seen daily.
Lesser black-backed gull	*Larus fuscus*	Twice seen, a coastal location and Paul da Serra plateau
Little egret	*Egretta garzetta*	1, Machico.
Madeira chaffinch	*Fringilla madeirensis*	Seen or heard in several places.
Madeira firecrest	*Regulus madeirensis*	Seen well in several places.
(Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	Feral ducks only.)
Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	Singles on water bodies and urban rivers.
(Muscovy duck	*Cairina moschata*	In most watercourses).
Mute swan	*Cygnus olor*	Introduced, Santa Catarina Garden, Funchal.
Peregrine falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	2 at São Vicente
Pintail	*Anas acuta*	1 on a reservoir near Santo da Serra.
Plain swift	*Apus unicolor*	Seen every day, often in large numbers.
Ringed plover	*Charadrius hiaticula*	1, Machico.
Robin	*Erithacus rubecula rubecula*	Heard in several places, seen at Chão das Feiteiras.
Red-legged partridge	*Alectoris rufa*	Heard at one coastal location.
Ruddy turnstone	*Arenaria interpres*	Several coastal spots, especially Machico.
Sanderling	*Calidris alba*	1, São Jorge
Shoveler	*Spatula clypeata*	1 on a reservoir near Santo da Serra.
Siskin	*Spinus spinus*	6, Chão das Feiteiras
Spectacled warbler	*Sylvia conspiliata orbitalis*	Seen well at Chão das Feiteiras, Paul da Serra plateau and less well at Ponta de São Lourenço.

Spoonbill	*Platalea leucorodia*	An immature at Machico
Teal	*Anas crecca*	7 on open water, Chão das Feiteiras.
Trocaz pigeon	*Columba trocaz*	Several sightings.
Tufted duck	*Aythya fuligula*	1 on a reservoir near Santo da Serra.
(Common) waxbill	*Estrilda astrild*	In the bushes near the river channel at Machico.
Whimbrel	*Passer hispaniolensis*	2 on the football pitch at São Vicente.
White wagtail	*Motacilla alba*	1, Machico.
Yellow-legged gull	*Larus (michahellis) atlantis*	Everywhere.





Perez's frog (=Iberian water frog) (RC); Mediterranean Katydid or Southern Sickle Bush-cricket *Phaneroptera nana;* red rock crab (AG).

Mammals, reptile, amphibian.	
Brown rat *Rattus norvegicus* (roadkill)	Perez's frog *Rana perezi* – including pond at the hotel
Madeira lesser noctule *Nyctalus leisleri verrucosus*	Madeira wall lizard *Lacerta dugesii* – everywhere
Madeira pipistrelle *Pipistrellus maderensis*	*Bats from likely species matches on Echo meter*
Butterflies & moths	
Small white *Artogeia rapae*	Hummingbird hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum*
Monarch *Danaus plexippus*	*Idea atlantica* or *madarae,* a geometer moth
European red admiral *Vanessa atalanta*	*Menophra madarae* an endemic species of geometer moth
Lang's short-tailed blue *Leptotes pirithous (*probably*)*	
European speckled wood *Pararge aegeria*	
Dragonflies	
Blue emperor *Anax imperator*	Island darter *Sympetrum (striolatum) nigrifemur*
Other notable invertebrates	
Large or banded wasp spider *Argiope trifasciata*	Ground bug *Spilostethus pandurus tetricus*
Madeira bumble bee *Bombus maderensis*	Gorse bug
Madeiran banded bee *Anthophora maderae*	Rosemary beetle *Chrysolina americana*
Paper wasp *Polistes dominula*	Stick insect *Clonopsis* sp. (found dead)
German wasp *Vespula germanica*	Mediterranean katydid or Southern sickle bush-cricket *Phaneroptera nana*
Sphecid (spider-hunting) wasp and nest, *Sceliphron caementarium*	Mediterranean field cricket *Gryllus bimaculatus*
Ichneumon sp.	Madeira pincer grasshopper *Calliptamus madeirae*
Red rock crab *Grapsus adscensionis*	

FLORA

Native species

Monday 9 November, Praia de São Jorge
Canary Laurel *Apollonias barbujana*
Viscid Houseleek *Aeonium glutinosum*
Sow Thistle *Andryala glandulosa varia*
Downy Sow Thistle *Andryala glandulosa glandulosa*
Madeira Chrysanthemum *Argyranthemum pinnatifidum*
Willow-leaved Thistle *Carlina salicifolia*
Dragon Tree *Dracaena draco*
Pride of Madeira *Echium nervosum*
Globe Flower *Globularia salicina*
White everlasting *Helichrysum melaleucum*
Bastard Hare's Ear *Phyllis nobla*
Sow Thistle *Sonchus pinnatus*
Sow Thistle *Sonchus ustulatus maderensis*
Sow Thistle *Sonchus ustulatus ustulatus*
Portela
Lilly-of-the-valley-tree *Clethra arborea*
Madeira Chrysanthemum *Argyranthemum pinnatifidum*
Small Green-flowered Heather *Erica scoparia platycodon*
Azores Candleberry tree *Myrica faya*

Tuesday 10 November Vale Paraíso levada
Madeira Holy *Ilex canariensis / perado*
Bay Laurel *Laurus novocanariensis*
Madeira Laurel *Ocotea foetens*
Madeira Elder *Sambucus lanceolata*
Madeira Moneywort *Sibthorpia peregrina*
Madeira Blueberry *Vaccinium padifolium*
Machico Ponta do Rosto
Mandon's Chrysanthemum *Argyranthemum pinnatifidum succulentum*

Thursday 12 November, Chão das Feiteiras
Picconia *Picconia excelsa*
Madeira Juniper *Juniperus cedrus madeirensis*
São Vicente - viewpoint & walk down

Canary Laurel *Apollonias barbujana*
Bay Laurel *Laurus novocanariensis*
Madeira Shrubby Bittersweet *Maytenus umbellata*
Madeira Ivy *Hedera maderensis*
Willow-leaved Thistle *Carlina salicifolia*
Climbing Butcher's Broom *Semele androgyna*
Hare's Foot fern *Davalia canariensis*
São Vicente - river mouth
Disc Houseleek *Aeonium glandulosum*
Willow-leaved Thistle *Carlina salicifolia*
Quinta do Furão
Madeira Blueberry *Vaccinium padifolium*

Friday 13th November, Viewpoint
Globe Flower *Globularia salicina*
Pride of Madeira *Echium nervosum*



Disc houseleek (native); sleeping hibiscus *Malvaviscus penduliflorus* (planted); Frangipani in Funchal (ED)

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 / escaped

Trailing abutilon *Abutilon megapotamicum*
Blackwood acacia *Acacia melanoxylon* (Australia). An acacia with two types of leaves, both acacia-like and willow-like.
Sword aloe *Aloe arborescens*.
Custard apple tree *Annona cherimola* (Peru, Ecuador). Machico.
Swan's neck agave *Agave atenuata* (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).
Norfolk Island pine *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island). Occasional, widespread.
Angel's trumpets *Brugmansia versicolor (= Datura mollis)*
Kapok or silk-floss tree *Ceiba* (formerly *Chorisia) speciosa* (South America). Funchal, various towns. The name kapok can refer to several species.
Climbing dayflower *Commelina diffusa*
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.
Euphorbia pulcherrima Poinsettia
Gazania rigens
Hydrangea macrophylla
Jacaranda *Jacaranda mimosifolia*
Red hot poker *Kniphofia uvaria* (South Africa)
Lantana *Lantana camara*
Mesembryanthemum cordifolium
Sleeping hibiscus *Malvaviscus penduliflorus*
Swiss cheese plant *Monstera deliciosa* (Central America)
Banana passion flower/fruit *Passiflora* x *exoniensis*.
Frangipani *Plumeria* sp
Garden knotweed *Polygonum capitatum*
Cooper's tree fern *Sphaeropteris cooperi* (Australia)
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.
Sleeping hibiscus *Malvaviscus penduliflorus*.

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).
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.
Mauritius nightshade, woolly nightshade, or false tobacco *Solanum mauritianum* (Tropical Africa and tropical America). Various roadsides.



Solanum mauritianum: you can see why woolly nightshade is one English name (PJ).

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. NiF = Not in Flower

50 Pellitory of the wall *Parietaria judaica*
456 Broom *Cytisus scoparius* NiF
475 Gorse *Ulex europaeus*
508 Pitch trefoil *Psoralea bituminosa* NiF
733 Procumbent yellow sorrel *Oxalis corniculata*
824 Castor oil plant *Ricinus communis* (Tropical Africa)
1101 Rock samphire *Crithmum maritimum*. Common by the coast.
1178 Tree heather *Erica arborea* NiF
1321 Morning glory *Ipomoea acuminata* (Tropical America)
1563 Black nightshade *Solanum nigrum*
1632 Ivy-leaved toadflax *Cymbalaria muralis*
1908 Field marigold *Calendula arvensis*
- Purslane *Portulaca oleracea*

Clubmoss and ferns

2510 Mediterranean selaginella, Mediterranean clubmoss *Selaginella denticulata*
2522 Maidenhair fern *Adantium capillus-veneris*
2538 Macronesium polypody *Polypodium (cambricum) macaronesicum*
Haresfoot fern *Davalia canariensis*
Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*

Fungi

Fly agaric *Amanita muscaria*
Peeling oysterling *Crepidotus mollis,* probably
Seek app also identified The Deceiver *Laccaria laccata* though this is notoriously similar to other species, hence the name.



Tile murals outside Funchal market (AG). They were installed to celebrate the grand opening of the Mercado dos Lavradores in 1940. They illustrate Madeira's agricultural heritage and everyday working life.