

Monte Palace

Madeira

TROPICAL GARDEN



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PONCHA BAR



BLUE HOUSE

Free Wine Tasting



Services

- Trolley Stop
- Bus Stop
- Car Parking
- Toilets
- Disabled toilets
- Café – Terrace
- Restaurant
- Wine Tasting
- Drinking water
- Viewpoint
- First Aid
- Recycling bin



The Gardens occupy 70 000m²

0 30 m



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TROPICAL GARDEN

MONTE PALACE MADEIRA Tropical Garden

Caminho do Monte nº174
Caminho das Babosas nº4 e 4-A
9050-288 Funchal
Madeira, Portugal
info@montepalacemadeira.com

Booking

Tel. +351 291 780 800
(Call to the national landline network)
visitas@montepalacemadeira.com

www.montepalacemadeira.com

Museum Monte Palace Madeira

Tel. +351 291 784 756
(Call to the national landline network)
museu@montepalacemadeira.com



Monte Palace Madeira



#montepalacemadeira

ASSOCIAÇÃO
DE COLECÇÕES



Flora & Fauna

ABOUT THE MONTE PALACE MADEIRA Tropical Garden

In the 18th century, the British Consul General, Charles Murray, bought a property south of the Church of Monte and transformed it into a beautiful estate, later named the “Quinta do Prazer”.

In 1897, Alfredo Guilherme Rodrigues bought this property and, inspired by the palaces he had seen on the banks of the Rhine, built a palatial house that was later transformed into the “Monte Palace Hotel”.

Enjoying breath-taking views over Funchal Bay and its green surroundings, this hotel was very popular with domestic and foreign visitors.



Alfredo Guilherme Rodrigues died in 1943, leading to the closure of the “Monte Palace Hotel”.

In 1987, the businessman José Manuel Rodrigues Berardo bought the “Monte Palace Hotel”, and the Monte Palace Madeira - Tropical Garden was born.

Having undergone some significant renovations and improvements, it has become a pleasant place to take a walk, enjoy the fresh air and nature and enjoy the grandeur and excellence of the diverse art collections.

Monte Palace Madeira - Tropical Garden is belongs to Associação de Colecções, which continues to protect and defend the environment, thereby living up to one of its mottos.



FLORA

Monte Palace Madeira - Tropical Garden occupies an area of 70,000 m² and is home to an abundant collection of exotic plants from the four corners of the world: **cycads** ⁵ from South Africa, a collection of more than 700 examples, with about 60 specimens on display; **proteas** from South Africa; **azaleas** ¹³ (blooming from November to April); **orchids** ⁷ from the Himalayas (blooming from November to May); **clivia** from South Africa (blooming in April); **hydrangeas** from South Africa (blooming from July to December); **heather** from Scotland; **sequoias** ³ from America; **acacias** from Australia; **thousand-year-old olive trees** ¹ from Alqueva - Portugal. These are just a few of the thousands of plants to be found in the garden.

LAURISSILVA

This garden has plants typical of the Laurissilva ², which was classified by UNESCO as a World Natural Heritage site in 2000. Some of these plants that can be seen are: **laurel** (*laurus novocanariensis*); **til** (*ocotea foetens*); **persea** (*persea indica*); **barbusano** (*apollonias barbujana*); **firetree** (*myrica faya*); **lily-of-the-valley tree** (*clethra arborea*); **Canary island juniper** (*juniperus cedrus*); and the endangered pittosporum (*pittosporum coriaceum*), among others.

ORIENTAL GARDENS

The two **oriental gardens** ⁶ are a homage to Chinese and Japanese culture, with their respect for nature and its symbolic elements. Here you can admire the Buddhas, **pagodas** ¹⁵, bridges, benches and stone lanterns with typical decorative elements. The marble dragon surrounded by children represents fertility and the foo dogs that can be found at the entrances to the oriental gardens are the protectors of these spaces.

FAUNA

The garden has been enriched with the introduction of **Koi carp** ⁶, of varying sizes and colours into the ponds. Two more ponds were also built, complete with advanced water filtering and purification systems that do not require the addition of chemical products. This ensures the fish enjoy a healthy environment and provide visitors with a pleasant spectacle due to the transparency of the water and the brightness and colour of the fish, which can live for up to 100 years.

At the **central lake** ⁴ you can gaze admiringly on **swans** ¹⁶, famed for their majestic beauty, which originally hail from Iceland and Scandinavia; and as you walk through the gardens you might see Indian peacocks, as well as European flamingos.

Art

MUSEU MONTE PALACE MADEIRA ¹

The **Monte Palace Madeira Museum**, an exhibition space over three floors, was built at the highest point of the garden. On the ground floor there is a collection of minerals and precious stones, while the first and second floors host a collection of Modern and Contemporary art.

THE WORLD STARTS HERE! ^{1A} ^{1B}

The journey's beginning and **The discovery of scale** bring together a collection of Modern and Contemporary works of art by nationally and internationally - renowned artists. Spanning almost a century of art history and featuring several artistic movements, including *Abstract expressionism*, *Constructivism*, *Pop art* and *Body art*, this exhibition includes paintings, drawings, sculptures, photographs and videos.

“MOTHER NATURE'S SECRETS” ^{1C}

There are around 700 mineral samples on display, mostly from Brazil, Portugal, South Africa, Zambia, Peru, Argentina and North America. Here you can see a wide range of mineral and precious stones that stand out due to their different colours, brightness and shapes.

16th - 21st CENTURY TILES

The **tile** ⁶ collection that is on display in the Garden includes examples dating from the 16th to the 21st centuries, demonstrating the wealth and diversity of what is considered one of Portugal's greatest artistic expressions.

On the various paths and walls throughout the Garden visitors can admire patterned and figurative tile panels depicting religious scenes and historical events.

“HISTORY OF PORTUGAL”

Throughout the Garden there is a set of 40 panels dedicated to the **“History of Portugal”** ², with each panel portraying the most important events during the monarchical and republican eras.

“ADVENTURE OF THE PORTUGUESE IN JAPAN”

In the oriental garden there is a monumental panel with 166 tiles entitled **“Adventure of the Portuguese in Japan”** ¹, illustrating the early stages of the long relationship between the two countries.

ELEMENTS OF NATURE

Three monumental panels, each 7m high and 6m wide, dedicated to the **four elements of nature** ¹². Earth and fire (2 panels identified by colour) and air (mirror reflection). The water element is represented by the running streams.

WINDOWS, SCULPTURES AND ARCHES

Next to the central lake is a **Manueline Window** ⁹, a stand-out work of Portuguese Gothic art.

There are a number of **sculptures** ¹⁴, from various countries placed throughout the garden, allowing the visitor to experience different styles and centuries. On the verges and paths, visitors can admire the stone **arches** ¹⁰ and a remarkable collection of **coats of arms** ¹⁷ carved in stone, representing the heraldic symbols of a number of Portuguese families.



Opening Hours

Open every day except 25th december.

Garden visiting hours:

9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Museum visiting hours:

10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(Only the garden and the museum are open to visitors)

Children

Free entry for children until the age of 14 years, who are accompanied by an adult.

Schools

Free entry upon presentation of accreditation and subject to booking for guided tours.

Transport

Cable car from Funchal; buses 20, 21, 22 and 48; taxi; private car.

Café / Terrace

The Greenhouse, which is to be found at the highest point of the Garden, is the ideal place to relax and enjoy the panoramic views over the luxuriant vegetation. **The Bluehouse Café** is on one of the viewpoints and is recommended for a stop half way through the visit. Here visitors can enjoy a free tasting of wine.

Trolley guided tour

From the Central Lake to the entrance at Caminho das Babosas no. 4. Opening hours: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Recommendations

Comfortable footwear is recommended.