

Curral das Freiras

Madeira · Portugal

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Curral das Freiras is a village in a deep valley in the middle of Madeira. High mountain walls surround it. It is known as the Nuns' Valley, and legend says nuns hid here from pirates in the 1500s.

The village is famous for chestnuts and for the viewpoint above it.

When to visit

Visit in the morning, as the valley can fill with cloud later in the day. Spring to autumn is the best time. In late October and early November, chestnuts are in season and the village celebrates them.

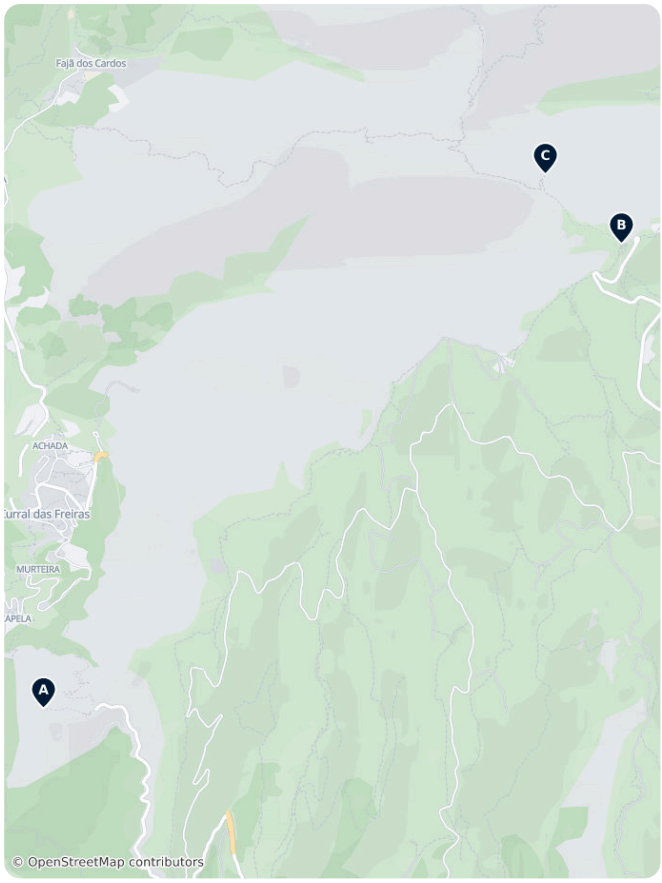
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for hiking	14° / 16° Feels like 10°	13° / 11°	Dry air
February	Great Great for hiking	14° / 16° Feels like 10°	12° / 10°	Dry air
March	Great Great for hiking	14° / 16° Feels like 10°	12° / 11°	Dry air
April	Great Great for hiking	15° / 17° Feels like 11°	13° / 11°	Dry air
May	Great Great for hiking	16° / 18° Feels like 13°	14° / 12°	22 sunny days · Dry air · UV 8 (Very high)
June	Great Great for hiking	18° / 20°	16° / 14°	22 sunny days · Dry air · UV 9 (Very high)
July	Great Great for hiking	20° / 22°	17° / 16°	26 sunny days · UV 10 (Very high)
August	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 23°	18° / 17°	25 sunny days · UV 9 (Very high)
September	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 22°	18° / 17°	21 sunny days
October	Great Great for hiking	19° / 21°	17° / 15°	
November	Great Great for hiking	17° / 19° Feels like 14°	15° / 13°	Dry air
December	Good Good for hiking	15° / 17° Feels like 11°	14° / 12°	Dry air

Best months: June, July, August, September, October

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Miradouro da Eira do Serrado is the main viewpoint over the valley, on the road above the village. The view is dramatic.
- B Pico do Areeiro is a peak with sunrise views, reached from the high road.
- C Ninho da Manta is a viewpoint over the valley and its cliffs.



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Getting there

- **From Funchal**: The drive takes about 30 to 40 minutes. The road is steep and goes through tunnels.
- **Buses**: Buses run from Funchal, but check times in advance.
- **Care**: Roads are narrow with sharp curves. Drive slowly.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Portugal at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

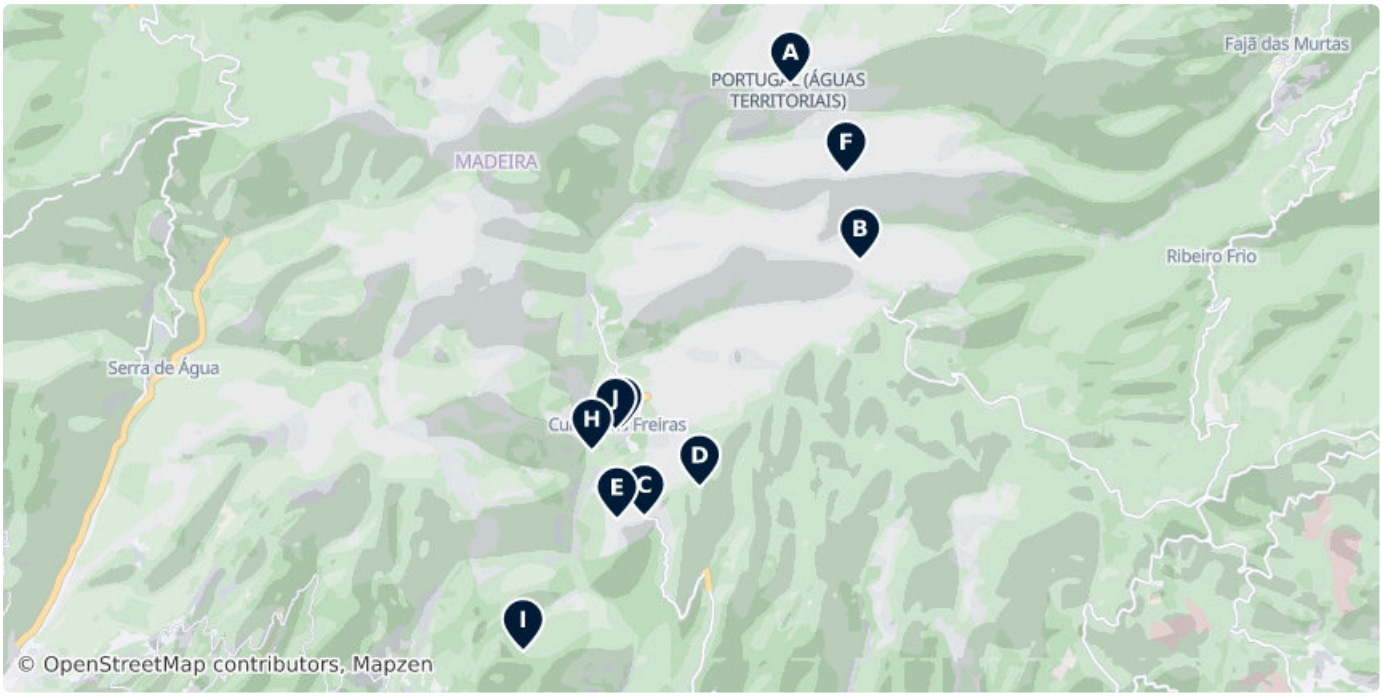
Portuguese

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Curral Das Freiras Essentials

Curral das Freiras, or Nuns' Valley, is a secluded village situated in a deep volcanic crater in central Madeira. Historically, it served as a 16th-century refuge for nuns from Funchal's Santa Clara Convent during pirate attacks. The area is renowned for its chestnut production, featured in local cakes, soups, and the annual Chestnut Festival. High-altitude viewpoints like Eira do Serrado provide panoramas of the village, while steep trails connect the valley to Pico Ruivo and Pico das Torres, the island's highest summits.





A Ruivo Peak

Pico Ruivo is the highest peak on Madeira Island. It can be reached only by foot, usually either from Pico do Areeiro after a strenuous hike...

9230, Portugal (32.75888, -16.94276)



B Miradouro do Ninho da Manta

Situated along the trail between Pico do Areeiro and Pico Ruivo, this viewpoint offers sightings of the rare Zino's petrel and expansive views across the central mountain range and the Ribeira da Metade valley.

9230, Portugal (32.73923, -16.93355)

C Curral das Freiras

A secluded village in a deep volcanic crater that served as a 16th-century sanctuary for nuns fleeing pirate raids. It is the central hub for the valley's chestnut orchards and mountain trails.

(32.71063, -16.96215)

D Montado do Paredão EAST

High-altitude viewpoint overlooking the Curral das Freiras valley and the surrounding central massif, located near the mountain pass leading toward Eira do Serrado.

(32.71395, -16.95481)



E Miradouro da Eira do Serrado

Situated at 1,095 meters, this terrace provides a direct vertical perspective of the village of Curral das Freiras and the jagged peaks of the central mountain range.

9030, Portugal (32.71035, -16.96576)

youtu.be/omPGs2MTkbM

F Pico das Torres

Pico das Torres is the second highest peak on the Atlantic island of Madeira, Portugal.

9230, Portugal (32.74887, -16.93537)

G Vale das Freiras

Local restaurant specializing in traditional Madeiran cuisine, particularly dishes and desserts incorporating the valley's signature chestnuts.

(Unnamed Road), 9030, Portugal (32.72043, -16.96511)

Mo–Su 09:00–21:00

H Poço do Chefe

A natural river pool and waterfall located in the valley, known for its clear mountain water and accessible via a short walking path.

Caminho das Voltas, 9030-316 Câmara de Lobos, Portugal (32.71799, -16.96910)

I Boca dos Namorados

A panoramic viewpoint and mountain pass at 1,000 meters altitude, serving as a starting point for hiking trails descending into the village below.

(32.69561, -16.97822)

J Paróquia de Nossa Senhora do Livramento

The village's main Catholic church, built in the 19th century, serves as the focal point for the annual Chestnut Festival and local religious celebrations.

Estrada Regional 107, 9030, Portugal (32.72031, -16.96598)

Scenic Lookouts

These lookouts provide vantage points over Madeira's central mountain massif and the deep volcanic crater of Curral das Freiras. Situated at elevations ranging from 1,000 to over 1,800 meters, the sites include Eira do Serrado, accessible by road, and high-altitude spots like Ninho da Manta and Pedra Rija along the PR1 trail. These viewpoints reveal the island's jagged peaks, including Pico do Areeiro and Pico Ruivo, alongside traditional terraced agriculture and the historic village settled in the valley below.





A Miradouro do Ninho da Manta

Located on the PR1 hiking trail, this viewpoint is known as the 'Buzzard's Nest.' It overlooks the Fajã dos Cardos valley and the central mountain range from a high-altitude volcanic ridge.

9230, Portugal (32.73923, -16.93355)

B Montado do Paredão EAST

Situated at approximately 1,400 meters elevation, this eastern vantage point provides views of the Curral das Freiras valley and the surrounding peaks of the central massif.

(32.71395, -16.95481)



C Miradouro da Eira do Serrado

Located at an elevation of 1,095 meters, this viewpoint offers a direct vertical perspective of the village of Curral das Freiras and its surrounding amphitheater of mountains.

9030, Portugal (32.71035, -16.96576)

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D Boca dos Namorados

A viewpoint in Jardim da Serra at 1,000 meters elevation. It serves as the trailhead for the descent into Curral das Freiras and overlooks the southern side of the valley.

(32.69561, -16.97822)

E Pedra Rija

A narrow viewpoint on the PR1 trail between Pico do Areeiro and Pico Ruivo, characterized by its steep volcanic rock formations and views of the island's highest peaks.

(32.73909, -16.93672)

F Montado do Paredão WEST

Located near a high-altitude picnic area, this western lookout offers vistas across the deep ravines and forested slopes leading toward the interior of the Curral das Freiras crater.

(32.71601, -16.95554)

G Relvinha

Situated along the hiking path connecting Boca dos Namorados to the valley floor, this spot provides a perspective of the terraced fields and the village interior.

(32.73207, -16.98538)

DATA SOURCES

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