



# MADEIRA ISLAND ULTRA-TRAIL

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It rarely gets much better, or harder, than this—running from sea to sea via the steepest mountainous peaks of the island of Madeira. A young race compared to many and often overlooked, it is well organized, with some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. One to consider.

The island of Madeira is a popular tourist destination, visited by about a million holidaymakers every year. They come to this tiny island in the Atlantic for its mild and sunny climate, mountainous beauty, and rich culture. Madeira is a paradise for wildlife enthusiasts especially, and the trails and *levadas* (man-made water channels) that cut across the rocky island wind past waterfalls, rockpools, and subtropical forests, including the Laurisilva—the ancient laurel wood that stands on the north side of the island and is a protected Unesco World Heritage site.

Arguably, however, the best is saved for participants in this family of trail-running events, which takes runners deep into the island interior and away from coastal tourist hotspots. Emerging from an annual tradition that took hold among the island's trail-running enthusiasts, the first official version of the Madeira Island Ultra-Trail ►