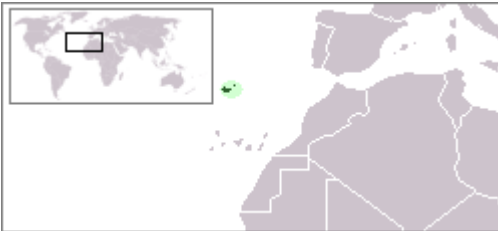


TRIP TO MADEIRA FROM THE 26TH OF SEPTEMBER TO THE 3RD OF OCTOBER

26th of September

We had decided to go to Madeira in Anne Berit's autumn holiday.



Many had told us that it was a nice island to go to. It belongs to Portugal and is lying far out in the Atlantic ocean. The climate is sub-tropical.

Below is a map showing some of the places we went to.



1 - FUNCHAL	8 - Jardim do Mar	15 - Encumeada	22 - Santo da Serra
2 - Monte	9 - Prazeres	16 - Curral das Freiras	23 - Camacha
3 - Câmara de Lobos	10 - Paúl do Mar	17 - Pico do Arieiro	24 - Airport
4 - Cabo Girão	11 - Fajã da Ovelha	18 - Pico Ruivo	25 - Machico
5 - Ribeira Brava	12 - Ponta do Pargo	19 - Ribeiro Frio	26 - Canical
6 - Ponta do Sol	13 - Porto Moniz	20 - Santana	27 - São Lorenzo
7 - Calheta	14 - São Vicente	21 - Porto da Cruz	



We went from Gardermoen to Madeira with a Portuguese airline called TAP Portugal.



We had a stop at the airport in Lisbon. It is called Aeroporto da Portela and was opened as early as in 1940 and heavily upgrade in connection with Expo in 1998. We were driven from the plane to Terminal 1. The plain to Madeira went from Terminal 2 and there were free shuttle buses there quite often. Terminal 2 was opened the 1st of August and was derby brand-new.

The airport in Madeira (see 24 on map) lies about 20 km east of the capital of, Funchal. It is called Santa Catarina and was opened the 18th of July 1964 with two runways of 1 600 meters. The airport was earlier known for its short runway, surrounded by high mountains and the ocean, which made it difficult to land there, even for the most experienced pilots. The runway was originally only 1 600 meters long, but it was extended with 200m 8 years after TAP Air Portugal accident in 1977. The airport was fully renovated in 2000, with almost a doubling of the length of the runway, which was built out over the sea. In stead of filling in the sea where the runway was to be extended there was used 180 columns, each about 70m high.



We arrived so late to Madeira that we chose the easiest alternative to get to the hotel. We took a taxi. They were standing lined up outside the arrival hall. It took about half an hour to our hotel and cost 35€.



The hotel we had booked was named Aparthotel Imperatriz. It was a quite good 3-star hotel that was positioned quite near the center of (see 1 on map).



27th of September



This day we started with a round in the nearest surroundings.

First of all we took a picture from the terrace.



The hotel was situated near the casino in Funchal.

Here Kjell is standing at the entrance.



There was built a casino hotel right besides. Here stayed once Elisabeth of Austria-Hungary also called Sissi. This is a memorial of her.

She was named Elisabeth Amalie Eugenie (December 24, 1837 – September 10, 1898)

Right below was a city park named Santa Catarina. Below are some pictures, which we took from there.





Here is close-up of the flower above. It is called among others a paradise bird flower because it resembles a bird with raised head and open beacon.

It is the national flower of Madeira



Here we are in a pedestrian street in the center



Here we are eating lunch



This is a lizard walking on top of a picture frame



There was also a lot of pigeons



There were also a lot of gorgeous trees all over the city



There were also a lot of fountains. This is one of them.



View from the beach avenue eastwards



In the harbor there was marine vessel with plains on board



A view the opposite way, up at the heights above the city



Another view upwards



Here we are sitting having a beer while we are looking the waiter who is fishing a lobster from the tank



Here is the lobster before he had to go into the pot



A close up view of the wine barrel

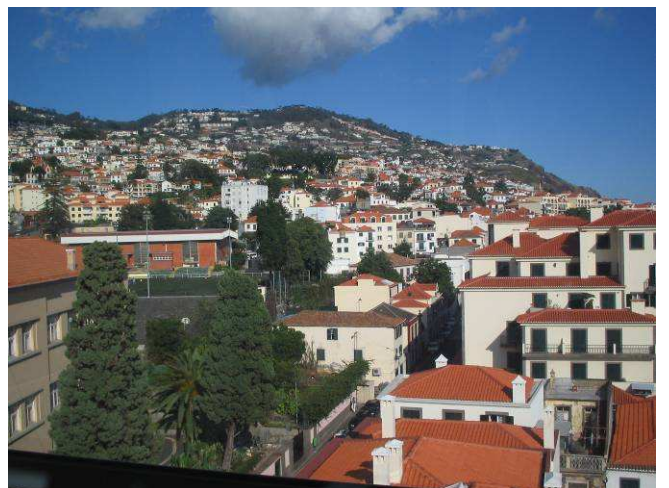


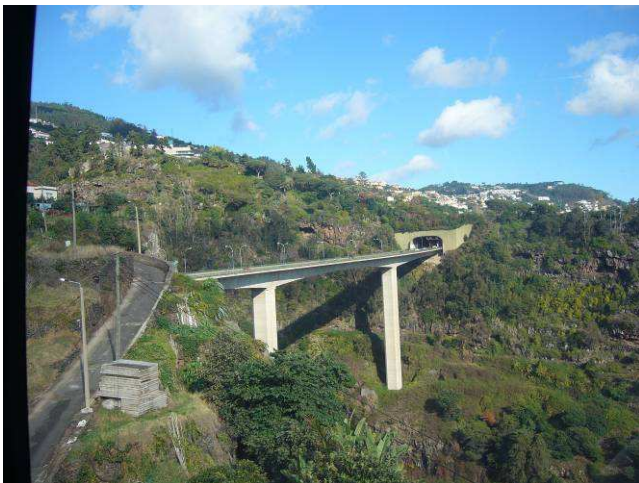
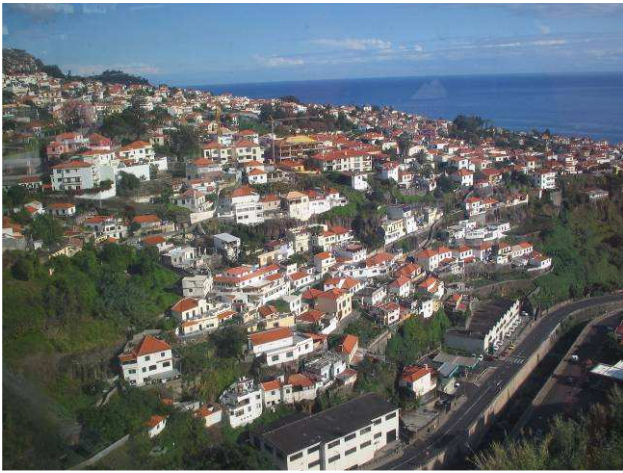
It was here we were sitting



Here Kjell is standing besides the trunk of the big plane tree, which we were sitting under

Right onwards we came to the cable car, which goes from the sea and up to mountain village named Monte (marked 2 on the map). It lies at a height of 560m. The cableway was finished in 2000. Below are some pictures, which we took on our way up.







This is the end station on the top



This is a church right beyond, Chapel of Barbosa, which was finished in 1907.



View downwards on one side

When we was up there we found out that we wanted to walk back down. That turned out to be a long and strenuous job that resulted in sore feet.



This is the road down



Here Kjell has started descending



There were fabulous views all the way down



There are grown a lot of bananas on the island and we walked past many banana fields downwards



When we came down we were so tired that we took the first taxi we saw back to our hotel.

It became quite dark pretty quickly.

Here we have taken a picture of the view from the terrace in the evening.

When we had recovered from the fatiguing walk down from Monte, we went to eat something in the restaurant, which was in the ground floor in the hotel. It had specialized on Italian inspired food. We found out that they had very good food, so it turned out that we ate there quite often. The pictures below are taken in the middle of the day when there were not so many customers, but both in the lunch time and in the evening it was quite crowded.



28th of September

This day we had ordered an all-day excursion northwest on the island. We ordered it in the reception in the hotel. The trip was by mini bus and there were 8 participants in total. This is approximately the trip, which is marked blue on the map.



Here we took a picture through the window on the bus



Here we are at the first stop (4 on the map)



Cabo Girão is a 560m high promontory





Here is excellent view



Next stop was Rebeira Brava. Here we had breakfast. It was a piece of cake and coffee.

View along the coast



Then it was up into the mountains again and we walked along a levada.





Then into the bus again, but first we took a picture of the view.



The next place we came to was Porto Moniz, number 13 on the map.



Porto Moniz is known for the natural salt water basins and the lava cliffs



Here we had lunch



Afterwards we looked at the basins



Lava cliffs



Some of the village seen from the basins



The only black lava beach on the island, at Seixal



Seixal



São Vicente



Here is a small chapel built into a lava rock



We looked at a go-kart race



Then we had some rosé wine before we went back to the bus



Then directly across the island again. In the pass between the north side, where we came from, and the south side, where we stayed, we took a couple of pictures. Here we could see downwards in both directions. Now it was late in the day and when we were back in the hotel we went straight to the Italian restaurant for a meal.

29th of September

This day we wanted to go back to Monte. We took the bus up there.



Here is the bus



We wanted to have a look at those who drove in toboggans from Monte to Funchal. Here the drivers (carreiros) are waiting for customers.



This way of transport started in 1850 because of the bad connections between Monte and Funchal.

Monte was at that time a very important place because there were many wealthy business people who had built palaces there.

The toboggans are called “carros de cesto”. They have rails made by hardwood.

Here customers have arrived



Now we wanted something hot to eat, so we went up here. They had only sandwiches, so we left.

Here we had fish. It was fresh made and good.



There is a tropical garden right besides. We thought of going in, but it didn't look so exciting from the outside, so we cut it out. However, we have looked at pictures on Internet afterwards. It looks very nice, so we regret a bit that we did not go in.



This is a river bed in the middle of the city. It is dry now, but when it rains it can go over the banks.



Here is another river bed. There have been stretched nets over all the river beds and there are planted flower plants to climb on the net. After a while they form a dense flower bed over the river bed.



This is the old town. There grow trees all over.



Here are more trees



Now be are back at the hotel



Here is still a evening view from the terrace. We relaxed a bit before we went to eat at the good Italian restaurant in the hotel.



After that we slept

30th of September

This day we had ordered an excursion on north east side of the island. We were 8 participants in the bus today also.



Here in Camacha we had breakfast, coffee + cake



Herewe look down on Porto da Cruz

The village where we stopped to have breakfast is named Camacha, marked 23 on the map. There was a viewpoint there, but there was so much for and rain that didn't see much. The village is known for lots of handy crafts, such as basket braiding, and over 1000 various articles was on display in the sales premises. In addition the village is known for its apple festival, which is held here.

When driving on, we went into a golf course, which should be very nice, but because of heavy downpour and the fog we drove on to Porto da Cruz, marked 21 on the map. The name comes from the first discoverers who put up a cross here. The village is known for sugar production an wine production, and they have a wine festival in September.



Here we see a bit of Porto da Cruz



The seashore promenade



Anne Berit on the promenade



At the end of the promenade we can see sand stone cliffs



Next stop was Santana, marked 20 on the map, that is known especially for these particular houses



Of course Kjell had to talk with the cat



Here we think they had decorated for another festival



Then we drove to a village named Faial for having lunch. I is not far from Santana.



Here we have just finished the soup



Here Kjell have a beer after lunch



This plant grows all over the island. It is poisonous and is used for making eye medicin.



The next stop was a place named Ribeiro Frio, marked 19 on the map. Here it was planned that we should have walked along a levada, but it was raining so much that nobody wanted to go. We looked at trout farm between the showers.



There was a small chapel here too



We drove up to Pico do Arieiro, marked 17 on the map, which is the third highest mountain top in Madeira. It is 1818m high.

It was raining underway and it was dense fog, but sometimes we got a glimpse of the sun. The weather is like this here that in one moment there can be dense fog and in the next moment there can be quite clear.

It did not clear up so we had to drive down again in dense fog.

Therefore we missed these views.



Here is also a church from 1657



On the way back to Funchal we stopped at Terreiro da Luta where we had views over the whole of Funchal.

Here is the biggest statue in Madeira. It is of marble, is 5.5m high and stands on a 20m high base of basalt stone. It is dedicated to Virgin Mary. Funchal was bombed and shot on in 1916 by German war ships. The whole population evacuated up to Monte. The priest promised that if there was piece again he would see to that there was erected a statue. The statue was finished in 1927.

Here is the bus, which we drove in

1st of October

This day we had decided to take the local bus east on the island.



The bus went from the seashore promenade and we had a beer while we were waiting



Here we have arrived at Santa Cruz, just west of the airport, marked 24 on the map. This is the town hall.



Here we are in the little center in the village where we had lunch. There are only 6000 people living her.



Here is a plane going in for touch down on the airport



Here is the church in Santa Cruz (1577-33)



The next village, which we went to, was Caniçal, marked 26 on the map. Here lives only 5000. It is the most eastern village in Madeira.



View westwards



Some of the harbor. It was the most important whaling harbor in Madeira. The whaling ended in 1981.



This is from the harbor area in Caniçal. After having had a beer at the harbor cafe, we took the express bus back to Funchal.



While walking back to the hotel, we took a picture of the fort Fortaleza Palácio de São Lourenço. It was commenced in 1513.

2nd of October

This day we had order a half-day excursion to the valley of the nuns.



We stopped first at Pico dos Barcelos. This is a 355m hill with wide view.



There is made a viewpoint platform



View east to Funchal



View west

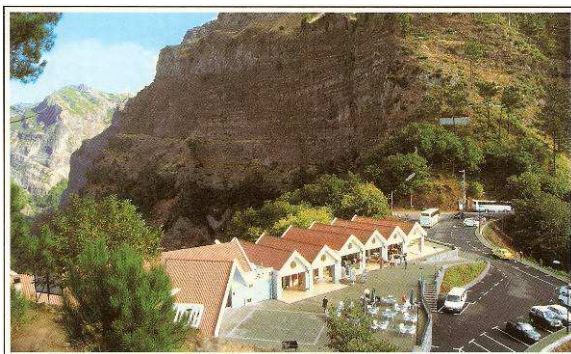


Here is an exceptionally tree, which we don't know the name of.

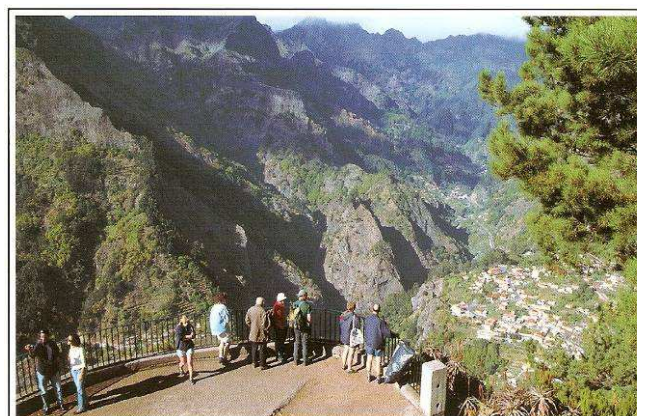


Before we came to The Valley Of The Nuns or Curral das Freiras, as the village is named, we got a glimpse of the valley from the road.

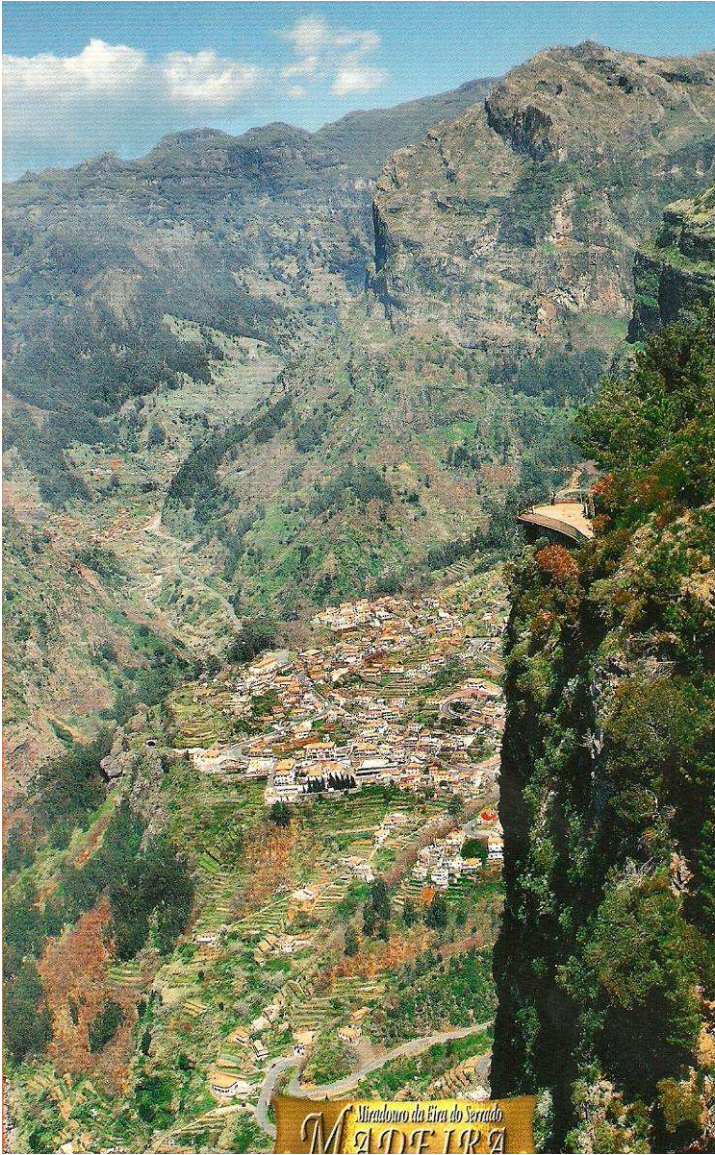
In 1480 Zarco's son, João Gonçalves da Câmara, bought this area for his two daughters who were nuns in Convento de Santa Clara. It was here the nuns fled from French pirates in 1566. After this it has got the name The Valley Of The Nuns.



One the way to Curral das Freiras we stopped at a viewpoint called Eira do Serrado. Here it was hotel, restaurant and souvenir shops.



Here is the viewpoint platform



Here we can see the viewpoint platform at a distance



It is far down



We had to have a picture of the nun in the restaurant where we had lunch



This night we went to an Asian restaurant to celebrate Anne Berit's 61st birthday.

3rd of October

This day was the home journey day. The plane went six o'clock in the morning, so we had to get up in the middle of the night. We had ordered a taxi the night before, so there was no problem getting over to the airport. We had the same air company back and the same itinerary via Lisbon.