

# **Madeiras**

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## **Location and area**

The Madeiras are an autonomous archipelago of Portugal in the Atlantic Ocean. The islands are located off the coast of Morocco, north of the Canary Islands. The Madeiras consist of two sparsely inhabited islands, Madeira and Porto Santo, and two uninhabited island groups, the Desertas and the Selvagens. The islands have a total area of 794 km<sup>2</sup> with Madeira Island by far the largest at 55 km long and 22 km wide. (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

## **Topography**

The islands are summits of submarine volcanoes, Madeira Island features a mountainous topography; the island's highest point is Ruivo de Santana Peak, 1,861 m high. (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

## **Climate**

The Madeiras are famous for their mild, pleasant climate. (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

## **Land use**

Madeira ("wood" in Portuguese) has large forests and dense vegetation with lush tropical and semi-tropical plant life. (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

## **Peatlands**

No peatlands are known from the Madeiras.