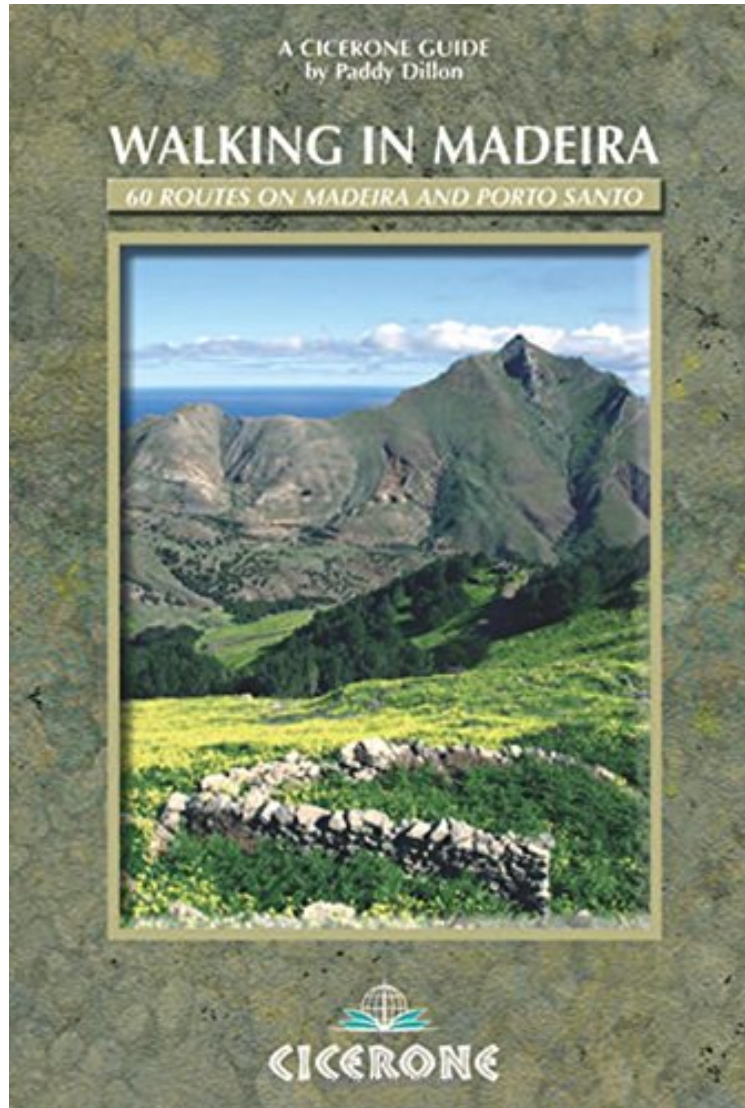


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Walking in Madeira (Cicerone Guides)

Paddy Dillon

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Paddy Dillon : Walking in Madeira (Cicerone Guides) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walking in Madeira (Cicerone Guides):

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. The Descriptions are Good, but Don't Believe the Length and Time Estimates By Eric This book is described as the definitive hiking guide to Madeira, and in that sense it does not disappoint. It thoroughly covers hikes throughout the island, and the directions and terrain descriptions are accurate and helpful. That said, I would not put my full trust in this book. With each hike comes an estimate of its distance and the time it should take to complete it. I am an experienced hiker having lived all my life at the base of the Rocky

Mountains, and I found the time and distance estimates to be profoundly inaccurate. For example, one described hike was at least twice as long as the book's five mile estimate. Such estimates are key in planning what time to start, and how much water and food to take, among other critical items, and I believe one normally is justified in relying on these estimates in books like these. Clearly here, you rely on the estimates at your extreme peril. I would not use this book again absent an independent verification of the length and time estimates of any hike described in the book. And if I have to independently verify everything, the usefulness of the book becomes quite compromised.

Rising steep and rocky from the Atlantic Ocean, Madeira is a compact and mountainous island. Criss-crossed by a network of old paths and tracks, it is remarkably accessible and scenic. Enjoying a sub-tropical climate, it is suitable for year-round walking. As a result of volcanic activity it can be steep, but high ridges and the cliffs of its Atlantic coast are always in view. Water is conveyed around the island in flower-fringed levadas, their banks offering anything from a gentle stroll to an exposed cliff walk. This guide book includes a rich and varied selection of walks on Madeira, and also covers the neighboring island of Porto Santo.

'What an eye-opener this book turned out to be! Madeira is a holiday destination that is usually associated with an older clientele but Paddy Dillon opens up the country with fifty mountain, coastal and lavada walks that should appeal to all ages: levadas being old watercourses.' (Outdoor Pursuits December 2002) About the Author Paddy Dillon is a prolific outdoor writer with over 60 guidebooks to his name, as well as more than a dozen booklets and brochures. He writes for a number of outdoor magazines and other publications, and produces material for tourism groups and other organisations. He lives near the Lake District and has walked in every county in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales; writing about walks in every one of them. He has led guided walks and walked extensively in Europe, as well as in Nepal, Tibet, Africa and the Rocky Mountains of Canada and the US.