



Welcome to Campus da Terra

Information Deck | 2024

ANNIKA FRIESE & CATHERINE FLORES

What is Campus da Terra?

Campus da Terra is a unique educational initiative, piloting right here on the island of Madeira. It combines the best of both democratic and academic learning, where children actively participate in shaping their own educational journey. Our hybrid model allows for both guided academic instruction and the freedom to explore personal interests—all within the natural environment.

Through hands-on learning experiences and outdoor activities, we nurture curiosity, creativity, and a deep connection with nature. Our goal is to cultivate critical thinking, collaboration, and a profound sense of care for the planet.



Our Philosophy

“Enthusiasm is fertilizer for the brain.” — Gerald Hüther

At Campus da Terra, we aim to create a relaxed, supportive atmosphere where children can develop their potential free from fear and pressure. Learning here is fueled by enthusiasm, with our facilitators serving as inspiring role models.

Our daily life is built on mutual respect, helping children grow into strong, independent individuals. Our children follow a self-paced Cambridge curriculum by our partnered Cognia-accredited school Cambrilearn.

Self-directed learning is at the heart of what we do. Children and Teachers develop their classes and projects together based on the children’s interests. Additionally the children experience the day to day farm life, caring for animals and plants, and building a deep connection to nature.

We also take trips to off-site learning locations, offering new discoveries and experiences that expand the students’ horizons. Children are encouraged to suggest and help plan these excursions.

Additionally, we invite passionate guest tutors to share their expertise and engage with the students, providing real-life examples of people who have found their calling.



Freedom Now, Freedom in the Future

We believe in giving students the freedom to explore their interests in a natural setting. This hands-on, self-directed approach promotes creativity and a lifelong love of learning. However, we also recognize the importance of preparing our students for their future careers. That's why we integrate the Cambridge curriculum into our program, ensuring that while students enjoy the freedom to learn now, they also acquire the academic qualifications and skills necessary for their future paths. This balance empowers them to thrive in the present while keeping doors open for educational and career opportunities.



Our Values



Student-Centered Learning

We prioritize student agency by allowing learners to choose what and how they learn based on their interests and passions. This approach empowers them to take charge of their educational journey and fosters a love of learning.



Holistic Development

We focus on the comprehensive growth of each student, addressing not only academic achievement but also personal, social, and emotional development. This well-rounded approach prepares students for all aspects of life.



Autonomy and Responsibility

We encourage students to take ownership of their learning and behavior, promoting independence and self-discipline. This fosters a sense of responsibility, helping them develop the skills necessary to navigate challenges effectively.



Connection to Nature

We emphasize the importance of nurturing a deep connection to nature, fostering an appreciation for the environment and sustainable practices. By engaging with the natural world, students learn the significance of regeneration and caring for our planet, cultivating a sense of responsibility towards ecological stewardship.



Community and Collaboration

We foster a supportive environment where mutual respect and cooperation thrive. By encouraging teamwork and open communication, we cultivate a strong sense of community among students, staff, and families.



Preparing for the Future

We are committed to equipping students with the necessary academic qualifications and interpersonal skills to open up future paths and opportunities. Our children follow a self-paced Cambridge curriculum by our partnered Cognia-accredited CambriLearn. This prepares them to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Who We Are

Core-Team



Annika Frieze
Co-Founder



Catherine Flores
Co-Founder



Felix Richter
Advisor



Eva Honisch
Learning Facilitator



Giulia Leoni
Learning Facilitator

Extended Team

Mara Nóbrega
Social and Emotional Intelligence

Nina Reiss
Yoga & Mindfulness

Our Partners



GroVerdi

GroVerdi provides a dedicated piece of land for Campus da Terra, where children can actively engage in hands-on farm work and animal care. This partnership enriches our students’ education by offering practical agricultural experiences that foster a deeper connection to nature and promote sustainable practices.

GroVerdi’s strong commitment to sustainability aligns seamlessly with our educational values, creating a unique opportunity for students to learn and grow in an eco-friendly environment.



CambriLearn

Partnering with CambriLearn brings an exceptional online education experience to our students. CambriLearn offers internationally accredited schooling curricula, supplementary courses, extra lessons, and advanced learner support, delivered through interactive course content and professionally trained teachers. CambriLearn offers a one-of-a-kind online learning platform to enable personalized education to homeschoolers, traditional schools, and education support providers. The platform has been tried and tested over the last decade by more than 3.5 million students across the globe. This collaboration ensures our students receive top-quality online education, enhancing their learning experience and academic success.



Movimento Educação Livre

Our partnership with Movimento Educação Livre (MEL) brings valuable legal support to our community. As an organization devoted to educational freedom, MEL provides comprehensive legal assistance to our parents, ensuring that our practices comply with all relevant laws and regulations. Their expertise in education law helps us create a secure and legally sound environment for our students. This collaboration underscores our commitment to offering a well-rounded and legally protected learning experience for all children at Campus da Terra.

Sheltered Learning Space



Exterior Learning Space



Exterior Farm

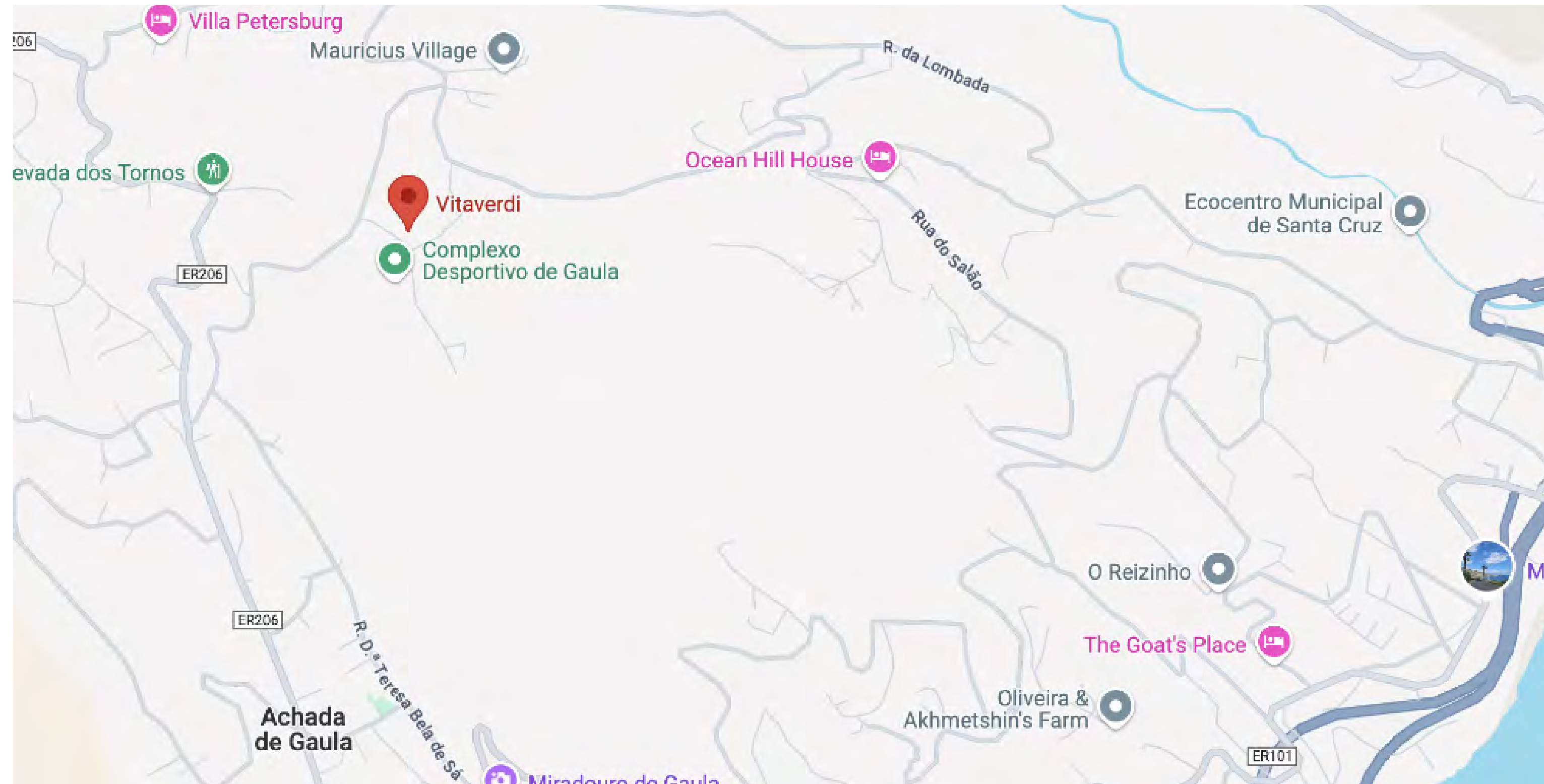


Greenhouses



Where We're Located

Location: Caminho da Faia, 9100-018 Gaula



Resident Families

Campus da Terra is designed for local as well as international families living in Madeira who value a flexible and adaptable educational approach. We cater to families who may travel frequently or spend extended periods abroad, offering a curriculum that can easily be taken with them to ensure uninterrupted learning.

Travelling Families

For families exploring Madeira or spending extended time on the island, Campus da Terra provides a unique opportunity for their children to continue learning while connecting with nature and other children.



Tiered Pricing for Equal Opportunities

We want every child to have the chance to join our Campus da Terra, regardless of financial status. Tiered pricing promotes social equality while allowing us to cover essential costs and maintain high-quality education for all students.



Our First Class 2024/2025: Explorers Group (Age 5-8)

Our Explorer's Group is designed for our youngest learners as they embark on their journey of discovery and exploration. Here, we create a nurturing environment where children can freely engage with the world around them, cultivating their curiosity and wonder.

Our program is thoughtfully structured to align with the natural rhythm of the seasons, fostering an educational experience that reflects the world around us. By integrating academic subjects with outdoor exploration, we create a unique environment where students are active participants in their learning journey. Through hands-on activities and collaborative projects, children develop essential skills while building a deep connection to nature and embracing the beauty of each season.



Learning Schedule

Our program runs from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, featuring a daily schedule that includes focused learning sessions using the CambrLearn Cambridge curriculum, as well as self-directed learning that encompasses free play, arts, music, science, permaculture, Portuguese language, and personal growth.

Morning Block

9:00-10:00 Arriving Time

10:00-10:15 Morning Circle

10:15-11:00 Learning Session 1

11:00-11:05 Break

11:05-11:35 Learning Session 2

From 11:40 Closing Screen Time, Democratic Circle

Afternoon Block

Learning through free play and various hands-on projects such as, permaculture, animal care, nature exploration, as well as guest programs like yoga, singing, wood working, etc.



Additional Benefits



Language Integration

Instruction is provided in both English and Portuguese, supporting bilingual development. Basic English knowledge is required for participation in the program.

For children joining without prior English knowledge, the first year serves primarily to help them learn the language and integrate into the group.



Intimate Learning Groups

We maintain a maximum class size of eight children per two accredited teachers experienced in alternative education during the pilot year. From summer 2025, we will expand to a maximum of 12 children per two teachers, ensuring a favorable teacher-student ratio of 1:6.

This personalized approach allows for tailored instruction and support, fostering meaningful relationships between students and educators.



Social and Emotional Intelligence

Every first Thursday of the month, our partnered children's psychologist, Mara Nóbrega, will visit the campus to train the children in Social and Emotional Intelligence.

The goal of these sessions is to empower children with essential social and emotional tools to help them thrive. Through playful and engaging activities, Mara will guide the children in developing important skills such as emotional regulation, empathy, frustration management, self-esteem, and digital safety.



Additional Family Support

During the Social and Emotional Intelligence classes, Mara will observe the group dynamics and evaluate if any child may need additional support. If so, parents will have the opportunity to book private family therapy or one-on-one sessions with Mara directly.

She is also able to provide recommendations and referrals to specialized therapies, including psychomotricity, speech, and occupational therapy.

Monthly Excursions and Weekly Guest Programs

To enrich their learning experience, students participate in monthly excursions to various locations on the island, providing hands-on learning opportunities that connect classroom knowledge to the real world.

Additionally, our guest tutors visit our campus every week to lead special programs in the afternoon, which are free for all students to join, allowing them to explore new skills and interests.



Adventurers Group (Age 9-12)

In the school year **2025/2026**, we plan to open enrollment for our Adventurers Group, welcoming children aged 9-12. This group will have a dedicated learning hub designed for focused study, with access to a larger library.

While offering a quiet space for in-depth learning, the Adventurers will still have full access to the farm and natural surroundings, encouraging them to explore and share their knowledge with the younger students, fostering a strong community of learners.



Imagine a place where curiosity leads the way, nature is the classroom, and children shape their own learning journey.

At Campus da Terra, we envision a future where education transcends traditional boundaries, empowering students to learn in harmony with nature, develop lifelong skills, and become responsible global citizens.

We aim to expand our co-learning model across Madeira, creating multiple learning hubs for innovative, inclusive, and sustainable education.

By fostering partnerships with local and global communities, we aspire to inspire educational reform, where every child has access to learning environments that nurture creativity, independence, and a deep connection to the world around them.



A scenic view of a hillside. In the foreground, there is a grassy area with a large tree on the right and a trampoline with a black safety net on the left. The trampoline is positioned on a patch of grass. In the background, there is a body of water, possibly a lake or a bay, with mountains visible in the distance under a clear blue sky. A utility pole with wires is visible on the right side of the image.

Thank you for your support.

www.campusdaterra.org