



The Azores – Lava Lands and Searching for Dolphins



HOLIDAY TYPE:
VISITING:

BROCHURE CODE: 4034
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Get a fabulous introduction to the Azores on this family holiday, based on Sao Miguel Island. You will get to kayak on Sete Cidades Lake and mountain bike through its lovely surroundings. There will be whale watching on the Atlantic Ocean and snorkelling with friendly dolphins! Taste a traditional 'cozido' stew on a thematic tour around the volcanic area of Lake Furnas and the Terra Nostra Botanical Garden. Relax in a hot spring, visit the longest lava tunnel on the island and go canyoning in a natural park.

Our Opinion

“ You and the kids will quickly see why the Azores are so famous for their natural beauty. There’s no watching from a distant cruise ship here – you’ll be up close to some of the most beautiful environments on the planet. Whether you’re kayaking on Sete Cidades or wandering through Terra Nostra Botanical Garden, you will always be surrounded by incredible outdoor scenes. Best of all, there will be opportunities to spot whales and dolphins! ”



What's included?

- **Transfers:** all transfers included
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights in Hotel Canadiano with the option to upgrade Hotel São Miguel Park or Marina Atlântico
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 1 dinner
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** Sete Cidades Adventure Tour, whale watching, Vila Franca do Campo visit, thematic tour to Furnas, minibus tour to Fogo and canyoning (**the order of activities is subject to change**)
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities

Trip Overview

Lose yourself in nature, activities, and culture in the Azores with this brilliant seven-night active family summer getaway, based in the city of Ponta Delgada on Sao Miguel Island.

You will begin with an adventure tour to the Sete Cidades Lake, kayaking on its crater lake and mountain biking in the nearby area. There will be an amazing whale-watching tour over the Atlantic waters, as well as lagoon-snorkelling* at the Vila Franca Islet.

There will be a chance for you to get acquainted with the island's volcanic side at Terra Nostra Botanical Garden, where you will bathe in a hot spring. At Furnas, you can taste a traditional cozido stew, cooked using natural steam from the ground. This mix of regional vegetables and juicy meats is only one Azorean delicacy you will be able to sample.

The outdoor reserves and territories of the island will be yours to explore during this trip. Try your hand at canyoning in Ribeira dos Caldeiraes Natural Park, walk over the black sands of Santa Barbara Beach, and take a dip at the Caldeira Velha waterfall. There is also the opportunity to look around the mysterious Gruta do Carvao, the longest of the lava tunnels on Sao Miguel.

Your hotel for the duration of this exciting family activity holiday will be Hotel Canadiano close to the

centre of Ponta Delgada, with modern spacious rooms, perfect for relaxing after a day of adventure. You can also upgrade to Sao Miguel Park, with indoor and outdoor pools and splendid spa facilities, or the Marina Atlantico hotel, which sits right on the waterfront and offers brilliant views over the marina.

*Snorkelling equipment is not provided, so we recommend bringing your own

Image credits: Futurismo Azores Adventure, Azoresphotos. visit Azores (Pedro Madruga)

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

Welcome to the Azores! You and the family will be picked up and transferred in no time to your hotel. Check in and settle in for the night.

Included Meals: None

DAY
2

SETE CIDADES ADVENTURE TOUR AND WELCOME DINNER

Eat a substantial breakfast before an exciting, full-day outing: the Sete Cidades Adventure Tour! This takes you to the Western side of São Miguel Island to the famed Lagoa das Sete Cidades or Lake of the Seven Cities, and along the way, you will stop at some viewpoints. The deep crater lake is divided by a bridge, virtually forming two lakes that showcase different colours and are known as the Blue and Green Lakes – a wonderful environment where everyone will spend the day mountain biking and kayaking. There will be a picnic lunch break along the way.

In the evening, you will be treated to a lovely welcome dinner with a spread of Azorean specialties. Our friendly guide will be on hand to answer any questions about the rest of your holiday.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

WHALE-WATCHING AND VILA FRANCA DO CAMPO

After breakfast, you can look forward to a fabulous whale-watching tour to fill up the morning. There aren't many places which are as highly regarded for this pastime as the Azores – the islands have even had visits from National Geographic and the BBC!

Expert biologists will give you full briefings on safety measures and responsible whale watching

before you are taken out over the water by Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) (restrictions may apply for pregnant women and people with lower back problems). Depending on luck and the time of year, there are over 25 different whale and Dolphin species that you might spot, as well as other marine creatures. Life vests and waterproofs are provided.

You will then be transported in a converted fishing boat to the beautiful islet of Vila Franca: a green ring around a crater lagoon. You and the kids can go swimming in this marvellous natural reserve. Snorkelling equipment is not provided, so we recommend bringing your own. Species to look for include rainbow wrasses and Guinea-fowl puffers.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
4

THEMATIC TOUR TO FURNAS

Today is a volcanic culture day! Once you have had breakfast, your first stop will be at one of the oldest remaining tea plantation and factory in Europe, the Gorreana Tea Estates. In addition to looking around, you will also get to sample their produce. It is a must for tea-loving families.

From there, it is onto Caldeiras das Furnas with its fumaroles and mineral water springs; they say the water has a different flavour in each one! On the way, you will stop at a viewpoint.

For lunch, you will all be served cozido, a traditional Portuguese stew with a succulent selection of meats slow-cooked with locally-produced vegetables. Keeping with the geothermal theme of the day, it will be cooked using only steam from the surrounding earth.

Once you have all feasted, everyone will be taken to the famous Terra Nostra Botanical Garden, which showcases a rich variety of native and foreign plants; it is a very pretty place to stroll around. Finishing off this visit is the opportunity to get into a naturally heated pool, with water rich in iron. At a temperature of between 35°C to 40°C, it makes for a super-relaxing experience.

Returning to Ponta Delgada, you will make a couple of stop-offs to take in awesome coastal views; cameras at the ready!

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
5

LIVING THE FARM AND FREE AFTERNOON

This morning following breakfast, you'll head to 'Quinta do Agricultor' for a true Azorean experience on the farm. Locals, Eugenio & Gorete, will greet you on arrival for fun filled 'day in the life of' adventure. This husband and wife team are hugely passionate and will share their wealth of

knowledge and enthusiasm for their traditional way of life. During your visit, as well as learning about Azorean culture, you will have the opportunity to meet an array of farm animals and even try milking a cow! The ethos of Quinta do Agricultor is that guests will arrive as visitors and leave as friends.

The afternoon will be left free for you and your family to spend as you wish. You can stay back at the harbour and grab lunch at a local restaurant before being transferred back to São Miguel Park, or take a transfer back straight away. If the morning's swimming hasn't been enough, why not have a session in one of the hotel pools? You might also like to leave the hotel behind and explore the streets of Ponta Delgada.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
6

GRUTA DO CARVAO, MINIBUS TOUR TO FOGO AND SANTA BARBARA BEACH

This day's activities transport you to different parts of São Miguel Island. Tuck into breakfast before being taken to Gruta do Carvao. At almost two kilometres long, this is the longest tunnel of lava on the island – perfect for budding adventurers! After exploring the lava tunnel, you will visit Santa Barbara Beach. Here you can relax on its black sands and take a swim in the ocean.

After lunch, the afternoon brings many more natural sights with a journey to Lagoa do Fogo, the 'Lagoon of Fire'. You will all be blown away by the splendour of this natural reserve area. A drive to Caldeira Velha waterfall follows, with the chance to bathe in its warm, iron-rich waters. There will also be a look around Caldeiras and its billowing fumaroles.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
7

CANYONING

Following breakfast at the hotel, it's time to make the most of your final full day in the Azores with an unforgettable canyoning adventure in the Ribeira dos Caldeirões Natural Park. This location is one of the islands most stunning natural areas, filled with lush greenery, cascading waterfalls and hidden rock pools.

After being kitted out with the necessary equipment and a full safety briefing from your experienced guide, you'll descend through the canyon using a mix of techniques. Experience sliding down smooth rock chutes, jumping into crystal clear pools and abseiling beside waterfalls, all under the careful guidance of your instructors.

There are routes suitable for a variety of confidence levels, so whether you're a first-timer or a seasoned adventurer, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Eat your last breakfast at the hotel before being transferred to the airport for your flight home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Hotel Canadiano (Nights: 1-7)



Situated in the charming city of Ponta Delgada, Hotel Canadiano makes a fantastic base for exploring the Azores. The prime location, just a short 5-minute walk from the heart of the centre allows easy access to restaurant, shops and cultural hotspots during your stay. Spacious and stylish rooms with modern amenities provide an ideal spot to unwind after a day of adventure.

Hotel facilities

- Aldeão Restaurant offers a 'comfort food' menu concept, combining the freshness of local produce with a relaxed cooking style, with both comfortable indoor and outdoor seating available
- Enjoy refreshing drinks and snacks at the hotel bar
- An inner courtyard provides a relaxing ambience, complete with a tranquil fountain and lush greenery.
- Keep up-to-date using the free Wi-Fi in the hotel

Room type

Double room

All rooms can be configured with either a double or twin bed and have an ensuite with a walk-in shower. Each room has their own private balcony and amenities which include; air conditioning a smart TV, bedside USB plugs, a mini bar, kettle, safe and hairdryer.

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Hotel São Miguel Park



This centrally located four-star hotel is a short distance from Ponta Delgada's beautiful Botanical Gardens and just ten minutes from the airport. Its open and spacious rooms offer fine views and a summery feel. Tuck into delectable buffets of Azorean cuisine at the on-site restaurant and take an invigorating break at the hotel's health club.

Hotel facilities

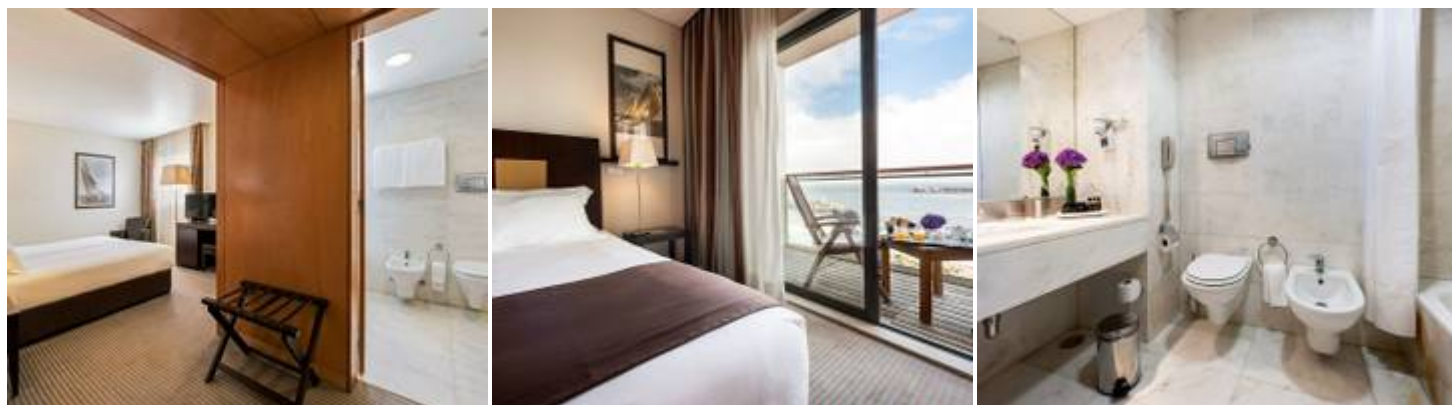
- Switch your swimming between the hotel's indoor and outdoor pools
- Book a therapeutic massage treatment, relax in the Jacuzzi, or freshen up in the spa.
- Maintain your gains in the well-equipped Fitness Centre.
- Sample cocktails from the hotel bar and fill up on Azorean cooking at the restaurant.

Room Type

Twin/Double Room: These have a twin or double bed. The bathroom has a shower, toilet, and hairdryer. The room also comes with cable television, internet access, and a telephone, as well as air-conditioning, a safe, and a minibar.

Image credits: Futurismo Azores Adventures, Sao Miguel Park Hotel

Marina Atlântico



With nautical themes and incredible views overlooking the ocean, the 4-star Marina Atlântico is a great place to enjoy the island's sea and landscapes. Your central location puts you right in the midst of Azorean culture. Sample the local food, stroll along the streets or visit one of the many museums which are all within walking distance.

Hotel facilities

- Relax in Escuna restaurant or Palhabote bar area
- Make use of the onsite pool and gym facilities
- Enjoy free use of the hotel's bicycles to explore the volcanic landscape further

Room type

- **Double or twin rooms (some with sea views):** All rooms come with a double or twin bed and have air conditioning, a telephone, cable TV, Wi-Fi, radio, minibar (extra charge), safe, hairdryer, gym and spa area

Please contact our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Image Credit: Hotel Marina Atlântico

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 4 to maximum 21 people approximately

Please note: if you choose to travel by catamaran during the whale watching, the maximum group size

is 76 people.

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum Numbers Required For A Holiday To Operate

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions>

Minimum and maximum age

If a specific minimum age applies to this holiday, it can be found in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page.

Unless otherwise stated in the in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page, the minimum age for participation in an Artisan holiday is typically 8 years old (there may be younger children in some destinations who have booked with other companies). If an adult-only environment is important to you, then please contact our Travel Experts and they will advise on the best dates and destinations for you. If you are looking for a holiday designed specifically for families then please see our sister company www.activitiesabroad.com

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions>