ARTISAN TRAVEL

A Three Island Tour



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: The Azores

BROCHURE CODE: 5514
DURATION: 10 nights

In Brief

Spend ten nights travelling around the Azores island 'triangle' of Faial, São Jorge and Pico. Guided day tours will show you all the highlights, from the great volcanic Caldeira crater to the forested slopes and waterfalls of Sao Jorge and Europe's only coffee plantation. You could also add further land and water-based activities to complete your stay.

Our Opinion

"Not only do you get immersive tours of the three islands featured on this holiday, you also get plenty of free time to customise your Azores visit. The optional activities you can add to your itinerary are perfect for explorers and thrill-seekers alike! And of course, seeing wild whales or swimming with dolphins in the Azores will always be top of my list!"

Graham Hughes





What's included?

- **Travel worry-free** - fully organised and run by a trusted, fully regulated UK operator. Read more about our bonding and the types of financial protection that we offer
- **Transfers:** transfers to and from the airport and activities
- **Ferry:** ferry from Faial to São Jorge, ferry from São Jorge to Pico Island and ferry from Pico to Faial
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights in Internacional Azores Boutique Hotel, 3 nights in Hotel São Jorge Garden, 3 nights in Hotel Caravelas
- **Meals:** 10 breakfasts, 4 lunches
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** day tour of Faial Island, day tour of São Jorge, Caldeira do Santo Cristo hike, day tour of Pico Island **(the order of activities is subject to change)**
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities
- **A note on flights:** whilst flights to and from The Azores are not included in the holiday price, our team will happily provide a quote and arrange them for you. Simply ask one of our Travel Experts for details of the available options for you.

Trip Overview

Situated in the centre of the Azores archipelago, the islands of Faial, São Jorge, and Pico make a triangle rich in natural beauty and local culture. This ten-night holiday gives you a full introduction to the region, with a few nights in each location and visits to the prime attractions.

On a tour of Faial, you will see the mighty volcanic crater of Caldeira which rises above the island. There will be a trip to the sea-facing Capelinhos volcano and the iconic Ponta dos Capelinhos lighthouse which stands below. While exploring Sao Jorge, you can look forward to the greenery of Sete Fontes Forest Park and the picture-perfect viewpoints of Fajã dos Cubres and Fajã do Ouvidor, as well as a series of welcoming local villages with handicrafts and traditional cooking.

On Pico, your guides will showcase the best the island has to offer. You will visit Portugal's longest lava tube which is over 3 miles long, and witness rich bird and plant life and stunning views of the ocean and neighbouring islands.

The natural environment of the Azores makes it perfect for outdoor activities, so we have included a scenic hike to Caldeira do Santo Cristo. You can also add additional Faial-based hikes to your itinerary – these include a walk around the Caldeira crater and a journey along the Levada aqueduct route. Please see the 'Personalise' section for more information.

You can also book to go whale and dolphin watching – a must-try activity in this part of the world, which is famed for its marine mammal life. Our optional activity selection also features thrilling canyoning and sea kayaking trips – more information can be found in the 'Personalise' section.

You will travel between the islands by ferry, taking in ocean vistas as you go. Throughout the trip, your accommodation will be in hotels based on or close to the coast, adding an Atlantic touch to your stay.

Image credits: Futurismo Azores Adventure

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY 1 ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

On arrival, you will meet your driver and transferred to Internacional Azores Boutique Hotel, which faces the Atlantic waters. This evening is left free to allow you some time to settle in. Once you've checked in, why not head to one of the nearby restaurants for a pleasant seaside dinner?

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 DAY TOUR OF FAIAL

After your first Azorean breakfast, you will be treated to a day tour of Faial by minibus or van (depending on the group size). Your guide will take you to the volcanic Caldeira, an immense crater from which you can look out to the ocean and admire the neighbouring Pico Island.

A trip will also be made to the volcano of Capelinhos on the tip of the Capelo peninsula, as well as to the famous Ponta dos Capelinhos lighthouse and the volcano information centre that sits at its feet. See the newest section of Faial Island, its dark, rocky terrain was formed in 1957 during an eruption. Lunch is included today.

Returning to your hotel, you can freshen up before heading out for dinner.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3 TO SAO JORGE ISLAND

Having had breakfast, you will be transferred to the harbour for a ferry ride to São Jorge via Pico Island (ferry departs at around 9 am - time is subject to change and takes approximately 50 minutes). Have your cameras at the ready for snapshots of the Atlantic as you make your way across.

After being taken to your hotel and checking in, you can get straight to island activities. Abseil down waterfalls and slide along streams during a session of canyoning or you can take numerous hikes, in the area, and enjoy all the island has to offer. All these optional activities can be booked with us in advance – please see the 'Personalise' section for more information.

You will either stay at Hotel São Jorge Garden or can upgrade to an apartment at Cantinho das Buganvilias. Please see the 'Accommodation' section and speak to our Travel Experts to find out more.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 DAY TOUR OF SÃO JORGE

Breakfast leads into a day tour of São Jorge (either by van or minibus - depending on the group size), featuring several of its most prominent sites. Marvel at the handicraft work of Ribeira do Nabo before continuing to the welcoming villages of Urzelina and Manadas. A stop will be made at the eighteenth-century Santa Barbara Church before breaking for lunch in a Calheta village restaurant.

You will then spend the afternoon being shown the pretty parish of Ribeira Seca and the coffee plantation of Fajã dos Vimes. This comprehensive tour also includes trips to the viewpoints of Fajã dos Cubres and Fajã do Ouvidor, not to mention the Sete Fontes Forest Park with its splendid natural sights.

You can finish off the day by visiting a local restaurant or trying your hotel's cuisine.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5 CALDEIRA DO SANTO CRISTO WALKING OPTIONS

Today you'll have two options available for you as you explore Caldeira do Santo Cristo.

This area is stunning and offers spectacular coastal views and exotic flora and fauna.

The first option is a truly rewarding 10km walk. After a transfer of around 45 minutes you will begin you walk at a height of 700m on the Serra do Topo hillside. The route is initially steep as you descend (so this is ideal is best suited to regular walkers as walking poles and sturdy boots are recommended) but the views are well worth it and the gradient does become more gentle. When you reach the

Caldeira do Santo Cristo you can take a dip in the lagoon and enjoy a picnic lunch as you will have passed the 6km mark. The lagoon is formed by a natural sea wall of volcanic rock. From here is it a further 4km to Fajã dos Cubres, where the walk ends. Fajã translates as 'strip of land' and you will see that this location is aptly named as it is a small strip of flat land with the peaks on one side and the sea on the other.

Option two is a relaxed walk from Fajã dos Cubres to Caldeira do Santo Cristo which is much flatter (100m in elevation approximately) and covers a total of 8km (4km each way). Lunch and swimming at Caldeira are both included.

Please let our Travel Experts know your preferred option at the time of booking. Minimum group size for both walking options is 2 people.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 6 TO PICO ISLAND

After breakfast, you will be taken to the harbour for the ferry to Pico Island, once again being treated to beautiful views of the water. The ferry ride will take approximately 50 minutes in total, following which you will be transferred to your hotel (approximately 30 minutes).

Please note that depending on the availability and travel day the ferry will either depart in the afternoon or in the evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 DAY TOUR OF PICO ISLAND

Breakfast will be followed by a tour of Pico Island.

Your trip today will take you to the island's central plateau where you will experience beautiful views of the ocean and the volcanic origins of the island What was once a hostile volcanic hotspot is now a celebration of biodiversity with hundreds of native plant species now making it their home. Enjoy panoramic views from Pico da Urze along the way.

In the afternoon, after a delightful picnic lunch, we will visit the Casa dos Vulcões. This fascinating centre offers an immersive experience into the volcanic activity of the Azores. You can expect interactive exhibits, detailed explanations of volcanic formations, and the opportunity to learn about the region's geological history. The visit provides a comprehensive understanding of how volcanoes have shaped the beautiful landscape around us. Drop off at Madalena at the end of the tour.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 8 FREE DAY

With breakfast done, you can spend a full day in the Azores trying out more exciting optional activities. The archipelago is internationally famed as a site for whales and dolphins, and no visit to this part of the world is complete without a trip to spot them in the wild. Try a stunning whale and dolphin watching tour and feel the thrill of seeing these majestic animals in their natural habitat. Even better, you can book to swim with dolphins and get a closer experience. Please see the 'Personalise' section for more information.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 FERRY TO FAIAL AND FREE AFTERNOON

Following breakfast, it's time to head out on the beautiful waters again for your ferry ride back to Faial. The crossing takes approximately 30 minutes and is a brilliant vantage point to admire the islands from. Once you arrive at the island, you will be transferred to your hotel.

After checking in, you'll have a free afternoon to spend as you please. See our 'Personalise' tab for more information or talk to one of our Travel Experts to discuss the best ways to fill your time.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10 FREE DAY

With breakfast finished, you will have the day free. You might like to explore more of Horta or to simply unwind in the hotel Jacuzzi. Better still, you can continue your adventures on Faial by booking an optional half-day or a full day hike on one of the island's scenic routes. You can return to the Caldeira and walk around its rim or follow the old Levada aqueduct system ringed by greenery. Please see the 'Personalise' section for more information.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 11 DEPARTURE

After a last Azorean breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your journey home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Full-day Pico Mountain Climb (day 8)

For a real challenge with rewarding views, you can book to make your way up Pico Mountain on this guided full-day excursion. Beginning at Casa da Montanha, the 'Mountain House' at an altitude of 1200 metres, you will follow your guide to the summit, where a lunch break will be had. Should weather allow, you will be treated to a spectacular view of the surrounding four islands and the gleaming Atlantic Ocean – a fitting and fulfilling way to enjoy the natural beauty of the Azores.

As this trail is steep and rocky throughout, we do not recommend it for people with knee or ankle problems.

A packed lunch can be included for a small additional fee. please speak to our Travel Experts for a quote.

Transfers included.

Difficulty: Hard
Hike duration: 6 hours, 30 minutes (approximately)
Hike distance: 10 kilometres (around 6.2 miles)

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Half-day Caldeira Hike (day 9 or 10)

Sat in the middle of Faial Island is the Caldeira: a great volcanic crater 2000 metres in diameter, with a depth of 400 metres. This easy guided hike takes you around the crater rim, with views of both the inside and outside of this incredible natural feature.

Difficulty: Easy
Hike Duration: 2 hours, 30 minutes (approximately)
Hike Distance: 7 kilometres (around 4.3 miles)



Half-day Whale and Dolphin Watching (Day 8)

Observing cetaceans in their natural habitat is an awe-inspiring experience, and the Azores is internationally recognised as one of the best places to do so. On this three-hour excursion, you could spot members of over 25 different whale and dolphin species, depending on luck and the time of year. Turtles and aquatic birds might also be spotted along the way, making it a superb marine wildlife opportunity.

Prior to boarding the RIB boat (please note that restrictions may apply for pregnant women and people with lower back problems), you will be given a full safety briefing by your guiding team of biologists, as well as information on the different whales and dolphins and rules for respectful observation. Life vests will be provided, and we recommend wearing comfy, waterproof clothes supplemented by warm layers and waterproof jackets. It is also well worth carrying a hat, sun cream, and water.

Transfers included.

Difficulty: Easy
Duration: 3 hours (approximately)
Group size: Maximum 16 people per boat

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Internacional Azores Boutique Hotel (Nights: 1-2,9-10)

Situated in the heart of Horta on Faial Island, the Internacional Azores Boutique Hotel offers an authentic Azorean experience, seamlessly blending modern comforts with the rich maritime heritage of the region. Housed in a meticulously restored historic building, this hotel provides guests with panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean and the iconic Pico Mountain.

Hotel facilities

- Café Internacional celebrates the flavours of the Azores, with fresh, locally sourced seafood and traditional delicacies served in an elegant yet relaxed setting.
- Admire Atlantic views while enjoying the harbourside location
- Keep up-to-date using the free Wi-Fi in the hotel

Rooms

DOUBLE ROOM

These come with a double bed or twin beds. The private bathroom has a walk-in shower, toilet and hairdryer. The room also has free Wi-Fi, a flat-screen TV with cable channels, air-conditioning and a minibar.

Hotel São Jorge Garden (Nights: 3-5)





With an outdoor sea-water pool and pleasant greenery, Hotel São Jorge Garden is a paradise. The natural swimming pools just five minutes away on foot and the delights of Velas town are close by. Rooms have a cream and wood décor and each come with their own balcony, looking over the hotel garden and the Atlantic waters. Splendid views can also be enjoyed from the hotel's panoramic breakfast room.

Hotel facilities

- Cool off in the hotel's outdoor seawater pool or lounge by the side in the sunshine
- A cool drink from the bar is perfect in the warm Azorean weather
- Make the most of the open views from the panoramic breakfast room
- You can stay connected using free Wi-Fi in public areas of the hotel

Room type

TWIN ROOM

These come with twin beds and an en-suite bathroom with a shower, toilet, and hairdryer. The rooms are air-conditioned with a telephone and television, and also have their own balcony with a garden and ocean view.

SINGLE ROOM

These come with a single bed and an en-suite bathroom with a shower, toilet, and hairdryer. The rooms are air-conditioned with a telephone and television, and also have their own balcony with a garden and ocean view.

Image credits: Hotel São Jorge Garden

Hotel Caravelas (Nights: 6-8)





A 'caravela' or 'caravel' is a small Portuguese ship – a fitting name for this hotel, which faces the Atlantic Ocean from its location on Pico Island. Each room has a private balcony with either an ocean or a mountain view, adding a scenic touch to your stay. Hotel Caravelas also has a lovely outdoor pool and a welcoming restaurant, with many other eateries to be found nearby.

Hotel facilities

- Have a sun-soaked swim in the hotel's outdoor pool
- Fill up at a breakfast buffet in the hotel restaurant
- You can get some wonderful pictures from your panoramic hotel balcony
- Free Wi-Fi in public areas helps you stay in touch with friends and family

Room type

DOUBLE ROOM

These come with a double bed, an en-suite bathroom with a shower and bathtub, a balcony with an ocean or mountain view, air-conditioning, a flat screen satellite television, and a minibar.

Image credits: Hotel Caravelos

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Cantinho das Buganvilias






For an especially wonderful time on São Jorge Island, upgrade to stay at Cantinho das Buganvilias. This resort sits on a clifftop with marvellous panoramas of the Atlantic Ocean, which can be further appreciated while dining in its restaurant. The spacious apartments at Cantinho das Buganvilias are fully furnished and air-conditioned. In your spare time at the resort, you can try out its inviting infinity pool and hot tub. You can also arrange transfers at a small cost, should you wish to see more of the local area.

Hotel facilities

- Get a homely feel during your holiday with the Cantinho das Buganvilias apartments
- Take in coastal views while tucking into a meal at the resort restaurant
- Spend time in the infinity pool and invigorating hot tub
- You can choose from an assortment of hot and cold drinks at the bar
- Free Wi-Fi means you can instantly share all your Azores updates

Room type

ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT

These come with a double bed or twin bed arrangement and a sofa bed for four people and a bathroom with a shower, bathtub, toilet, and hairdryer. There is a kitchenette with all required equipment, and a dining area. The apartments also have a flat screen television, air-conditioning, and free Wi-Fi.

TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENT

These come with a double bed or twin bed and sofa bed arrangement for six people and a bathroom with a shower, bathtub, toilet, and hairdryer. There is a kitchenette with all required equipment, and a dining area. The apartments also have a flat screen television, air-conditioning, and free Wi-Fi.

SUPERIOR TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENT

These upper floor apartments come with a double bed or twin bed arrangement and a bed sofa for four people, and a balcony with a lovely view. They have a bathroom with a shower and hydro massage tub as well as a toilet and hairdryer. There is a kitchenette with all required equipment, and a dining area. The apartments also have a flat screen television, air-conditioning, and free Wi-Fi.

Image credits: Cantinho das Buganvilias

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Approximately 2 - 21 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