



Wildlife and Volcano Exploration



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: The Azores

BROCHURE CODE: 5566
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

As a nine-island archipelago, the Azores certainly know how to show off island life. Be completely immersed as you explore two of the islands over the course of seven nights. Go whale and dolphin watching twice, and learn about how location and volcanic activity have shaped the islands' culture and landscapes.

Our Opinion

“The Azores are the last bastion of undiscovered tourism in Western Europe. Stuck out in the mid-Atlantic they are almost as close to Boston, Massachusetts as they are to London. Volcanic landscapes, stunning architecture, vibrant botanical gardens, whales, dolphins, the happiest cows on the planet and fabulous cuisine (although black pudding with pineapple might be something of an acquired taste!) are all waiting to be discovered.”

Katharina Rogalski



What's included?

- **Flights:** return flights from São Miguel to Pico
- **Transfers:** all transfers included
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights in Hotel Canadiano and 3 nights in Hotel Caravelas
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** tour of Pico, two whale and dolphin watching activities **(the order of activities is subject to change)**
- Equipment, training, and supervision for all activities with expert local guides
- **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

The Azorean Islands are relatively unheard of and because of this, their rugged landscape and thriving wildlife feel undiscovered by the masses. In fact, on arrival, you'll feel like you're one of the first to explore this volcanic wonderland.

During our many visits to the Azores, we've always been struck by the exceptional marine life and the outstanding volcanic terrain found here. That's why we've carefully crafted this trip so that you experience the highlights of both land and sea as you travel across two of the largest islands.

The surrounding waters not only add to the postcard-worthy backdrops, but they are also home to a variety of marine life. You will enjoy two whale and dolphin watching tours where you'll be on the lookout for many different cetacean species.

On land, it's hard not to notice the volcanic presence on both of the islands you'll visit. The island of Pico is named after the huge stratovolcano here, which is the highest mountain in Portugal. During a tour of Pico's remarkable UNESCO-status vineyards, you'll have a great view of this impressive volcanic formation.

Back on São Miguel, you'll stay in Ponta Delgada, the capital of the Azores. You can spend your free

time seeing the city sights including historical monuments and botanical gardens. Alternatively, if you're looking for a guided tour, view the 'Personalise' tab for all the ways you can explore with an expert local guide.

Credit: Futurismo Azores Adventure & Maurício de Abreu/Turismo dos Açores

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

You will arrive at João Paulo II Airport from where you will be transferred to your hotel just a short drive away (approximately 10 – 15 minutes).

Included Meals: None

DAY
2

FREE DAY AT LEISURE

Today is your opportunity to settle into island life and explore your beautiful surroundings. São Miguel is also known as "The Green Island" and you'll see why. Meander down to the harbour, or take a look at our 'Personalise' tab to see what other activities are on offer.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
3

FLY TO PICO

Today you will fly to Pico. Times will be dependent on season and availability so you will either have a free morning or free afternoon to spend as you please. If the flight is direct, it will take approximately one hour. Be sure to grab a window seat and keep an eye out for other islands below.

Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel. You could relax here for the evening or go out to explore and try some of the delicious local cuisine.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
4

TOUR OF PICO

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.

Following a picnic lunch, the adventure continues with a guided tour of Portugal's longest lava tube, Gruta das Torres, which can be explored on foot. Torches and helmets are provided during your visit to this geological wonder.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
5

WHALE AND DOLPHIN WATCHING

After breakfast, you will be picked up from the hotel and transferred around 40 minutes to Lajes do Pico, an old whaling village. From there, you will board a RIB for a whale and dolphin watching (restrictions may apply for pregnant women and people with lower back problems). There are many different species found throughout the year here including sperm, fin, and blue whale as well as common, bottlenose and striped dolphins among many others.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
6

FLY TO SÃO MIGUEL

Today you will fly back to São Miguel. Times will depend on availability and season, but you will either enjoy breakfast at the hotel before leaving or it will be boxed up to take with you.

The flight can be either in the morning, the afternoon or in the evening – this will be confirmed at the time of booking and will take approximately one hour (direct flight only).

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
7

WHALE AND DOLPHIN WATCHING

Today you will head out on the waters once again for another chance of seeing the amazing marine life found in the Azores. As it's all down to nature, you may see completely different species to those you saw earlier in the week. It's not just whales and dolphins found in the waters either. You could also see turtles and seabirds.

A marine biologist will provide a briefing so you will learn more about the animals and historical facts

of the Azores. Whale watching is usually done from a catamaran; however, some trips will be in a RIB. Please inform us in advance if you have a preference. Restrictions may apply to pregnant women and people with lower back problems.

Your afternoon is free to spend as you wish. Take a look at our '[Personalise](#)' tab to see what other activities are on offer.

Included Meals: Breakfast

| DAY 8 | DEPARTURE |
|----------|-----------|
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Today it is sadly time for your Azorean adventure to come to an end. Depending on your flight time, you'll either have breakfast at the hotel or it will be boxed up for you to enjoy at the airport.

Please note: SATA Airlines may change the flight schedule for logistical reasons closer to the departure date. This means that the order of the agenda may change.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Tour to Lagoa do Fogo (day 2 or 7)

See some of the highlights of São Miguel Island during this half-day van tour. You will go to the top of Fogo Mountain for spectacular views over Fogo Lake, a brilliantly-blue lake situated within the volcano's crater. You will also stop at Caldeira Velha to relax in the thermal pool and visit the beautiful waterfall of Salto de Cabrito.

This tour will last approximately 3.5 hours in total.

Other options

ACTIVITIES



transfers.

Image credit: Futurismo Azores Adventure

Jeep Tour (day 2 or 7)

Fall in love with the landscapes of Ponta Delgada during this full day jeep tour. This tour combines the very best of the island, including Sete Cidades, Lagoa do Fogo and Caldeira Velha, for a day of incredible scenery. The advantage of travelling by 4x4 jeep will soon become clear as you discover side roads and back trails known only to locals for an 'off the beaten track' experience. Lunch at an authentic local restaurant is included.

This tour will last approximately 7 hours, including



Canyoning (day 2 or 7)

São Jorge Island offers a variety of waterfalls and streams which are perfect for exploring on a canyoning trip. Following a thorough safety briefing and training, you will be guided on a natural course of jumps and slides, abseiling like adventurers and making your way through the water by either walking or swimming – all with the help of an experienced guide team.

This tour will last approximately 4.5 hours, including transfers.

Image credit: Futurismo Azores Adventure



Full Day Hiking Tour (day 2 or 7)

Choose from two locations for the full day hiking tour:

Moinho de Felix

Enjoy a splendid mix of nature, waterfalls, and coastline during this circular hike. Starting at the church of São Pedro, meander past an array of enchanting waterfalls and spectacular vistas. Explore the ancient ruins of wells and watermills during this tour. A picnic lunch is included. This tour will last approximately 5.5 hours in total, with

approximately 5.5km of hiking.

Faial de Terra

Combine the adventure of the beautiful Faial de Terra trail with a comfortable van tour to Nordeste all in one experience. Start the day exploring nature on foot as you hike the circular trail of Faial de Terra. This route includes a visit to a hidden historic village in the mountains and a refreshing pit-stop at the infamous Salto de Prego waterfall. A picnic lunch is included.

This tour will last approximately 7.5 hours in total, with approximately 4.5km of hiking.

Image credit: Futurismo Azores Adventure



Coasteering

Take to the Atlantic Ocean and experience the island from a whole new perspective. During this coasteering adventure, you will scramble and traverse the tide line, swim in a volcanic area surrounded by fauna and flora, climb and cliff jump into the water.

This tour will last approximately 4 hours, including transfers.

Credit: Samantha Surtees (client)

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Hotel Canadiano (Nights: 1-2,6-7)



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.

Hotel Caravelas (Nights: 3-5)



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.

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

Grand Hotel Azores



A stylish hotel situated near the historic centre of Ponta Delgada and features stunning sea views across the harbour.

Hotel facilities

- Enjoy magnificent sea views and delicious food from the Balcony restaurant
- Sit back, relax and sip a specially crafted cocktails at the Vapore Bar & Lounge
- Workout in the onsite gym or take a swim in the indoor heated pool
- Enjoy free WiFi throughout the hotel

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, TV, Wi-Fi, a minibar (extra charge), a safe, a hairdryer, bathrobe and toiletries

Please contact our Travel Experts for a quotation.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Approximately 2 - 21 people. Please note, if you choose to travel by catamaran during the whale watching on Sao Miguel, the group size is maximum 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>