

INSPIRING
VACATIONS

9 Day The Azores

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Travelling with Inspiring Vacations allows you to explore the wonders of the world in a variety of different ways. We have partnered with a worldwide network of local travel experts to bring you culturally unique and delightfully unforgettable travel experiences. Whether it is meandering through narrow canyons by rail, cruising the idyllic waters of the Mediterranean or touring through t...

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TOUR ITINERARY

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TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

Destination	São Miguel
Meals included	Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

This is the Azores. A set of islands virtually untouched by urban development. Your adventure begins on São Miguel, the largest of the nine volcanic islands. Sit along the seaside promenade and breathe in the mild air of the Atlantic. Get to know Ponta Delgada, the capital city of the Azores, on a brief walking tour of the area. Celebrate the beginning of your journey with a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY 2

Destination	São Miguel
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Leave the main road behind and embrace an off-road adventure on the “Green Island.” Traverse the dirt roads and pass by dairy farms before pausing at the highest point of the island, taking in the all-encompassing natural beauty at your feet. Venture to Sete Cidades, the striking blue and green mirror lakes, where you’ll navigate the rim of the entire crater. As you circle these bodies of water, gaze down upon the dazzling blue lake (reflecting the sky) and the adjacent green lake (reflecting the earth). Take a short hike to emerge at the peak of the island and take in the astounding viewpoint of Lagoa do Canario, the island’s most recognized landscape. Return to Ponta Delgada with free time to relax in a local café or meander through the streets. Or, continue your exploration with an optional tour...perhaps you’ll choose to swim with a pod of dolphins or embark on an intimate whale watching excursion.

DAY 3

Destination	São Miguel
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation	N/A

On your way to the dynamic volcano complex of Furnas, get a glimpse of Portugal’s sweet side at a family run queijadas (pastry) bakery. Trading the warm aroma that wafts through the air of the bakery for the encompassing scent of floral splendour, wander through the organic paradise of Terra Nostra Botanical Garden on a guided tour. Immerse yourself into a heated pool of rejuvenation in the natural thermal waters of the Furnas valley. Watch as your lunch is raised out of the heat of the volcanic earth and served as a traditional Cozido das Furnas meal. As you dig into your food, admire an exclusive viewpoint of Furnas Lake from the Terra Nostra Tea House. Continue on to the pastures of Porto Formosa, home to one of the only European tea plantations. Enjoy an evening of leisure in São Miguel.

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DAY 4

Destination	São Miguel → Terceira
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Wish São Miguel goodbye and say hello to the colourful island of Terceira. Stand along the edge of the crater at Serra do Cume viewpoint and take in the island's patchwork of infinite green. Continue your journey and swap the grassy fields for sandy shores at Praia Victoria, or "Beach of Victory." Get to know Angra do Heroísmo as you walk the streets this afternoon with a guide. Recently restored in traditional style, admire the white facades and colourful trims of the iconic buildings in this UNESCO World Heritage site. Get a taste of Azorean culture during dinner at a local restaurant where you're invited to try alcatra, the savoury meat stew Terceira is known for.

DAY 5

Destination	Terceira
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Enjoy a free morning to choose how you experience Terceira. Maybe you'll decide on an optional tour, embarking on an adventurous hiking travel along two volcanoes at Misterios Negros Nature Reserve. Next we gather and head underground to experience the ethereal Algar do Carvão, the "Cavern of Coal," with an expert guide. Feel the quiet stillness around you as you descend into this ancient lava tube, gazing up at the looming stalactites hanging above you. Then, it's your choice! Choose to swim* in the natural volcanic pools of Biscoitos -OR- hike along lava fields and vineyards. Enjoy leisure time in Angra afterwards or entice your taste buds on an optional Portuguese wine and tapas experience.

DAY 6

Destination	Terceira → Faial → Pico
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Say bom dia (good morning) to Faial, the "Blue Island" of the Azores. With hydrangeas as far as the eye can see and stunning coastlines, discover the remarkable beauty of this island. Peek into the daily life of dairy production when you drop by the family-owned Morro cheese factory, where you'll sample the fruits of their production. Encounter the volcanic vitality of Faial when you take in the collapsed Caldeira and the ash hills of the Capelinhos Volcano Interpretation Centre. Your exploration continues as you embark on a ferry ride to Pico, the nearby island known for its lava fields and vineyards. Make a stop at Lagoa do Capitão, your eyes following along the landscape to spy São Jorge

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Island in the distance. Settle in amongst the lava stone houses of Aldeia da Fonte. Here, overlooking the sea, the sounds of rolling waves will serenade you to sleep for the next two nights. Enjoy dinner at this innovative cliff-side abode, stroll through the luxurious gardens, and let the incomparable view of the Atlantic wash over you.

DAY 7

Destination	Pico
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Walk along the surreal landscape of grapes that grow between plots of rocky stone walls as you explore Pico vineyards (UNESCO). In the centre of the vineyard, climb the bright red windmill and take in a new perspective of the stretching fields, lava rocks, and vines. Introduce yourself to the history of this island's vineyards at the Pico Wine Museum. Next, taste these exclusive wines of limited production at a wine collaborative. Then, it's your choice! In Lajes, choose to visit the whaling museum highlighting the historical ties of the industry to the culture of the islands -OR- take advantage of free time in town to explore the area independently.

DAY 8

Destination	Pico ✈️ São Miguel
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Depart Pico for São Miguel and enjoy some time at leisure. Whether you want to relax on the sandy shores, wander the streets of the capital city, or get one last taste of Portuguese pastries, spend the day however you please. Tonight, toast to the end of your Azorean adventure with a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY 9

Destination	São Miguel
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Say adeus (goodbye) to the Azores as you depart this Atlantic archipelago.

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Inclusions

WHATS INCLUDED

Enter an untouched paradise on an adventure through the Azores, the archipelago gems of Portugal
From thermal pools and lush craters to local farms and volcanic cuisine, delve into the culture of Portuguese island life.

Enter an untouched paradise on an adventure through the Azores
Admire an exclusive viewpoint of Furnas Lake during lunch at the Terra Nostra Tea House
13 Meals - 8 Breakfasts - 1 Lunch - 4 Dinners
Superior twin share accommodation
Sightseeing and transportation as per the itinerary

Fine Print

HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

Deposit & Payments

Book now and secure your package with only a \$250 deposit per person.
Pay a 2nd instalment of \$607 per person within 28 days.
You will then be invoiced for final payment 90 days prior to departure.
Booking Process

Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)
Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests
Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab
Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment. You may also pay via BPAY (not available within 70 days of departure)
Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
Your position on the tour will be confirmed within 48 hours of completing your order. If your place cannot be confirmed, a full refund of the deposit will occur.

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OPTIONAL TOURS

Azores Tour Gratuities \$209 pp
Whale-Dolphin Watching \$129 pp
Embark on a Whale Watching Adventure \$129 pp
Swimming with Dolphins \$156 pp
Misterios Negros Natural Park Hike \$99 pp
Wine and Tapas Experience \$78 pp

EXCLUSIONS

Airfares
Personal Expenses
Travel Insurance
Optional activities
Anything not mentioned in the itinerary or optional

HOTEL LIST

São Miguel - Grand Hotel Acores Atlantico
Terceira - Hotel Cruzeiro
Pico - Aldeia Da Fonte Nature Resort

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences, however, any changes are beyond our control.

Single Supplement

A single supplement is available on all nights of this trip from an extra \$700 subject to availability.

Triple Share

Not available.

Children

Children must be 5 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are charged the same price as adults.

Tour Documentation

Final documentation will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.