



The Azores Archipelago

Our brochure is split into two distinct sections:

AZORES EXPERIENCE°

The Azores Experience section offers group and independent tours covering a variety of interests. We have suggested some exciting itineraries within this section which can be tailored to suit your requirements and create your ideal holiday...

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AZORES EXPLORER°

The Azores Explorer section is for the traveller looking for more flexibility. It offers you a choice of accommodation on different islands which can be combined to create a unique Azores experience. Discover the natural beauty of the Azores...

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For further information , please contact us:

0044 7964006501 UK- 00351 918961188 PT azoresstates@gmail.com www.azoresstates.co.nr

AZORES EXPERIENCE°

The choice is yours

Our Azores Experience holidays have been carefully selected to ensure you get the most from your trip with an exciting range of activities to please everyone.



"We really appreciated the personal touch and your enthusiasm for the Azores. Thanks for introducing us to a wonderful part of the world and offering such a friendly helpful service." Mr W, London



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"Personal thanks to Jake for organising a complex itinerary which ran like clockwork! Everything delivered as promised – and more! We had a wonderful holiday."

Mr & Mrs S, Market Rasen

**NEW
for 2011**
Discover our Azorean
friends with the new
Whale & Dolphin
Experience
See page 7



There's so much to learn about and experience in the Azores Archipelago. Endless miles of unspoilt coastline, volcanic mountain ranges, sub-tropical vegetation and an abundance of sealife. With a mild climate it's just ideal for exploring and enjoying a wide range of activities.

Our Azores Experience holidays have been created using our very own specialist knowledge of the Azores, gained over many years exploring and working on the islands.

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DON'T MISS

The Azores have lots of festivals throughout the summer. Some of the main ones are:

São Miguel (Ponta Delgada)
Senhor Santo Cristo
1ST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Terceira (Angra) Sanjoaninas
MID JUNE FOR 9 DAYS

São Jorge (Velas) Cultural week
FIRST WEEK JULY

Flores Festa do Emigrante
MID JULY

Faial (Horta) Sea week festival
STARTS 1ST SUNDAY IN AUGUST

Pico (Lajes) Week of the whalers
LAST WEEK IN AUGUST

Santa Maria Festival of the sea
END OF AUGUST

MUST TRY

The Azores islands produce some delicious local specialties:

São Miguel
SWEET SMALL PINEAPPLES GROWN
IN HOT HOUSES

Pico
TERRAS DE LAVA TABLE WINE

São Jorge
STRONG CHEDDAR-LIKE CHEESE

Terceira
ALCATRA, A DELICIOUS BEEF STEW

Faial
PASTEL DE NATA, SMALL EGG
CUSTARD TARTS

FLEXIBLE, TAILOR-MADE ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

Remember that most holidays in this section are flexible and can be extended, shortened or combined to suit your requirements. Call our team for assistance.

AZORES EXPERIENCE°

Whale & Dolphin Watching



Spotted dolphins



RIB (semi-inflatable)

The Azores Archipelago is one of the premier whale and dolphin watching sites in the world, and the subject of films by the BBC and National Geographic.

Join us on one of our exciting whale and dolphin watching holidays. When out at sea the species we most frequently see are sperm and pilot whales, beaked whales and false killer whales, together with bottlenose, common, spotted, Risso's and striped dolphin. In recent years, we have also sighted blue, fin, sei, minke and humpback whales off the islands' shores.

These elusive mammals are spotted by the 'vigia', a lookout on the coast. Using powerful binoculars, he guides our boats from the shore to their location. This traditional system works well and was used for many years when the Azorean people hunted the whales.

Some of our boats also use an onboard hydrophone (underwater microphone) to find the cetaceans, and when at sea, they rarely go more than 10 miles from land. The boat skippers are keen to see the cetaceans and will point them out to you, identify the species and give you time to marvel at the spectacle and grab some fantastic photos too (if you're quick!).

Choose from our whale watching holidays on São Miguel, Faial or Pico. However, if you wish to extend your holiday, stay in different accommodation or combine a whale and dolphin trip with another activity, call us with your requirements and we'll provide a quotation.

Half day whale watching

We offer half day whale and dolphin watching trips on the following islands; São Miguel, Faial, Pico and Terceira. Each trip lasts for approximately 3 hours and includes a safety briefing and introduction to the whale and dolphins you are likely to see. We offer trips in RIBs or larger fibre glass boats. Children under 4 years and pregnant women are not allowed on the RIBs. Prices from £48pp.

Full day whale watching and snorkelling

On São Miguel from June to September it is possible to join one of our whale watching trips for the morning and in the afternoon visit the small collapsed volcano of Ilhéu de Vila Franca off the coast of Vila Franca where you can swim and snorkel in the lagoon. The day also includes pre-trip briefing, snorkels and lunch. Prices from £62pp

Swimming with dolphins

We offer half day swimming with dolphins on the islands of São Miguel and Faial. If you are new to this experience or have not snorkelled before we also offer a full day introduction to swimming with dolphins. The day starts off with a briefing on how to snorkel; you then have a practice session in a swimming pool. Once you are confident with the equipment you then try snorkelling from the shore. After lunch you head out to sea for an afternoon of swimming with dolphins. The trips include: wet suit, buoyancy aid, snorkel, safety briefing and lunch on the full day trips. For children under 12 it is advisable to bring your own wet suits.

Prices:
From £65pp (half day)
From £112pp (full day)

Please note, each trip is limited to 10 swimmers, and at any one time only two people are allowed in the water.

For further information , please contact us:

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AZORES EXPERIENCE°

Whale & Dolphin Experience

Join us on this exciting new **Whale and Dolphin Experience on the island of São Miguel**. This trip is designed to offer a more educational experience for those who want to learn more about these amazing mammals.

São Miguel Whale & Dolphin Experience 7 nights

PRICES FROM
£1046 pp

Blessed with a temperate climate due to the warming effect of the gulf stream, the Azores is home to over 25% of the world's whale and dolphin species. Some, including the sperm whale are resident throughout the year while others (e.g. the blue whale) migrate through from March to May on their way north. Vila Franca, the historical capital of São Miguel, with its small harbour and cobbled streets is an ideal base.

During your week away you discover why the Azores is such an important environment for cetaceans, the different types of whales and dolphins found around the islands and the relationship between whales and man and how they have created a unique place in the psyche of the Azorean people.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Accommodation at the Convento Sao Francisco on a B&B basis, airport transfers, 4 half day whale and dolphin watching trips, history of the whales tour, afternoon with marine biologist, pre-departure booklet, flights and airport taxes.



Sperm Whale



NEW TOUR
For more information
on this trip and its
variations, see our
website or call us.

SÃO MIGUEL WHALE & DOLPHIN EXPERIENCE

7 nights. Departs Saturday.

Day 1	Fly Manchester/Gatwick to São Miguel, accommodation at Convento Sao Francisco (p33).
Day 2	Briefing and introduction to whale and dolphin watching, plus half day whale watching (pm).
Day 3	Half day whale and dolphin watching (am).
Day 4	Full day history of the whales tour of São Miguel, visiting the vigias (lookouts) and other places on the island which have a unique connection with whales (includes lunch).
Day 5	Half day whale and dolphin watching (pm). Some time will be spent with a marine biologist looking at their current research.
Day 6	Free day.
Day 7	Whale and dolphin watching (am).
Day 8	Fly São Miguel to Manchester/Gatwick.

"Words cannot describe how fantastic everything was. You have it just right and together made our dream come true. Thank you!" Mr & Mrs R, Somerset

For further information , please contact us:

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AZORES EXPERIENCE°

Whale & Dolphin Watching



Whale and Dolphin Watching on the islands of **Faial and Pico** offers a unique 'small island' experience as well as great whale and dolphin spotting opportunities.

Faial Whale & Dolphin Watching Faial, 7 nights

PRICES FROM
£956 pp

Our whale watching holiday on Faial is based in the cosmopolitan town of Horta. Four half days are spent whale and dolphin watching, allowing you a further four full days to explore the two beautiful islands of Faial and Pico (and even São Jorge on the ferry from June to September).

Sights to see include Capelinhos, a village that was buried in the 1957/8 eruption that is now

re-appearing out of the ash and Faial's volcanic crater which offers great views of the surrounding area. You can take a 25 minute ferry ride to Pico and visit the whaling museums, cheese and wine factories or even climb the mountain if you're feeling energetic. Perhaps extra whale-watching or relaxing in a café is more your scene. Whatever you choose, a fantastic holiday awaits you.

WHAT'S INCLUDED? Faial, 7 nights

Tour includes: Accommodation on a B&B sharing basis at the Hotel do Canal (see page 45 for details), airport transfers, 4 x 3 hour trips to see the whales and dolphins, pre-departure information booklet, flights via Lisbon and airport taxes.

Not included: Meals (other than breakfast), excursions on free days and travel insurance.
Tours run April-October. For full dates and prices, see our website or call our team.

Please note: To maximise the safety of visitors, our boats do not go out in adverse conditions, so days and times of outings will naturally be dependent on prevailing weather conditions.

Pico Whale & Dolphin Watching Pico, 7 nights

PRICES FROM
£869 pp

Our whale watching holiday on Pico is based at the Residencial Whale'come ao Pico in Lajes right next door to the whale watching office. Five half days are spent whale watching leaving you time to explore Pico's rugged scenery, its whaling museums, cheese and wine factories or if you're feeling really energetic, why not climb Mt Pico.



Sperm whale fluke

WHAT'S INCLUDED? Pico, 7 nights

Tour includes: Accommodation on a B&B sharing basis at Residencial Whale'come ao Pico (see page 70 for details), airport, ferry and whale watching transfers, 5 x 3 hour trips to see the whales and dolphins, pre-departure information booklet, flights via Lisbon and airport taxes.

Not included: Meals (other than breakfast), excursions on free days, Faial/Pico ferry cost (£4pp) and travel insurance.

Tours run April-October. For full dates and prices, see our website or call our team.

"Thank you to everyone who made the trip so enjoyable. We will sing your praises to everyone we know who wants to make the trip to such a beautiful place with so much natural flora and fauna to see and enjoy."

Mr & Mrs F, Ely

For further information , please contact us:

azoresstates@gmail.com www.azoresstates.co.nr-

AZORES EXPERIENCE°

Whale & Dolphin Research Holiday



For something a little different, our unique **Whale & Dolphin Research Holidays** combine a journey of imagination with real exploration of these elusive creatures.

Not only are our Whale & Dolphin Research Holidays a fascinating adventure, but they can make a real difference to the welfare of the Azores cetaceans, as your booking cost directly funds the important research carried out on board during your tour. This is not a working holiday though – the atmosphere on board is very relaxed but learning is on the agenda. You will get first hand knowledge of the whale and dolphins' behaviour, a slide show, plus talks about the creatures and the research.

The trips are guided by the leading Azores cetacean biologist, Lisa Steiner, who has spent the last 19 years researching and studying Azorean Cetaceans, and Lisa will be on board whenever you are at sea. You will watch the whales and dolphins in their natural environment, find out how individual animals are identified, and see scientific data being collected on the various species.



Your vessel for these trips is *Physeter*, a specially converted motor catamaran that provides shade from the sun, hot and cold drinks, toilet and full safety equipment. Her 4 tiered decks provide guests with a variety of excellent whale and dolphin watching view points.

"Absolutely stunning and exhilarating and educational."

Mr & Mrs P, Tyne and Wear

Whale & Dolphin Research Trip

Faial, 5 nights, 9 nights or 11 nights

Based at the port of Horta, Faial's capital, the 5, 9 or 11 night trips include 3 to 6 full days whale watching and researching, plus 1 or 2 days in port (depending on weather and sea conditions) for island exploring at your leisure.

Your accommodation is at the Azores Eco Lodge, a simple and friendly guesthouse, run on environmentally sound principles, just 14 minutes walk from Horta marina. All rooms are ensuite and some have a view of Pico. All meals are included except for lunches and evening meals on shore days. You will normally have between 1 and 3 shore days depending on the duration of your trip and weather. All included meals are taken at the Azores Eco Lodge, on board *Physeter* or at a restaurant a few minutes walk from your accommodation.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

Faial, 5 nights, 9 nights or 11 nights

Accommodation is on a full board (except on shore days) twin sharing basis, airport transfers, slide show and talks, all boat costs, guide services, pre-departure information booklet, flights via Lisbon and airport taxes.

Excluding: Excursions on free days, meals as above and travel insurance. **Maximum group size:** 12 (for groups under 6 the boat may return to Horta for lunch, with a second trip in the afternoon). Tours run May-September.

For full dates and prices, see our website or call our team.

Please note: If you would like to upgrade your accommodation to anywhere else in Horta, this is possible. Just call us for the supplement price. For convenience, we recommend Hotel do Canal which is a minute's walk from the marina.

5 NIGHTS
PRICES FROM
£1,130 pp

9/11 NIGHTS
PRICES FROM
£1,740 pp

For further information , please contact us:

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AZORES EXPERIENCE°

Scenic Cycle



Quiet country lanes, lovely accommodation and wholesome meals make for a perfect Azores cycling experience.

Cycling from village to village allows you to thoroughly explore these delightful islands and the itineraries detailed take you to some of the less visited parts of the Azores. Most roads in the Azores are very quiet and often you find yourselves cycling alongside thick hydrangea hedges and hillsides heavy with cryptomeria forests.

We offer three varied itineraries for the cyclist. Distances vary between 15 and 35km per day and accommodation is in comfortable hotels and guest houses. Luggage is transferred between hotels and bikes are modern Specialised hybrids or Trek tourers, with pannier, pump, repair kit and tools. Helmets are not included however we strongly advise bringing your own.

All our independent cycling tours are fully flexible and can be organised in minimum 3 day sections. This way you can combine cycling with other activities or just spend the rest of your holiday relaxing at a hotel of your choice.

São Miguel

7 nights (5 days cycling), Strenuous

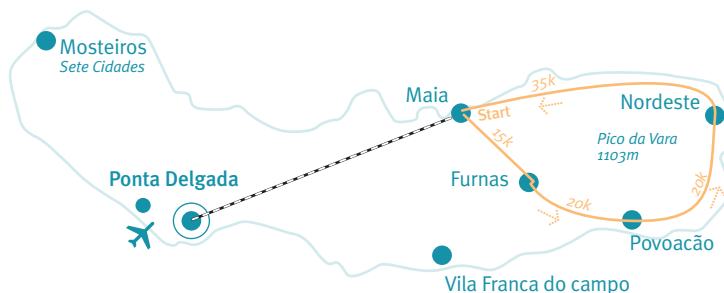
Average distance cycled each day 25km with some steep gradients.

PRICES FROM

£895 pp

Strenuous

Transfer



62km

Day 1 Arrive and transfer to Maia

Day 2 Cycle from Maia to Furnas (15km)

Day 3 In Furnas (rides around Furnas)

Day 4 Cycle from Furnas to Povoação (20km)

Day 5 Cycle from Povoação to Nordeste (20km)

Day 6 Cycle from Nordeste to Maia (35km)

Day 7 Transfer to Ponta Delgada

Day 8 Depart

WHAT'S INCLUDED

São Miguel, 7 nights, Strenuous

Accommodation on B&B sharing basis (one evening meal), airport and luggage transfers, bike hire, maps and route notes, flights direct and airport taxes, pre-departure information booklet.

Excluding: Meals (except breakfast and one evening meal), excursions and travel insurance.

Tours run throughout the year.

For full dates and prices, see our website or call our team.

For further information , please contact us:

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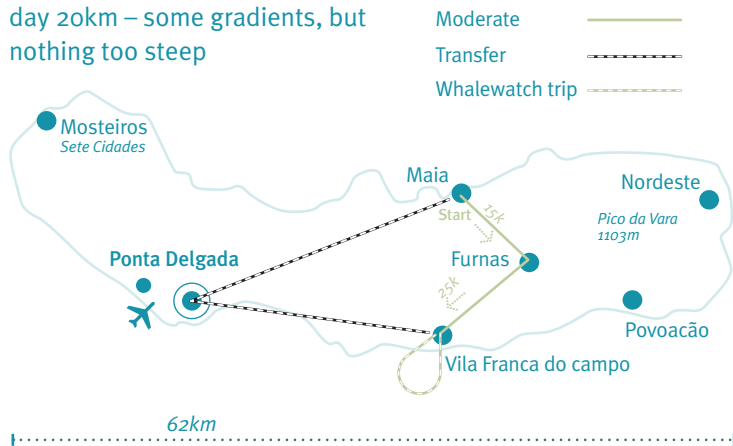
AZORES EXPERIENCE°

Scenic Cycle

São Miguel

7 nights (3 days cycling),
Moderately challenging
Average distance cycled each
day 20km – some gradients, but
nothing too steep

PRICES FROM
£871 pp



- | | |
|--|--|
| Day 1 Arrive and transfer to Maia | Day 5 In Furnas (rides around Furnas) |
| Day 2 In Maia, free day | Day 6 Cycle to Vila Franca (25km) |
| Day 3 In Maia (rides around Maia) | Day 7 In Vila Franca (3 hour whale and dolphin watching trip) |
| Day 4 Cycle to Furnas (15km) | Day 8 Depart |

WHAT'S INCLUDED

São Miguel, 7 nights, Moderately challenging

Accommodation on B&B sharing basis, airport and luggage transfers, bike hire, maps and route notes, 3 hour whale and dolphin watching trip (all year round), flights direct and airport taxes, pre-departure information booklet.

Excluding: Meals (except breakfast), excursions and travel insurance.

Tours run throughout the year.

For full dates and prices, see our website or call our team.

Pico

7 nights (4 or 6 days cycling),
Moderately challenging
Average distance cycled each day 25km –
some gradients, but nothing too steep

PRICES FROM
£870 pp



- | | |
|--|--|
| Day 1 Arrive | Day 5 Cycle to Lajes (25km) |
| Day 2 Cycle to São Roque (25km) | Day 6 In Lajes (3 hour whale and dolphin watching trip) |
| Day 3 Cycle to Piedade (25km) | Day 7 Cycle to Madalena (30km) |
| Day 4 In Piedade | Day 8 Depart |

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Pico, 7 nights, Moderately challenging

Accommodation on B&B sharing basis, airport and luggage transfers, bike hire, maps and route notes, 3 hour whale and dolphin watching trip (April to September) or guided taxi tour of Pico (October to March), flights via Lisbon and airport taxes, pre-departure information booklet.

Excluding: Meals (except breakfast), excursions, travel insurance and Pico ferry cost (please allow £4 pp).

Tours run throughout the year.

For full dates and prices, see our website or call our team.



For active parents with an infant (or two) why not try our Pico cycling with a baby trailer. The roads are quiet and smooth, the distances are not too far, the scenery is wonderful and your little ones stay safe and dry in the trailer. Infants need to be able to support their own heads when in the trailer and be comfortable sitting in a cycle trailer/pushchair for up to 2 hours at a time looking at mum or dad's bum! For older children, tag along bikes are also available.

"We had an absolutely fabulous time and would change nothing. We are very impressed with Archipelago Azores as a company from the office to the people representing you on the islands. Other travellers that we bumped into said the same. Thank you!"

The L family, Somerset

AZORES EXPERIENCE°

Independent Island Trail Walking



São Miguel Trail Walking

Explore the sights and discover the natural beauty of this incredible island at your very own pace.

We have created two independent walking itineraries that will take you through some of the most stunning scenery in the Azores. Choose from either Self-Drive or Taxi-Transfer. Self-Drive includes a hire car and planned circular walk routes providing complete freedom during your stay, while with the Taxi-Transfer option, the walks are mostly linear – a driver will drop you off at the start of each walk and pick you

up later that day. Detailed route maps are provided for both options, leaving you free to explore the sights of São Miguel at your leisure.

You will be staying in two great hotels during your holiday. Firstly, at the Hotel Terra Nostra (page 29), located in the volcanic basin of Furnas, and secondly, in Ponta Delgada at the Hotel do Colegio (page 26).

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

São Miguel Green Isle Trails, 7 nights*

Accommodation on a B&B sharing basis, airport, hotel and walk transfers (Taxi-Transfer option)/7 days car hire (Self-Drive option), route maps and descriptions, pre-departure information booklet, flights direct and airport taxes.

Excluding: Meals (other than breakfast), excursions on free days and travel insurance. Tours run throughout the year. For full dates and prices, see our website or call our team.

GREEN ISLE TRAILS

São Miguel, 7 nights*

Option 1: Self-Drive (5 walks)

PRICES FROM

£856 pp

Your walks vary from 4km to 12km (2 to 5 hours) and allow you to explore the impressive Sete Cidades crater and the Canario lake areas to the west of the island. There is also a stunning walk down from the Fire Lake, the Azores' wildest crater lake, and a pretty walk along the south coast.

Option 2: Taxi-Transfer (5 walks)

PRICES FROM

£959 pp

From the volcanic basin of Furnas you will visit the more remote eastern end of the island, walking through an abandoned village and up to a stunning waterfall, along a pretty south coast path and you'll have time to explore the Terra Nostra botanical gardens in Furnas, taking a dip in the thermal waters. From your Ponta Delgada base, you'll get to see Sete Cidades as well as the Fire Lake. Walks vary from 6km to 12km (2 to 5 hours).

For further information , please contact us:

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AZORES EXPERIENCE°

Independent Island Trail Walking

Multi-Island Trail Extensions

We also organise independent trails on São Jorge, Pico, Faial, Santa Maria and Flores. They can be added to the São Miguel Green Isle Trails, or included in any other holiday combination. Suggested itineraries are detailed below (2 walks per extension), but it really is your choice – all can be tailored to suit your requirements.

Azorean Coastal Trails

Flores, 4 nights*

PRICES FROM

£364 pp

The walks on Flores allow you to walk the whole of the spectacular west coast of the island in 2 days passing cascading waterfalls, through abandoned villages and wonderful sub-tropical vegetation. The walks are between 9 and 11km but usually take 3 to 4 hours to complete as you'll be wanting to stop to enjoy the fabulous scenery. On your free day, we suggest a boat trip to nearby Corvo or a jeep tour of Flores.

Accommodation: Argonauta (page 82)



Natural Wonder Trails

São Jorge, 4 nights*

PRICES FROM

£251 pp

Here you will have the chance to walk from fajã (coastal plain) to fajã and wind your way between the eerie green craters on the top of the island before descending to a pretty coastal village for a refreshing dip in the ocean. Walks are 9-18km taking between 3.5 and 5 hours. On your free day, why not swim in the natural rock pools in Velas or take a taxi out to see the pretty forest park of Sete Fontes.

Accommodation: Hotel São Jorge (page 76)

***Full flexibility available!** All itineraries can be tailored to suit your interests. Please call us to discuss your requirements or for more suggestions.

Panorama Trails

Faial/Pico, 4 nights*

PRICES FROM

£308 pp

You will be based on Faial for your whole stay and walking round part of the wonderful crater rim before visiting the volcanic site of Capelinhos. On another day, you will take the ferry over to Pico (30 mins – not included) for a leisurely downhill walk from the slopes of Mt Pico. Walks vary from 9-10km taking 3 hours. On your free day, we suggest you explore Horta and its beaches or go out whale watching.

Accommodation: Estrela do Atlantico (page 46)

Azorean Origin Trails

Santa Maria, 4 nights*

PRICES FROM

£277 pp

The walks on Santa Maria provide a wonderful introduction to this less visited island. Starting off in Santa Barbara your first walk is circular and takes you through pretty villages on the north east side of the island to the small church of Nossa Senhora de Lurdes which has wonderful views across the meadows and down to the ocean. Your second walk starts at the highest point on Santa Maria (Pico Alto, 590m), where on clear days you get wonderful panoramic views across the island and down to São Pedro, the small hamlet where you will be based. Walks are between 10 and 13kms and take between 3 and 5 hours.

Accommodation: House of St Peter (page 61)



WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Multi-Island Trail Extensions, 4 nights*

Accommodation on a B&B sharing basis, airport, hotel and walk transfers, route maps and descriptions and pre-departure information booklet.

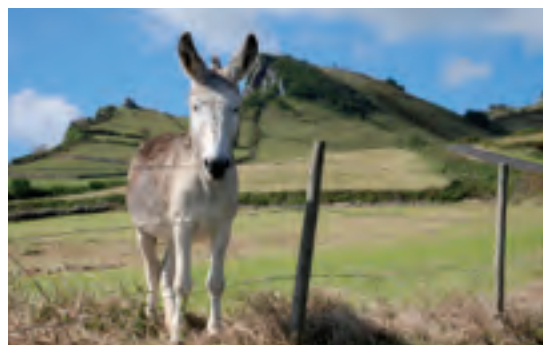
Excluding: Meals (other than breakfast), excursions on free days, inter-island flights and ferries and travel insurance.

Tours run throughout the year.

For full dates and prices, see our website or call our team.

"Excellent walks – gave us a real insight into the islands and their cow based economy!"

Mr & Mrs H, Dartmouth



AZORES EXPERIENCE°

Guided Island Trail Walking



Our new fully guided walking tour now includes Terceira

Walking is one of the best ways to get to know the islands, and our guided tour covers no less than five of the Azores' most stunning islands – São Miguel, Terceira, São Jorge, Faial and Pico. During your trip you'll witness secluded lagoons as you stroll from fajã to fajã (coastal plain), view magnificent panoramas from the slopes of the highest mountain in Portugal, sense the tranquility that surrounds the great crater lakes and see the fascinating results of the most recent Azorean eruption.

You'll also have enough free time to enjoy the towns and villages at your own pace, sampling the local delicacies and watching the calm pace of local life go by.

We'll be staying in comfortable hotels throughout the holiday and using taxis to transfer us to and from the walks. Walks are gently paced (we won't be racing to the finish!) and are aimed at the moderately fit. No walk is longer than 18km and most will be around 10km.

"Our guide, Nuno, deserves a special mention for all his hard work, attention to detail and his genuine concern for everyone. His unfailing enthusiasm and love of the Azores made our holiday all the more enjoyable. We particularly enjoyed his picnics and the opportunity to sample local produce."

Mr and Mrs S, Suffolk

5-ISLAND GUIDED TRAIL WALKING

14 night itinerary, max 12 people per group

PRICES FROM
£1,690pp

Day 1	Arrive at Ponta Delgada, São Miguel
Day 2	Sete Cidades crater walk (3/4hrs)
Day 3	Visit to Furnas and coastal walk (3/4hrs)
Day 4	Fire Lake walk (4/5hrs)
Day 5	Fly to Terceira – with afternoon walk around Angra and Monte Brasil (2/3hrs)
Day 6	Gruta na Nata walk (3/4hrs)
Day 7	Fly to São Jorge
Day 8	3 fajãs walk (4/5hrs)
Day 9	Mountain spine walk (5/6hrs)
Day 10	Ferry to Faial
Day 11	Crater walk/visit Capelinhos (3/4hrs)
Day 12	Day trip to Pico – Mt Pico ascent (6/7hrs)
Day 13	Free day on Faial
Day 14	Fly to São Miguel
Day 15	Transfer to the airport and depart.

SELF GUIDED OPTION

If you like this itinerary and the walks it offers but can't make any of the dates or prefer a more independent holiday, then why not book this trip as self guided? Same walks, same accommodation but instead of a walking guide, you get route notes, maps and taxi transfers to and from the walks.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

5-ISLAND GUIDED TRAIL WALKING, 14 NIGHTS

Accommodation on a B&B sharing basis (single room supplement available), picnics on full walking days, all walk and airport transfers, experienced guide services, return flight confirmations, fully comprehensive pre-departure information booklet, direct flights (from Manchester or Gatwick) and airport taxes.

Excluding: meals (except breakfast and walk picnics), excursions on free days and travel insurance.

Evening meal arrangements: Evenings are free; however your walking guide will make a reservation each night at a local restaurant for those wishing to come along. The evenings are relaxed and informal, with an average 3 course meal with wine costing around €15 to €25pp.

TOUR DATES FOR 2011

Departures: 11th to 25th June, 9th to 23rd July, 13th to 27th August, 3rd to 17th September.



For further information, please contact us:

azoresstates@gmail.com www.azoresstates.co.nr

AZORES EXPERIENCE°

Atlantis Honeymoons



The Azores makes the perfect honeymoon destination. Where else in Europe can you escape the crowds and explore a place as beautiful as it is untouched?

For honeymooners we offer a selection of some of our most intimate guesthouses and hotels, ranging from a seventeenth century convent to honeymoon suites in a guesthouse at the western most point in Europe.

Your honeymoon is a very important part of your whole wedding experience, and we take great pride in making sure you have an unforgettable time. To help guide you, we have detailed two honeymoon itineraries which offer a variety of hotels and islands. However, as with all our holidays, the choice is all yours. So if you feel you'd like a more unique and personalised experience, perhaps visiting more or less islands, would like higher grade rooms or hotels or even a quiet hideaway, then just call and we'll help you plan your perfect honeymoon.

"We had a fantastic honeymoon, due in no small part to your organisation. We'll have to plan an anniversary trip one year."

Mr & Mrs P, Swindon

ATLANTIS HONEYMOON ADVENTURE

3 islands, 14 nights

PRICES FROM
£1,570 pp

Day 1	Arrive at Ponta Delgada, São Miguel
Day 1-3	Stay at Terra Nostra Garden Hotel (p29)
Day 4-6	Stay at Convento São Francisco (p33)
Day 7	Fly to Flores
Day 7-10	Stay in suite at Argonauta (p82)
Day 11	Fly to Faial
Day 11-14	Stay at Quinta do Vale (p47)
Day 15	Transfer to airport, depart Faial

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Atlantis Honeymoon Adventure

Accommodation on B&B basis, airport transfers, car hire on São Miguel and Faial, flights direct and airport taxes, pre-departure information booklet.

Excluding: meals (except breakfast), excursions and travel insurance.

Tours run throughout the year.

For full dates and prices, see our website or call our team.

ATLANTIS HONEYMOON RETREAT

Lisbon + 3 islands, 14 nights

PRICES FROM
£1,790 pp

Day 1	Arrive in Lisbon
Day 1-3	Stay at Hotel Lapa Palace (p85)
Day 4	Fly to São Miguel
Day 4-7	Stay at Quinta do Mar (p30)
Day 8	Fly to Terceira
Day 8-10	Stay at Quinta das Mercês (p54)
Day 11	Fly to Faial
Day 11-14	Stay at Pousada Santa Cruz (p44)
Day 15	Transfer to airport, depart Faial

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Atlantis Honeymoon Retreat

Accommodation on B&B basis (1 x dinner at Lapa Palace and Quinta do Mar), airport transfers, car hire on São Miguel and Terceira, 1 x 3 hour whale and dolphin watching trip, flights via Lisbon and airport taxes, pre-departure information booklet.

Excluding: meals (except breakfast and two evening meals), excursions and travel insurance. Tours run throughout the year.

For full dates and prices, see our website or call our team.

For further information, please contact us:

azoresstates@gmail.com www.azoresstates.co.nr

AZORES EXPERIENCE°

'Hidden World' Atlantic Diving



The Azores Archipelago is a special location for the dive enthusiast. The warm Gulf Stream and its deep inshore waters have helped create a rich, spectacular marine life and provide superb locations for exploring the deep.

We're proud to be able to offer you individual dives to full diving holidays around three of the Azores' most spectacular islands – São Miguel, Faial and Santa Maria.

The exotic species found here include tuna, billfish, the charismatic dusky grouper fish, tope, hammerhead, mako, manta ray and everyone's favourite – the loggerhead turtle. As well as an abundance of colourful smaller fish and crustaceans, you might even come across the playful dolphins offshore.

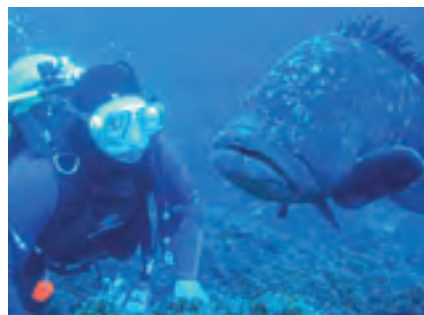
The three islands offer unique diving experiences for the qualified diver, and dive sites are varied from offshore reefs and magical volcanic caves to drop-offs, impressive arches and flat seabed. Most dives rarely go deeper than 15m and average sea temperatures are 17-22°C. Visibility is very good at 20-25m.

"Great place. Lots to explore and a lot more diving to do."

Mr H, Birmingham

Faial Atlantic Diving

Faial has some of the best dive sites in the Azores ranging from the wonderful Faial/Pico channel with the most diverse habitat in the Azores; a 5 nautical mile wide shelf ranging from 45m to 500m in depth. There are also several caves to explore for the more experienced divers including Gruta Profunda with an entrance at 35m and an internal exit to the surface. There is also the opportunity to dive round old volcanic craters and vertical drop offs. Most dives are close to Horta so this makes an ideal base for any diving holiday on Faial.



For further information , please contact us:

0044 7964006501 UK- 00351 918961188 PT azoresstates@gmail.com www.azoresstates.co.nr

AZORES EXPERIENCE°

'Hidden World' Atlantic Diving

São Miguel Volcanic Diving

The largest island of the archipelago, São Miguel offers some unique dives such as the beautiful islet of Vila Franca do Campo; an ancient volcanic crater just 2 miles offshore. There is a lagoon inside which you can enter as part of the crater wall has collapsed due to marine erosion and tectonic movement. The dive is 20m deep with caves and the crater is also a breeding area for the Cory Shearwater. Other sites include the spectacular vertical rock islets off Mosteiros on the west coast and some easy dives accessible by land from the pretty port of Caloura on the south coast.

Santa Maria Oceanic Diving

Here you'll find around 70 recognised dive locations including 15 caves and 12 offshore sites. One of the main highlights is diving with impressive Manta Rays, the largest of all rays. 24 miles offshore lies the Formigas Rocks, a North Atlantic hotspot, and a further 3 miles you'll find Dollabarat, a seamount whose depth rises from several hundred metres up to just 4 metres! Visibility off Santa Maria ranges from 20-40m average to 60m in very good conditions.

Pico Undiscovered Diving

With over 30 sites, Pico is one of the premier diving islands in the Azores. Dives are a mix of shore and boat dives and include the famous Princess Alice Bank (a submerged seamount 50 nautical miles south west of Pico), a lighthouse and reef dive near Lajes, a dive through an impressive arch to a reef on the south east coast and a shore dive which takes you to a 50m drop off and a cavern full of wreck fish. The dive centre we use is a highly professional BSAC Premier School so courses are also available.

DIVING BEGINNERS

Less diving experience? Then São Miguel, Faial and Pico are the islands for you! We can arrange lessons or simpler, guided dives at the highly rated PADI dive schools based in Ponta Delgada and Caloura on São Miguel, in the cosmopolitan town of Horta on Faial and at the BSAC school in Madalena on Pico.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

All diving activities

PRICES FROM

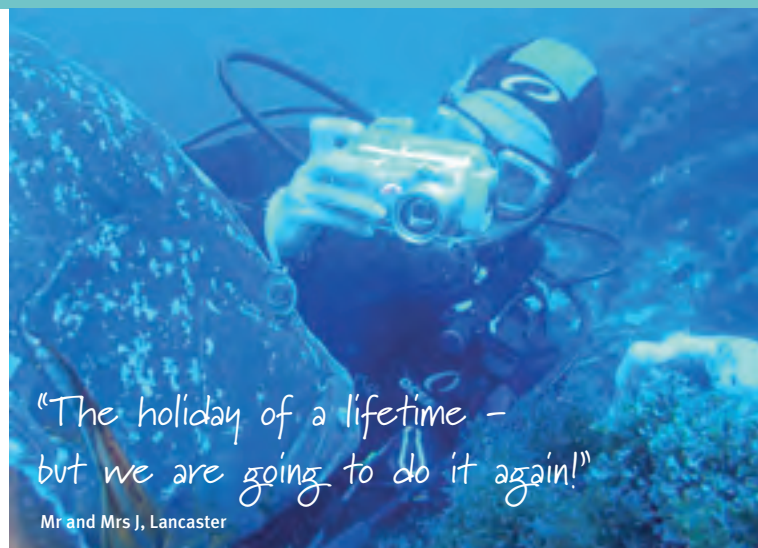
£38 pp/per dive

Diving trips include transport, guide, weights and tanks. Buoyancy aids, wetsuits and regulators are available locally for an additional charge.

Discounts for 5+ dives. Multiple dives and group discounts also available. Novice trial dives and PADI courses also available. Tours run April to October.

Please note:

For cave exploration, 50 dives experience or an advanced qualification is required.



ATLANTIC INHABITANTS

There is a huge, colourful variety of species around the Azorean shores. Below is a list of some of the most frequently seen...

Coastal

Grouper, amberjacks, barracudas, sardines, morays, octopus, stingrays, snails, black and soft corals

Caves

Shrimp, crayfish, octopus, snails, sponges, mullet, yellow jacks, morays and stingrays

Offshore

Large schools of amberjacks, shark, tuna, dolphins, eagle rays, manta rays, pelagic stingrays and turtles.



The Manta Rays: Birds of the deep sea

One of the most beautiful and graceful inhabitants of the sea, Manta rays can grow up to 9m in width and a maximum recorded weight of 1350kg. The average lifespan is a remarkable 20 years. Mantas are dark brown, greyish blue or black on top with pale edges and white underneath and are filter feeders, mostly on plankton but occasionally on small fish using their 18 rows of teeth. In plankton rich areas, mantas can often be seen in groups of up to 50 individuals – a truly wonderful sight! Females give birth to one pup per breeding season which can weigh up to 10kg. Mantas have only one predator, large sharks, and are not generally bothered by the presence of divers.



For a great manta ray video taken during one of our client's dives, go to: www.archipelagocapeverde.com/whats-new/



VIDEO

AZORES EXPERIENCE°

Family Adventures



The magic of the Azores guarantees a great time for all the family – sun, sea, sand and a unique natural beauty to inspire even the youngest minds.

The Azores make a perfect holiday destination for families. Stunning scenery, fascinating sealife and a wealth of activities that can all be pre-arranged by us to make sure you and your family enjoy a fantastic Azores Experience.

Children in the Azores are very much the centre of attention, and are generally made a fuss of wherever they go – even visitor's children. The warm welcome you'll receive will make you and your family feel right at home. And with so much to see and do, the hardest part will be deciding when to leave!

SWIMMING

Being in the mid-Atlantic and due to the volcanic origins of the islands, you can choose to swim in a warm pool at the bottom of a waterfall surrounded by tree ferns, in a geothermal outdoor swimming pool set in stunning botanical gardens or in the sea where submarine vents keep the water warm. Cooler, natural lava rock pools scatter the coast, and often have changing rooms and toilets close by. There are also sandy beaches on São Miguel, Santa Maria and Faial – each providing a great day out.

RELAX!

Safe, worry-free family holidays...

No vaccinations needed

The Azores is ideal for families as no vaccinations are needed, which means you can just pack up the kids and run to these unspoilt islands at the last minute!

Drinkable tap water

General hygiene is a major focus for the Azores, and being able to drink tap water makes for a less stressful holiday for those with children.

"A truly wonderful holiday – amazing scenery, amazing wildlife, charming and helpful people."

Matthias family, Cardiff

For further information , please contact us:

0044 7964006501 UK- 00351 918961188 PT azoresstates@gmail.com

AZORES EXPERIENCE°

Family Adventures



WHALE AND DOLPHIN WATCHING

Seeing the whales and dolphins in their natural environment is a unique experience for children and adults alike. Trips can be arranged from São Miguel, Faial and Pico. See page 6 for more information on Whale & Dolphin Watching and call us with your requirements – we'll tailor the experience to fit seamlessly into your holiday.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Why not try one of the many other activities available on the islands including guided and independent walks, 4x4 jeep tours round volcanic craters, mountain bike rides round pretty lake shores and through mountain ranges, swimming with playful dolphins and horse riding in Furnas' volcanic basin. Kayaking, orienteering and archery are also available.



"Wonderful holiday – suited adults and two teenagers very well. Relaxing but plenty to do and not too hot. Archipelago Azores arrangements went like clockwork."

Grant family, East Sussex

FAMILY ADVENTURE

Option 1

Activity holiday,
family of 4, 7 nights

PRICES FROM
£3,662
per family

This one week trip visits the main island of São Miguel and you will be based for 7 nights in a villa for four at Furnas Lake Villas (p39). Car hire is included so you can explore this spectacular island on your own and we have also included 3 activities per person. All you need to do is choose 3 from the list below:

- Guided walk (full day)
- 4x4 jeep tour (full day)
- Mountain bike tour (full day)
- 3 hour dolphin and whale watching trip
- Half day horse riding trip
- 3 hour swimming with dolphins trip

Any additional activities can of course be included for a supplement.

Tours run throughout the year.

For full dates and prices, see our website or call our team.

FAMILY ADVENTURE

Option 2

Activity holiday,
family of 4, 14 nights

PRICES FROM
£4,488
per family

This two week holiday offers you and your family the opportunity to stay on 2 islands, one week on São Miguel and one week on Faial flying between the islands. Your accommodation will be in a 2 bedroom bungalow at the pretty Quinta Altamira (see page 37) and in the spacious House of Varadouro (see page 48). Car hire is included throughout and we have included a half day whale watching trip with lunch and a half day swimming and snorkelling trip on São Miguel and a 3 hour whale watching trip on Faial.

Any additional activities can of course be included for a supplement.

Tours run throughout the year.

For full dates and prices, see our website or call our team.

Don't forget, if you would like us to put together a different holiday for your family, just give us a call.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Accommodation on a self catering sharing basis (2 adults and 2 children under 17), 7/14 days Model D car hire, activities as mentioned above, fully comprehensive pre-departure information booklet, flights direct and airport taxes.

Excluding: Meals, excursions on free days and travel insurance.

For further information , please contact us:

azoresstates@gmail.com www.azoresstates.co.nr

AZORES EXPERIENCE°

Special Interest Groups & Educational Experiences



Checklist for organisers

- Suitability of destination
- Ability of group
- Interests of group
- Type/style of accommodation
- Budget
- Objectives
- Educational content
- Risk Assessments
- Qualifications
- Insurance
- Leadership
- Group Dynamics

Archipelago Azores is the UK's leading Azores travel specialist and has been organising and taking people to these wonderfully diverse islands for over 10 years. All our staff travel regularly to the Azores and have a breadth of knowledge that is hard to match.

WHY CHOOSE THE AZORES?

In one word; 'diversity' would sum up the experience these islands have to offer potential group organisers. The islands are very safe, with little crime, the climate is temperate throughout the year, they are easily accessible from the UK and the islands offer an exciting array of activities and experiences for all ages.



EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Over the last 10 years we have organised a wide range of different group experiences to the Azores:

Biology & Geography Field Trip This group of students visited São Miguel to observe whales and dolphins, visit the broad leaf forests and study the volcanic scenery.

Yoga & Meditation Group This group stayed in a converted convent along with their expert leaders and had meditation and yoga classes in the mornings and swimming with dolphins trips in the afternoons.

Mystery Group This social club wanted an exciting and varied itinerary where only the organiser knew the holiday destination! On this trip, the group of 20 went on jeep tours through the volcanic scenery, had an Azorean cheese and wine tasting, swam in a collapsed crater and had a gala dinner in an exclusive private manor house.

Walking Groups We regularly organise guided and unguided walking holidays for walking groups from around the world and can tailor itineraries to suit the fitness and interests of members.

Birdwatching For the past 3 years we have organised group bird watching holidays to Corvo, Terceira and São Miguel working with expert ornithologists.

Diving Group diving trips to the Azores are very popular with unique experiences for divers on São Miguel, Santa Maria and Faial. Travelling as a group also means that there are some excellent discounts.

We're here to help

Organising a group trip can be a daunting experience and it is important from the outset the destination you choose is suitable for your group and their interests. If you have any doubts or questions please call us anytime and we'll be happy to chat through your ideas.

For further information , please contact us:

azoresstates@gmail.com www.azoresstates.co.nr-

AZORES EXPERIENCE°

Sailing Charters



Join the ranks of the transatlantic yachtsmen with an exhilarating trip out on a fully crewed yacht.

Experience the exciting world of sailing and see the islands from a different perspective aboard our yachts based in the lovely marinas of Vila Franca on São Miguel island, Horta on Faial island and Lajes on Pico island.

On São Miguel we currently have a Jeanneau 53 and a Lagoon 400 catamaran. On Faial and Pico we have several yachts available. For all trips an experienced skipper will be on board so you can either sit back and enjoy the sailing or help out if you are keen to learn or are experienced yourself.

Our yachts can be chartered to visit any of the islands (weather depending), however, we've listed our most popular trips here.

Your yacht JEANNEAU 53

Length	15.73m
Max width	4.77m
Sail surface	132m ²
Cabins	3
Fuel	240L



São Miguel From Vila Franca

Half day (4 hours)
Sailing along the south coast of São Miguel.

PRICES FROM
£55 pp

Full day (8 hours)
Sailing the south coast of São Miguel.

PRICES FROM
£80 pp

2 days
Spend the weekend sailing and visit Santa Maria with a free day to explore this spectacular island.

PRICES FROM
£480 pp

Faial From Horta

Half day (4 hours)
Sailing experience.

PRICES FROM
£55 pp

Full day (8 hours)
Sailing around Faial or Pico.

PRICES FROM
£80 pp

Pico From Lajes

Full day (8 hours)
Sailing around Pico.

PRICES FROM
£80 pp

All half and full day sailing trips are based on a minimum of 6.
The 2 day trip is based on a minimum of 2.

WHAT'S INCLUDED? All sailing trips

Sailing charters include skipper, life jackets, fuel, harbour fees, insurance.
Meals are not generally included but specific arrangements are detailed below:

Vila Franca: Some drinks are included on board. On the full day and 2 day trips meals can be included if requested. On the 2 day trip breakfast is included.

Horta: Drinks can be bought on board but meals are not provided. Guests can buy provisions (or catch fish from the boat) and cook them on board or eat out at a restaurant if appropriate.

Please visit our website or call us for more information on our yachts

azoresstates@gmail.com www.azoresstates.co.nr

AZORES EXPERIENCE°

Other exciting activities

DISCOVER
the Azores' unique
volcanic origin on our
fascinating NEW
Geo Tour



KAYAKING

ISLANDS São Miguel, Flores

PRICES FROM
£28^{pp}

Kayaking in the crater lakes of São Miguel or out to the islet of Monchique off the west coast of Flores is a unique experience not to be missed. Most trips are half day and are suitable for beginners.

Looking for something different?

If you would rather pick and choose your activities, then as well as the ones listed in our itineraries, we offer an almost endless range of other exciting activities with daily departures, and all with expert, friendly guides. A few of our client's favourites are listed on these two pages.



JEEP TOURS

ISLANDS São Miguel, Faial, Flores

PRICES FROM
£59^{pp}

A great way to get off road, all our jeep tours are accompanied by knowledgeable, friendly driver guides and avoid tarmac as much as possible.

On São Miguel, you can drive on the trails around the impressive Sete Cidades crater rim followed by a plunge in a hot ocean pool. Other trips take in the spectacular Fire Lake, Furnas Lake and a really wild drive across the Graminhais plateau in the North East of the island.

On Flores, you go out with a local historian who seems to enjoy gravity defying trails. This is a great way to explore the island as there are very few tarmac roads in the interior. Faial offers a chance to drive up to the rim



of the 300m deep crater in the centre of the island and along the flower filled trails the island is famous for. On São Miguel, a half day jeep tour can be combined with a half day of mountain biking, walking or kayaking to give a really action packed day!

Plan your action packed holiday with us. The choices are endless!

azoresstates@gmail.com www.azoresstates.co.nr

AZORES EXPERIENCE°

Other exciting activities



GUIDED DAY WALKS

ISLANDS São Miguel, São Jorge, Faial

PRICES FROM
£48^{pp}

If you'd rather add in the odd guided walk than go on a full-on guided walking holiday, then there's lots of choice! On São Miguel, you can walk to all the crater lakes but also take in some lovely coastal paths. On São Jorge, walking along the fajãs (coastal plains) is a must and also up to Pico da Esperança (the highest peak) along the spine of the island. On Faial, again you can visit the main crater but also there are guided walks around Capelinhos. Usually, you will not be the only people on these walks although group sizes are kept small.

BIRD WATCHING

ISLANDS São Miguel, Faial

PRICES FROM
£65^{pp}



DISCOVER
Keep your eyes peeled
for many rare endemic
birds on this
fascinating tour

NEW for 2011! The endemic Azores Bullfinch and the range-restricted Atlantic Canary are the star land birds of the Azores. However, there are excellent opportunities to see a range of pelagic birds throughout the summer and American vagrants in October and November. You can choose to go birding for a day, or join one of our week long trips in October.

For more information please refer to the website.

HORSE RIDING

ISLANDS São Miguel, Santa Maria, Pico

PRICES FROM
£43^{pp}

NEW for 2011! The stunning landscapes of the Azores are perfect for a day or two of riding. There are many quiet trails criss-crossing the island which can be enjoyed by beginners through to experienced riders. Rides can vary in length from just a few hours to all day. Alternatively there are a few Quintas (comfortable farmhouses which offer B&B) which specialise in horse riding holidays where you can spend a few days exploring the islands on horseback.



MOUNTAIN BIKING

ISLANDS São Miguel, Faial

PRICES FROM
£55^{pp}

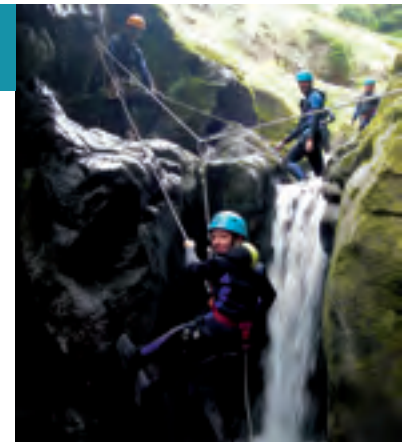
The cinder tracks of São Miguel provide lots of opportunities for mountain biking. There are some lovely guided rides around the Furnas and Sete Cidades crater lakes as well as an expedition across the wild north east of the island. On Faial, the routes are mostly on road with a favourite being the descent from the crater in the middle of the island back down to the port of Horta. The Faial trips tend to be unguided as you are given a map and navigation is very easy.

CANYONING

ISLANDS São Miguel, São Jorge, Flores

PRICES FROM
£64^{pp}

Unknown to most visitors, three of the Azores islands have excellent canyoning. Flores offers the greatest diversity of routes from steep drops to easy routes. São Jorge has harder routes which are more difficult to reach as most of them are only accessible by boat. While São Miguel's routes are mainly in the interior of the island and are less steep. Canyoning is still very new to the Azores but there are now qualified and licensed guides operating on these three islands with 53 bolted routes between them.



GEO TOUR

ISLANDS São Miguel

PRICES FROM
£60^{pp}

NEW for 2011! The 'Geotour' will appeal to everyone interested in all things volcanic. This is a fun and educational day out where you can see, touch and learn about the geology of these dramatic islands and there's even the option of caving at the end.



DISCOVER
Watch the ancient
'furnas' as they bubble
and blast hot steam
into the air

AZORES EXPLORER°

São Miguel

São Miguel is the largest island in the Archipelago and maintains a charm typical of the Azores, where life is polite and unhurried. A wealth of things to see and activities to do, you'll find scenes of untouched beauty as you explore this magical island.



Booking is easy! Use the form provided or contact us direct:

azoresestates@gmail.com www.azoresestates.co.nr

Accommodation prices shown in the brochure are based on low season rates in the most popular rooms we use. Please contact us for a quote for other date periods.

"São Miguel is a truly magical island. Our walks in the mountains, the exhilarating whale watching trip... things we will never forget."

Mr & Mrs B, Barrow-in-Furness



São Miguel is composed of two volcanic ranges with three stunning crater lakes – Sete Cidades, Furnas and Lagoa do Fogo. Sete Cidades, a green, fairy-tale crater with its twin lakes is almost ten miles in circumference while Lagoa do Fogo (Fire Lake) is the most remote of the lakes set within an imposing mountain range.

For a leisurely trip, visit the pretty fishing port of Caloura stopping at one of the coastal restaurants on the way to try the local seafood, or head for the sandy beaches at Populo and Praia, both excellent spots to refresh and relax.

Through the city gates of the bustling capital, Ponta Delgada, lies a traditional centre home to some beautiful examples of Portuguese architecture dating back to the 17th century. A whole day can easily be spent here, visiting the museums and churches and sampling the local delicacies of pineapple, cheeses, wines, fresh fish and liqueurs.

The valley of Furnas in the eastern highlands is a true paradise; with its beautiful flower-lined lake, botanical garden and Caldeiras (hot springs) it is guaranteed to make your stay a truly memorable one.

Look out for...

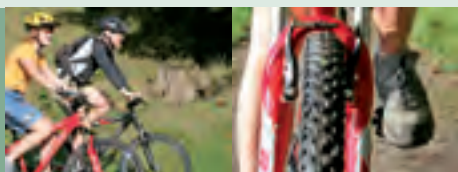
Volcanic activity is still evident by the numerous thermal springs and bubbling mud pools found throughout the island.

Don't miss...

Take a short boat trip out to the islet of Vila Franca and swim in the small lagoon within this collapsed crater.

Island activities

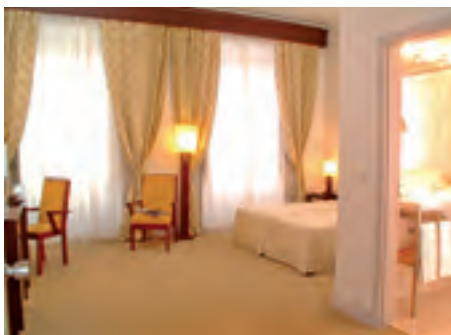
- Driver-guided tours of the island
- Car and cycle hire
- Mountain bike tours
- Kayaking
- Jeep tours
- Bird watching and Botanical tours
- Museums
- Golf
- Diving
- Guided and self guided walking
- Whale and dolphin watching
- Horse riding
- Swimming
- Canyoning



TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT THIS YEAR! Cycle from village to village along the undulating backroads of São Miguel on this unique holiday. See page 10 for full details of our **SCENIC CYCLE** experience...

AZORES EXPLORER°

São Miguel Accommodation



Hotel do Colegio

A friendly traditional hotel right in the historic centre of Ponta Delgada

LOCATION Ponta Delgada **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 10mins **CHARACTER** 4 star traditional hotel
ROOMS 53 ensuite; superior rooms and suites available
COMBINES WELL WITH Hotel Terra Nostra (p29); Pousada Santa Cruz (p44); Quinta das Mercês (p54)

A real favourite among our clients, this friendly hotel is located right in the heart of Ponta Delgada and offers an oasis from the hustle and bustle of the city. Originally a music school, the 19th century building has been tastefully converted incorporating much of the original basalt architecture. The décor is minimalist throughout and the new parts of the building incorporate clever use of glass and clean lines. The outdoor pool is set in the original quadrangle with the breakfast room and excellent restaurant on either side.

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£89

Room per night,
Twin/Double



Facilities

- Outdoor swimming pool • Mini gym • Sauna
- Restaurant • Bar • Small underground car park
- Laundry service • Turkish bath

Accommodation

- 53 ensuite rooms and 2 suites • Minibar
- Telephone • TV • Hairdryer • Air conditioning

"A wonderful hotel with real character."

Mr & Mrs G, Cleveleys

All trips can be tailor-made according to your specific requirements – please call for further information

azoresstates@gmail.com www.azoresstates.co.nr

Hotel Marina Atlantico

Quality modern city hotel full of light with a nautical theme

LOCATION Ponta Delgada **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 10mins

CHARACTER 4 star modern hotel **ROOMS** 184 ensuite; suites available

COMBINES WELL WITH Hotel do Canal (p45)

One of the most striking modern buildings in Ponta Delgada, the Marina Atlantico is right on the sea front overlooking the marina and public outdoor swimming pool. To get to the marina, you cross an elegant white steel suspension bridge with timber flooring and narrow handrails. This nautical theme is continued through the hotel giving the impression of walking on the decks of a ship. There are large glass windows everywhere so the hotel is light and an excellent place to watch the Ponta Delgada world go by!

Facilities

- Restaurant • Bar • Fitness centre with indoor heated swimming pool, jacuzzi, sauna, Turkish bath, massage and beauty salon
- Indoor car park • Laundry • Babysitting on request

Accommodation

184 ensuite rooms all with telephone, cable TV, hairdryer, internet access, minibar, radio, safe deposit box and air conditioning. Most rooms have a sea view but this cannot be guaranteed when booking.

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£98
Room per night,
Twin/Double
(Sea View)



Royal Garden Hotel

Luxurious and modern city hotel with oriental décor and gardens and lots of facilities

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£95
Room per night,
Twin/Double

LOCATION Ponta Delgada **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 10mins **CHARACTER** 4 star modern hotel **ROOMS** 193 ensuite; executive rooms and suites available **COMBINES WELL WITH** Hotel Fayal (p45); Hotel Terceira Mar (p56)

This modern hotel has some of the best facilities in Ponta Delgada and is located just 10 minutes walk from the cathedral and the heart of the old city. The hotel is set around a peaceful Japanese garden with water features and rock flowerbeds and offers a luxurious retreat from your city explorations. The oriental theme is carried through into the communal areas of the hotel and there are generous lounge areas with wide screen TV for guests' use.

Facilities

- Restaurant • Bar • Coffee shop • Tennis court • Outdoor swimming pool
- Fitness centre with indoor swimming pool, gym, jacuzzi, sauna, Turkish bath and massage facilities
- Japanese style garden with ponds • Indoor parking for 120 cars

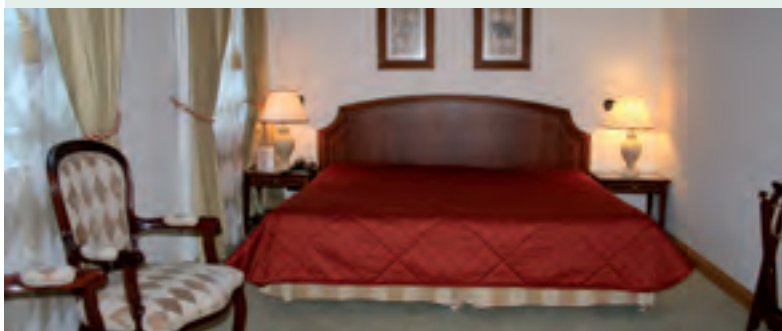
Accommodation

There are 193 en-suite rooms, including 6 junior suite and 6 suites. All rooms have telephone, cable TV, hairdryer, internet access, mini bar, air conditioning and bath/shower. Most rooms have a covered balcony and some rooms at the front have sea views.

"So much to see and do — with lots of variety — views, flowers, parks, volcanic activity, interesting buildings, rugged coasts, busy marinas/harbours — never a dull moment." Mr & Mrs P, Mickleover

AZORES EXPLORER°

São Miguel Accommodation



Hotel Talisman

Quirky art deco style hotel

BED + BREAKFAST
FROM
£88
Room per night, Twin/Double

LOCATION Ponta Delgada **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 10mins
CHARACTER 3 star hotel **ROOMS** 60 rooms; suites and family rooms available
COMBINES WELL WITH Hotel Terra Nostra (p29)

This unique hotel is right in the heart of Ponta Delgada's shopping and restaurant area just a couple of minutes walk from the seafront. Refurbished in 2008, the hotel now benefits from a lovely rooftop pool with a decked terrace area overlooking the city and towards the craters of Sete Cidades and the Fire Lake. The reception area is unique with a spiral staircase rising above the crystal chandelier and art deco touches to the décor.

Accommodation

There are 60 rooms including 5 suites, 4 deluxe doubles and 4 family rooms each with air conditioning, satellite TV, video, radio, mini bar and telephone.

Facilities

- Restaurant (which extends onto the street)
- Sports bar (lively at night)
- Rooftop freshwater swimming pool (heated in the winter)
- Sun terrace with panoramic views
- Private car park

Hotel Camões

Friendly family run hotel in the centre of Ponta Delgada

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£77
Room per night, Twin/Double

LOCATION Ponta Delgada **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 10mins **CHARACTER** 4 star traditional hotel
ROOMS 36 ensuite **COMBINES WELL WITH** Hotel Terra Nostra (p29); Quinta do Vale (p47)

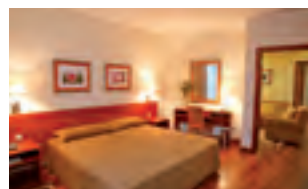
This 19th century historic building in central Ponta Delgada has recently been converted into a small, but comfortable hotel. The rooms are tastefully decorated and have lovely wooden floors. The hotel is a few hundred metres from the marina and makes an ideal base for whale watching.

Facilities

Bar and small restaurant.

Accommodation

36 ensuite rooms all with telephone, TV, internet access and air conditioning. Guests also have use of the bar and small restaurant which serves local cuisine at reasonable prices.



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BED + BREAKFAST

FROM
£98Room per night,
Twin/Double
(Garden View)

Hotel Terra Nostra

Comfortable hotel with unique grounds –
the stunning Terra Nostra botanical gardens!

LOCATION Furnas **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 75mins

CHARACTER 3 star hotel **ROOMS** 79 ensuite and 2 superior rooms;
garden view rooms available **COMBINES WELL WITH** Hotel do Colegio (p26);
Pousada Santa Cruz (p44)

Located in the centre of the town of Furnas is the famous Terra Nostra Garden Hotel. Not only does it benefit from being close to the hot springs and bubbling mud pools of the Furnas valley but it has a rather special feature. The grounds of the hotel are the internationally acclaimed Terra Nostra Botanical Gardens, a well established 85 year old garden with an area of 12.5 hectares. Many of the rooms at the hotel look directly out over the garden with its thousands of species of plant and tree displayed in the lush valley surroundings. All guests have free entry to the botanical gardens (which are open to the public during the day) and the use of the outdoor geothermally heated ferruginous pool.

Facilities

- Outdoor geothermal swimming pool • Indoor heated swimming pool
- Mini gym • Restaurant • Bar

Accommodation

79 ensuite rooms and 2 superior rooms all with telephone, TV, hairdryer.

"Staying in Furnas was a great start to the holiday. Comfortable hotel and a good base to explore the east of the island."

Mr & Mrs C, Northants



"We had the best holiday of our lives, and to top it all, we got engaged on our last day!"

Ms C, London

AZORES EXPLORER°

São Miguel Accommodation



Quinta do Mar

Exclusive boutique hotel in a pretty coastal hamlet

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£86
Room per night,
Twin/Double

LOCATION Nearest town Agua de Pau (2km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 25mins **CHARACTER** Rural manor house with a boutique feel **ROOMS** 4 ensuite **COMBINES WELL WITH** Quinta das Mercês (p54); Pocinho Bay (p68)

Quinta do Mar is one of those rare finds in life; sumptuous surroundings, delightful location and wonderful hosts. This former adega (winery) in the fishing hamlet of Caloura has been tastefully renovated and brought back to life by its current owners; Chris and Nick, resulting in a tasteful mix of modern living space and original features.

The Quinta was first opened in 2005 and offers guests secluded terraces and relaxing communal areas with short walking trails through the gardens to the hillside at the back of the property. The guest lounge has antique Chinese furniture and hand made Persian carpets and there is also a comfortable dining room, where Chris cooks special meals on certain nights in the week should guests choose to eat in. Breakfasts and snacks are served in the stylish garden 'pavilion' with sliding doors and views over the pool, the orange grove and ocean beyond.

Facilities

- Gardens • Private parking • Lounge • Bar
- Heated outdoor eternity pool • Dining room
- Internet access • TV • DVD

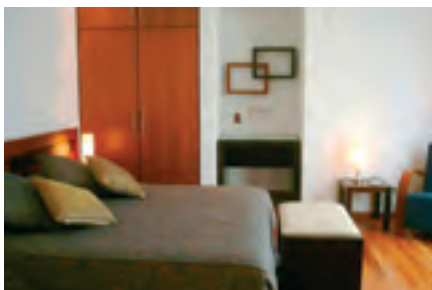
Accommodation

There are four large en-suite guest rooms each with balconies and sea views, air-conditioning, TV, DVD players, direct dial telephones, internet access.

* The minimum age of guests is 14 years.

"Stunning! Nick and Chris really looked after us. The best hotel we have ever stayed in. Low key but high class. Cannot praise it enough. Wonderful food, Beautiful!"

Mr & Mrs D, Bucks



All trips can be tailor made according to your specific requirements – please call for further information

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Solar de Lalem

Historic manor house full of sumptuous antiques

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£78
Room per night, Twin/Double (Main House)

LOCATION Maia **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 35mins **CHARACTER** Manor house
ROOMS 10 ensuite; suite available, 4 rooms in annexe
COMBINES WELL WITH Quinta de São Carlos (p55); Quinta do Vale (p47)

Situated above a quiet village on the North coast of São Miguel, the oldest part of this spacious aristocratic manor house dates back to 1687, with the final reconstruction taking place in 1850. There are antiques throughout the house and a rustic dining room and cosy bar. Outside, you can relax on the large terrace which looks out over the ocean, the private pool and subtropical garden.

Facilities

- Bar • Lounge • Parking
- Garden • Outdoor swimming pool

Accommodation

The house has 10 bedrooms; six in the main house (including one suite) and four in the more modern garden house. All rooms have private bathrooms and are individually decorated for a more homely feel.



*"Friendly, relaxed atmosphere
and charming owners"*

Dr & Mrs M, Cheltenham



Quinta da Abelheira

Magical 'old world' Quinta on the outskirts of Ponta Delgada

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£86
Room per night, Twin/Double

LOCATION Ponta Delgada (6km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 15mins
CHARACTER Rural manor house **ROOMS** 9; 7 ensuite, 2 sharing bathroom
COMBINES WELL WITH Quinta de São Carlos (p55); Quinta Meia Eira (p47)

For a truly 'Azorean' experience you can't go far wrong staying with Maria at this delightful Quinta. Staying here is like visiting old friends, the house is welcoming and comfortable with plenty of old Azorean charm. The bedrooms are bright and airy, the gardens tranquil and the pool makes for a refreshing dip after a day of exploring.

Facilities

- Extensive grounds • Outdoor swimming pool • BBQ in garden
- Living room with honesty bar • Games room • Dinner on request
- Laundry service

Accommodation

There are 4 rooms in the main house all ensuite except for 2 rooms which share a bathroom and can be used as a family room. In the garden, there are 5 additional ensuite rooms which open onto the swimming pool.

"The family can hardly wait for a return visit to the Azores!"

The C family, California

Bed and Breakfast prices are per room per night in a standard twin/double unless otherwise stated

AZORES EXPLORER°

São Miguel Accommodation



Quinta São Caetano

Lovely small manor house, delightful owners!

LOCATION Nearest town Ponta Delgada (6km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 15mins **CHARACTER** Rural manor house **ROOMS** 3 ensuite **COMBINES WELL WITH** Quinta Sao Pedro (p79); House of St Peter (p61)

Luis and Maria, who run (and live in) Quinta São Caetano are typical delightful Azoreans. The Quinta has been in the family since 1875 but has only been opened to visitors since 2005. One of the unique things about this low key and relaxed home is that it must be the only place in the Azores we have seen so far to provide tea and coffee making facilities in the rooms! The Quinta is simply decorated with the bedrooms on the ground floor and a lounge area and breakfast room upstairs with views over the sea. If you enjoy the sea, this is

the place for you, with the sandy beach of Populo just 10 minutes walk away.

Facilities

• Gardens • Private parking • Lounge

Accommodation

There are 3 ensuite rooms (1 double, 2 twins) in the main house; 2 with bath/shower and 1 with just a shower. All rooms have tea and coffee making facilities, TV and telephone.

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£90

Room per night,
Twin/Double



'Fantastic – lovely house, could not have asked for better hosts. Luis and Maria made us feel really welcome and made sure we were WELL fed!'

Mr & Mrs A, Amersham

Residencial Carvalho Araujo

Friendly, family run residencial in the heart of Ponta Delgada

LOCATION Ponta Delgada **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 10mins **CHARACTER** Traditional Residencial **ROOMS** 9 ensuite **COMBINES WELL WITH** Residencial Ilha Graciosa (p65)

This family run residencial is in the centre of Ponta Delgada, 5 minutes walk from the main cathedral square. Only recently opened in 2004, it offers simple and immaculate accommodation in a convenient location.

Accommodation

There are 9 ensuite rooms all with telephone, cable TV and air conditioning.

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£46

Room per night,
Twin/Double



All trips can be tailor-made according to your specific requirements – please call for further information

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Convento São Francisco

Stay amidst the cloisters of this stunning 16th century converted convent

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£98

Room per night,
Twin/Double
(Main House)

LOCATION Vila Franca **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 40mins

CHARACTER Historic converted convent **ROOMS** 10 ensuite

COMBINES WELL WITH Pousada Santa Cruz (p44); Quinta Sao Pedro (p79)

This stunning converted convent offers guests the opportunity to relax in its cloisters and enjoy the religious antiques and modern works of art which make up the sophisticated furnishings. Located on the outskirts of Vila Franca do Campo on the south coast, guests can easily take a boat out whale and dolphin watching from the marina in town or take the short hop over to the Islet of Vila Franca and swim in the pretty lagoon of the collapsed crater.

Facilities

- Outdoor swimming pool
- Garden
- Lounge

Accommodation

There are 10 ensuite rooms each with their own working fireplace and telephone.



Hotel Caloura

A spacious, modern hotel overlooking the ocean.

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£75

Room per night,
Twin/Double

LOCATION Caloura **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 25mins

CHARACTER Comfortable 4 star hotel on the coast **ROOMS** 80 ensuite

COMBINES WELL WITH Hotel Fayal (p45); Hotel Terceira Mar (p56)

This modern coastal hotel near the small fishing and wine growing village of Caloura, often said to be the prettiest village on the south coast of São Miguel, is ideally situated for exploration of São Miguel. Perched on a bay near the small beach of 'Baixa d' Areira' and with direct access to natural swimming pools, all rooms have sea views, private balcony, satellite TV and telephone (with Internet connection). The hotel also has a restaurant, snack bar and a PADI Scuba diving centre.

Facilities

- Gardens • Outdoor swimming pool • Mini gym • Sauna
- Tennis court • Parking

Accommodation

80 en-suite rooms with sea views and balconies including 8 triples rooms and 1 suite all with TV, hairdryer, telephone and safe deposit box.



"Your staff are fantastic and extremely helpful. Oh, and patient! Keep up the good work – I wish all holiday companies were like yours." Mrs H, Wellington

AZORES EXPLORER°

São Miguel Accommodation



Estalagem dos Clerigos

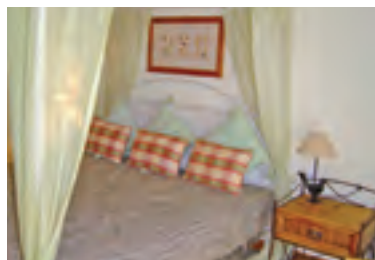
Modern hotel in beautiful rural setting near the real São Miguel mountains

LOCATION Nordeste **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 135mins **CHARACTER** 4 star modern hotel **ROOMS** 21 ensuite; suite and apartments available **COMBINES WELL WITH** Hotel Camões (p28); Hotel São Jorge (p76)

Located in the pretty coastal town of Nordeste, set on a hillside just above the centre, this modern hotel offers a comfortable alternative to the more traditional self catering cottages available in the villages nearby. The décor is warm and friendly combining rustic Mexican furniture with golden and red fabrics. Nordeste is in the North East of the island near to the Tronqueira mountain range which is home to Pico da Vara, the highest mountain on the island.

Facilities

- Restaurant • Bar
- Private parking • Gardens
- Outdoor freshwater swimming pool



BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£74

Room per night,
Twin/Double



Herdade de Nossa Senhora das Graças

Rural seclusion in this wonderful farmhouse

LOCATION Nearest town Furnas (12km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 60mins **CHARACTER** Traditional farmhouse **ROOMS** 4 rooms; 2 ensuite **COMBINES WELL WITH** House of St Peter (P61)

If you are looking for a peaceful and secluded rural location, Senhora das Graças will suit you well. The farmhouse is located 40 km from Ponta Delgada in the North East part of the island, well out in the countryside, and has great views looking down across the fields and towards the sea. It is classified as 'agritourism' as it is a working dairy farm and you can help with feeding the calves and making bread in a traditional Azorean bread oven.

Das Graças is a good base for visits to the volcanic basin of Furnas and the wilder Nordeste region of the island and there are several lovely walks in the area.

Facilities

- Guest lounge • Meals on request
- Garden • Farm animals

Accommodation

The house is beautifully decorated and has a large sitting and dining room and four large bedrooms (two ensuite). Breakfast is included and evening meals and laundry are also possible on request.



BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£74

Room per night,
Twin/Double
(Private WC)



All trips can be tailor-made according to your specific requirements – please call for further information

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Quinta da Santana

Modern chalet apartments
set in orchard grounds

SELF CATERING

PRICES FROM

£76

House per night,
Two Bedroom
Apartment

LOCATION Nearest town Ribeira Grande (5km)

TRANSFER (APPROX) 20mins

CHARACTER 4 star apartments

ROOMS 25 apartments; 1 and 2 bedroom

COMBINES WELL WITH Juniper House (p70);

House of St Peter (p61)

MINIMUM STAY 3 nights

This peaceful complex is set around the original farmhouse where Emanuela (the owner) and her family live. It was her inspiration to convert the extensive gardens into a rural retreat for guests and was one of the first examples of rural tourism on the island. The extensive (2 hectares) gardens include fruit orchards, a large lawn, woods and an outdoor swimming pool (open May-October). Evening meals can be provided on request. Conveniently located, the Quinta is just 15km from Ponta Delgada and 8km from the Batalha golf course. Other facilities include a breakfast room, lounge, honesty bar in reception, games room and small children's play area.

Accommodation

There are 25 apartments made up of 20 one bedroom, 5 two bedroom apartments set in the gardens. Each is equipped with air conditioning, telephone, television, bathroom, living room and kitchenette.

Antillia Apartments

Stylish aparthotel in the centre of Ponta Delgada.

LOCATION Ponta Delgada **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 10mins

CHARACTER Apartment hotel with many facilities **ROOMS** 47 apartments and 7 en-suite rooms **COMBINES WELL WITH** Hotel Fayal (p45)

This spacious apartment hotel with excellent facilities was opened in 2006. The Antillia makes an ideal base for people who are looking to self cater but also like the option of walking to cafés and restaurants in the evening. Nearby is a covered market where you can buy locally grown vegetables, fresh fish and meat.

Facilities

- Restaurant • Bar • Indoor pool • Outdoor pool
- Gym • Turkish bath • Sauna • Solarium
- Car park

Accommodation

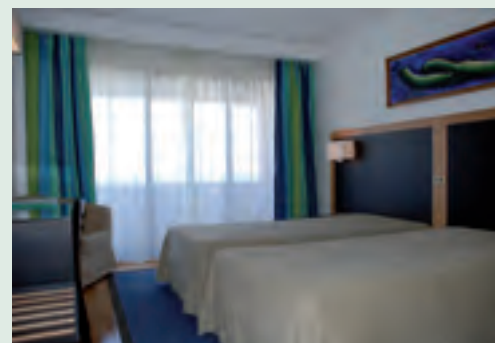
There are 50 apartments and rooms, including 6 studios, 6 twin/double ensuite rooms, 41 one bedroom apartments and 3 two bedroom apartments. All rooms have cable TV, air conditioning and free internet. The studios and apartments have small, but well equipped kitchens.

SELF CATERING

PRICES FROM

£140

Apartment per night,
Two Bedroom
Apartment



"A place for visitors who allow travel to broaden the mind."

Mrs M, Loughborough

AZORES EXPLORER°

São Miguel Accommodation



Casa do Monte

17th century Azorean farm
overlooking the North coast

SELF CATERING
PRICES FROM
£88
House per night,
Two Bedroom House

LOCATION Nearest town Capelas (1km)

TRANSFER (APPROX) 25mins **CHARACTER** Traditional farm

ROOMS 2 cottages; 1 and 2 bedroom **COMBINES WELL WITH**
House of Aunt Garcia (p51) **MINIMUM STAY** 3 nights

Described as an 'upmarket ranch' by one of our guests, this beautiful 17th century traditional farmhouse has been in the same family for over three hundred years. The extensive grounds include a recently built large freshwater swimming pool and 2 traditional self catering cottages. Just 14 km from Ponta Delgada and nestled among its own fields on the North coast of the island, this is a wonderful rural location where you can gaze out to sea uninterrupted.

Accommodation

Casa do Monte offers Bed & Breakfast rooms in the main house but our guests tend to stay in the self catering cottages which look out over the beautiful swimming pool and the sea. One cottage has one bedroom and the other has two bedrooms with a bathroom, living room and kitchenette (2 rings)/diner.



Bibi's windmill

Unique windmill conversion overlooking the sea

SELF CATERING
PRICES FROM
£98
House per night,
Two Bedroom House

LOCATION Nearest town Ponta Delgada (17km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins **CHARACTER** Traditional windmill
ROOMS 2 bedrooms (1 is tiny!) **COMBINES WELL WITH** Palheiro (p83); Refuge of the Convent (p40) **MINIMUM STAY** 3 nights

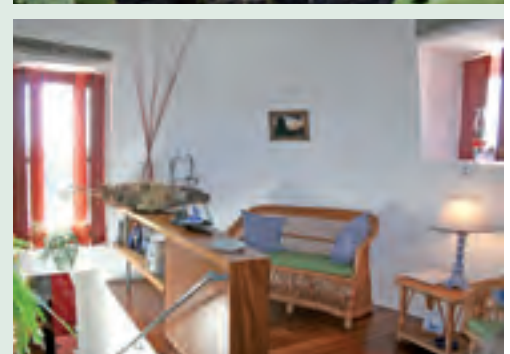
This unique and immaculate windmill conversion is on the south coast of São Miguel, 17km to the west of Ponta Delgada on the outskirts of a small village. There are 4 floors inside the windmill with the bedrooms on the 2 upper floors, the next floor down is a small reception area with radio and CD player and below is a small but well equipped kitchen (oven, microwave, coffee machine, dishwasher), bathroom and living/dining room

which opens out onto a patio. Outside there is a small garden house and plenty of room for parking.

Accommodation

The windmill is ideal for a couple as the main bedroom is a double with the single room upstairs only suitable for a small single bed and reached by a steep ladder. The interior has lots of original features but be prepared for the quirky layout!

"Superb accommodation! Patricia and her family were very hospitable."



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Casa do Termo

Treat yourselves to a stay in the grounds of this grand manor house in one of the two new 2 bedroom cottages

SELF CATERING
PRICES FROM
£98
House per night, Two Bedroom House

LOCATION Nearest town Lagoa (2km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins
CHARACTER Modern cottages **ROOMS** 2 bedrooms **COMBINES WELL WITH** House of Correia (p78); Pico Houses (p72) **MINIMUM STAY** 5 nights

These two beautiful cottages have recently been built (2006) in the grounds of a 200 year old manor house, located in the outskirts of Lagoa, the ceramics town on the south coast. The cottages are surrounded by pastures and fruit trees and also a one hectare garden with a lily pond.

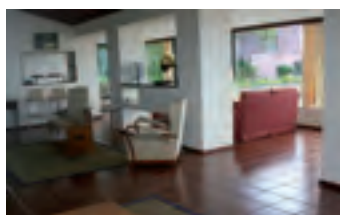
Casa do Tanque

This unusual cottage is light and airy due to the large window which runs the whole length of the living room overlooking the lily pond and towards Casa da Palha. All rooms are on one floor with a modern open plan layout comprising fitted kitchen (washing machine, tumble drier, electric oven, gas hob, and microwave), lounge and diner. There are also two twin bedrooms each with their own bathroom.

Casa da Palha

A modern more conventional looking cottage on two floors, this lovely property is filled with a mix of modern and traditional Azorean furniture. Like Casa do Tanque, the layout downstairs is open plan with the same facilities but with an additional toilet. Upstairs are two twin bedrooms each with their own bathroom.

Both houses have central heating, a fireplace (wood provided) in the lounge, BBQ and garden furniture.



Quinta Altamira

A peaceful bungalow 'resort' on the south coast

SELF CATERING
PRICES FROM
£86
House per night, Two Bedroom House

LOCATION Agua de Pau (3km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 25mins
CHARACTER Modern bungalow apartments **APARTMENTS** 10 bungalows; 1,2 and 3 bedroom available **COMBINES WELL WITH** Casa Vulcão (p49); Cuada (p84) **MINIMUM STAY** 5 nights

Situated in the picturesque fishing village of Caloura on the south coast, Quinta Altamira's bungalows are nestled amidst 16 acres of pretty gardens; part cultivated and part left wild. This is an ideal location for families or for guests looking for a peaceful coastal retreat where you can enjoy the use of a BBQ, tennis court, outdoor swimming pool and a small children's playground.

Accommodation

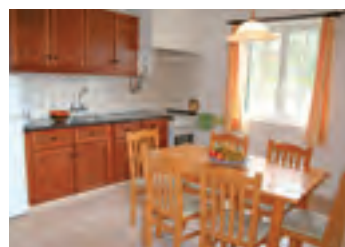
There is a choice of one, two and three bedroom bungalows each with bathroom, combined living and dining room and integrated kitchen. In the three bedroom bungalows, the kitchen is a separate room.

"Extensive grounds to walk and relax in."

Mr and Mrs C, Crowthorne

"Fantastic place for taking young children."

Mr & Mrs J, Sutton Veney



AZORES EXPLORER°

São Miguel Accommodation

Victorian House

Escape the bustle of Ponta Delgada in this 19th century townhouse with orchard gardens

LOCATION Ponta Delgada **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 15mins **CHARACTER** Traditional house
ROOMS 4 x 1bedroom apartments **COMBINES WELL WITH** Palheiro (p83); Quinta Meia Eira (p47) **MINIMUM STAY** 3 nights

A fine example of the Victorian architecture right in the heart of Ponta Delgada, the Victorian House has been in the same family since the beginning of the 1900s and was recently renovated to offer guests a beautiful retreat from the busy city. One of the main attractions of a stay here are the lovely gardens complete with greenhouse, courtyard and a small orchard with tropical fruit trees. Let yourself be enveloped by the tranquillity of the garden, by the sweet aromas of tropical fruits and the elegant ambience of times past.

Accommodation

The Victorian House offers a delightful twin room and suite in the main house (both with private bathrooms on B&B

basis) and also four pretty one bedroom apartments (self catering) set in and around the gardens.

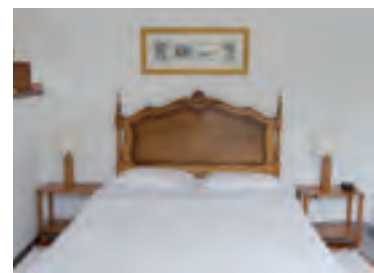
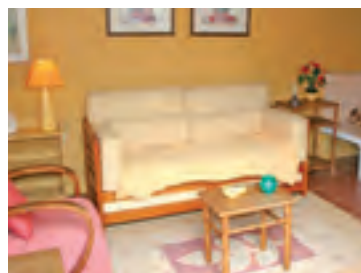
Nêspira apartment has a large double bedroom, bathroom, living room, cable TV and a mini-kitchenette.

Framboesa is a studio with one double bed, kitchenette, cable TV and bathroom.

Goiaba has a large double bedroom, bathroom, living room, cable TV and a kitchenette.

The Garden Cottage has a double bedroom, bathroom, living room, cable TV, kitchen and a small terrace with barbecue.

SELF CATERING
 PRICES FROM
£76
 House per night,
 One Bedroom
 Apartment



Nossa Senhora da Estrela

Modern self catering complex on the south coast

LOCATION Lagoa **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 15mins **CHARACTER** Modern villas/apartments
ROOMS 22 villas; 3 apartments **COMBINES WELL WITH** Praia Marina (p57)

Ideal for families, this friendly complex is located in the heart of the small town of Lagoa with its excellent restaurants, supermarkets, natural swimming pools, banks and sea front just a short walk away. Although in town, the accommodation is set in a pretty walled garden with lawns and banana trees which are well tended.

Accommodation

3 apartments each with one bedroom, bathroom, open plan simple kitchen and living room. 22 villas each with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, open plan kitchen, living room and patio. The kitchens have a microwave and 4 gas rings but no oven.

Facilities

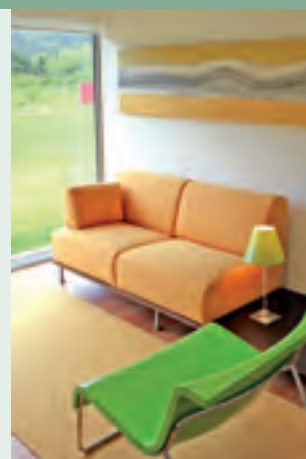
- Private parking
- Snack bar
- Reception
- Internet access
- 2 outdoor swimming pools (children and adult – fresh water, not heated)

SELF CATERING
 PRICES FROM
£82
 House per night,
 Two Bedroom Villa



All trips can be tailor made according to your specific requirements – please call for further information

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"Fantastic location, brilliant accommodation. Owners very very helpful"

The L family, Truro

Furnas Lake Villas

Scandinavian style villas with a modern twist

LOCATION Nearest town Furnas (2km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 75mins **CHARACTER** Modern Scandinavian style apartments **ROOMS** 9 villas; 1 and 2 bedroom **COMBINES WELL WITH** Quinta da Santana (p35); Verde Mar apartments (p48) **MINIMUM STAY** 3 nights

Set in the stunning volcanic Furnas basin just 5 minutes walk from Furnas lake shore, this is the first of its kind in the Azores. Set in the grounds of an old Quinta, there are ten 'villas' raised on stilts with beautiful views of the lushly vegetated crater sides all round. All have been interior designed with ultra modern furnishings giving a real 'concept' apartment feel. This is an ideal base for families or active guests as Manuel, the owner, also runs his

own activity company so you can include hiking, horse riding, jeep tours, mountain biking, canoeing, orienteering, archery, bird watching, whale and dolphin watching and diving in your stay here.

As well as very comfortable accommodation, the villas are set in extensive grounds with an outdoor swimming pool, snack bar (open May-October) and reception with laundry facilities.

Accommodation

There are 9 villas; 8 with 1 bedroom and 1 with 2 bedrooms all with living/dining room, fully equipped modern kitchen and bathroom (some of the one bedroom villas have pull down beds in the living room). All villas have TV, telephone and air conditioning/heating so this is an excellent all year round option.

SELF CATERING

PRICES FROM

£84

House per night,
Two Bedroom House

Domus Adepta

Garden apartments in the volcanic Furnas basin

LOCATION Furnas **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 90mins **CHARACTER** Traditional garden apartments **ROOMS** 2 apartments (1 and 2 bedroom) **COMBINES WELL WITH** House of Correia (p78); Juniper House (p70) **MINIMUM STAY** 3 nights

Located in the centre of the pretty town of Furnas, Domus Adepta is well situated for exploring this famous volcanic area. The owner of this 100 year old house is Isabel, a direct descendent of Thomas Hickling who owned and started the planting at the Terra Nostra botanical garden. Ask to see her Hickling heirlooms! Isabel speaks several languages and has been a tour guide (mainly on São Miguel) for 30 years so she'll be able to tell you all about the peaceful lagoon, bubbling mud pools and hot springs of Furnas, all of which are within walking distance of the house.

Accommodation

The accommodation comprises two self catering (breakfast included) apartments (one and two bedrooms), situated in the private garden of Isabel's house.

Each apartment is equipped for self catering with its own kitchen, sitting room and ensuite bathroom and they both look out onto the garden. There is also a covered garden patio where breakfast is served. Situated near to Domus Adepta are several restaurants, a bank, pharmacy and grocery shops.

SELF CATERING

PRICES FROM

£96

House per night,
Two Bedroom House



"We like the way the holiday was tailored to our needs and the way everything ran so smoothly." Mr & Mrs A, Clayton-le-Moors

Self catering prices are per house/apartment per night

AZORES EXPLORER°

São Miguel Accommodation



SELF CATERING
PRICES FROM
£120
House per night,
One Bedroom House



Quinta da Mó

Modern self catering houses in Furnas

LOCATION Furnas **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 75mins **CHARACTER** Stylish self catering houses

ROOMS 4 houses (3 with one bedroom and one 3 bedroom house)

COMBINES WELL WITH Casa do Ouvidor (p71)

Quinta da Mó belongs to Luisa and Valerio and has been in Luisa's family for generations but had gradually fallen into disrepair. With Luisa's eye for detail this former farm and mill in Furnas has been lovingly renovated and is now one of the most comfortable self catering properties in the Azores. Within the grounds is a large three bedroom house and 3 one bedroom houses which were originally the corn stores and are built on raised blocks. Each one has large windows which overlook the gardens and secluded wooden patios with teak furniture.

The gardens are bordered by a small river which flows down from Lake Furnas and at the far end is a weir with bridge which leads to a secluded covered terrace with comfortable furniture and BBQ.

The 3 bedroom house has 3 en-suite bedrooms, a kitchen/diner on the first floor and large lounge on the ground floor with access to a patio and river.

Accommodation

There are 3 one bedroom houses and one large 3 bedroom house. All have fully equipped modern kitchens, TV and bathrooms. In the three bedroom house all rooms are en-suite.

All trips can be tailor made according to your specific requirements – please call for further information

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Refuge of the Convent

Pretty stone cottages designed by a poet!

LOCATION Nearest town Nordeste (3km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 135mins
CHARACTER Traditional cottages **ROOMS** 3 houses; 1 and 2 bedroom
COMBINES WELL WITH Verde Mar Apartments (p48)
MINIMUM STAY 3 nights

Near to the Monks Houses are a delightful group of three self catering houses called Refuge of the Convent. There are two 2-bedroom houses and one 1-bedroom house in a U-shaped building sharing a small garden to the front. The houses have been prettily decorated by their poet owner and each has their own coordinated colour scheme.

Accommodation

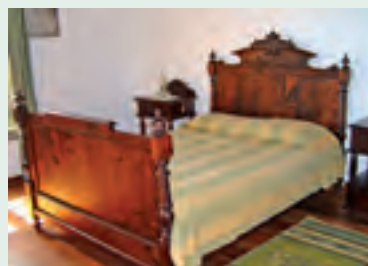
Each house has a double and/or a twin room with open plan kitchen/lounge/diner and shower room. The kitchen has a fridge, microwave, washing machine and cooker and the lounge has a sofa bed and TV.

SELF CATERING
 PRICES FROM
£74
 House per night,
 Two Bedroom House



"Lovely views from the house, nice little garden and a very welcoming owner."

Mr & Mrs P and family, Great Shefford



Monks Houses

Group of traditional stone cottages overlooking the ocean in the North East

LOCATION Nearest town Nordeste (3km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 135mins
CHARACTER Traditional stone cottages **ROOMS** 5 houses; 1 and 2 bedroom
COMBINES WELL WITH House of Aunt Garcia (p51); Casa do Norte (p63)
MINIMUM STAY 3 nights

The Monks Houses are a group of five stone built self catering cottages, located on the edge of a community near Nordeste, in the spectacular North East part of São Miguel. It takes around 2 hours to drive from Ponta Delgada to the cottages and they make a great base for exploring the eastern end of the island.



Accommodation

The five cottages include three one-bedroom cottages and two two-bedroom cottages each with kitchen, living room, bathroom and a BBQ outside. The cottages have their own shared private garden which is very well tended and full of flowers and there is a grocery store and restaurant a few minutes walk away.

"Beautiful accommodation, wonderful garden and view. Very friendly owner."

Mr & Mrs I, Leicester

SELF CATERING
 PRICES FROM
£74
 House per night,
 Two Bedroom House

AZORES EXPLORER°

Faial

Faial is probably the most cosmopolitan of the central islands and also one of the most beautiful, rising gently through pastureland to the main crater which dominates the island.

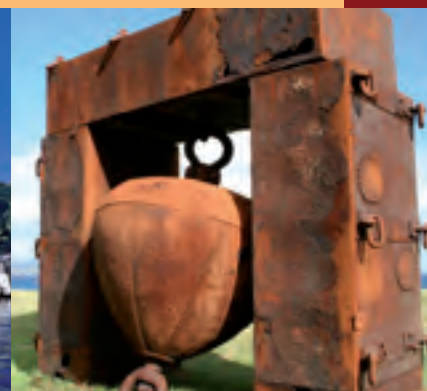


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azoresestates@gmail.com **www.azoresestates.co.nr**

Accommodation prices shown in the brochure are based on low season rates in the most popular rooms we use. Please contact us for a quote for other date periods.

"I'm sure we'll be returning soon, visiting some of the other islands. In the meantime, thanks again for making it all happen. We'll have no hesitation in recommending Archipelago Azores to friends."

Mr & Mrs S, Ormskirk



Crossing the 4 mile channel which separates the islands of Faial and Pico, you arrive in Horta, the island's capital and the liveliest and most eye-catching town of the Azores. It is a haven for yachtsmen and whalewatchers, filled with colourful yachts which stop here during their voyage across the North Atlantic. The bustling international atmosphere is characteristic to Horta, where yachtsmen, visitors and locals swap dreams and adventures over a beer or coffee.

Faial was the last location of major volcanic activity in the Azores, when Capelinhos erupted (1957-58), adding 1km² of land to the island. Today, you can visit the site and marvel at the power of the eruption which engulfed a whole village in 5m of volcanic ash. This area, resembling the surface of the moon, is in stark contrast to the hydrangea-lined lanes of the rest of the island.

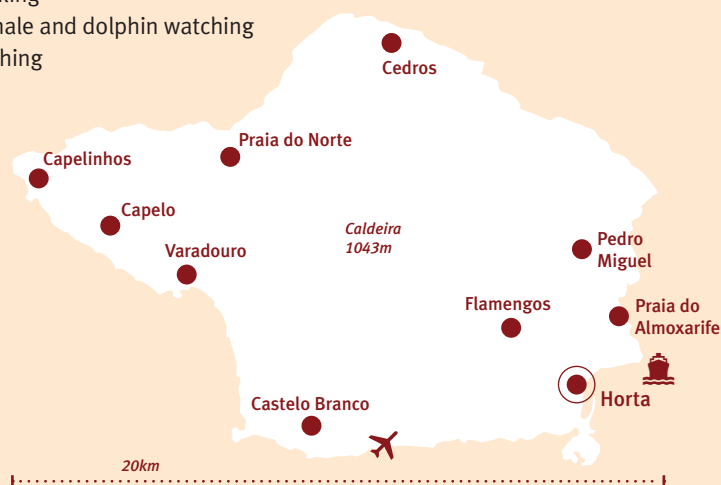
A visit to the crater of Monte da Guia above Horta and a climb to the Whaler's Chapel offer a spectacular view of Faial and Pico. Descending from here to the bay of Porto Pim, a sandy beach and safe blue sea awaits you.

Island activities

- Driver-guided tours
- Jeep tours
- Car and cycle hire
- Museums
- Diving
- Guided and self guided walking
- Sailing
- Whale and dolphin watching
- Fishing

Don't miss...

From the marina of Horta, take in the view of the impressive peak of Pico opposite, silhouetted against the skyline. See it at sunset for a truly magical experience!



Join the ranks of transatlantic yachtsmen by **CHARTERING THIS MAGNIFICENT 16M CATAMARAN** and her charming crew (and dogs!). Go out for a romantic sunset cruise or up to 3 days if you are really keen! **Call us for more details...**

AZORES EXPLORER°

Faial Accommodation



Pousada Santa Cruz

Enjoy marina views from your 16th century fortress hotel

LOCATION Horta **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins **CHARACTER** 4 star hotel **ROOMS** 27 ensuite; sea views and suites available
COMBINES WELL WITH Pocinho Bay (p68); Quinta das Mercês (p54); Hotel do Colegio (p26)

Extensively renovated in 2004 to a very high standard, the Pousada is built inside the thick walls of a 16th century fortress. The hotel has one of the best positions in the Azores overlooking the famous marina of Horta and the impressive volcano of Mt Pico. Just a minute's walk from the yachting legend Peter's café sport and the ferry terminal, there isn't a better location in town.

Facilities

• Restaurant • Bar/lounge • Outdoor swimming pool

Accommodation

There are 27 guestrooms each with private bathroom, air conditioning, minibar, hairdryer, TV and telephone. Most rooms have balconies and other facilities include an excellent restaurant, bar, outdoor swimming pool, chapel and lift.

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£117

Room per night,
Twin/Double
(Sea View)

*"Absolutely first class! We were very impressed,
and the food was the best we'd had."*

Mr & Mrs W, Stoke on Trent

All trips can be tailor-made according to your specific requirements – please call for further information

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Hotel Fayal

Quality hotel amidst the hustle and bustle of vibrant Horta

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£95

Room per night,
Twin/Double

LOCATION Horta **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins

CHARACTER Modern 4 star hotel **ROOMS** 133 ensuite; 4 junior suites and 2 executive suites **COMBINES WELL WITH** Hotel Terra Nostra (p29); Hotel São Jorge (p76); Royal Garden Hotel (p27)

Set in beautiful grounds, the Hotel Fayal was originally the base of the Western Union undersea cable communications company and was converted in the 1970's to provide guests with a good quality base during their stay in Horta. Although it is elevated from the centre of town, it is only a 5 minute walk to the marina and ferry port. Rooms are in the main hotel building and also in small villas dotted around the pretty lawn grounds and some rooms have a sea view (though a supplement applies).

Facilities

- Outdoor swimming pool • Indoor pool • Tennis court • Games room
- Restaurant and Bar • Disco • Shop • Snack bar • Beauty salon

Accommodation

There are 133 ensuite rooms, all with air conditioning, TV, hairdryer and safe deposit box. The panoramic restaurant overlooks Pico and serves local specialties and offers a good value buffet dinner during the summer.



Hotel do Canal

Quality hotel in the centre of Horta

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£90

Room per night,
Twin/Double

LOCATION Horta **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins **CHARACTER** Modern 4 star hotel **ROOMS** 103 ensuite; senior and junior suites available **COMBINES WELL WITH** Royal Garden Hotel (p27); Angra Garden Hotel (p56)

Ideally situated opposite the marina with fantastic views of the marina and Pico beyond, Hotel do Canal is a comfortable and tasteful place to stay. The hotel is in keeping with the marine feel of Horta with a decked balcony and nautical photographs in the lounge area. This is a great base for exploring Horta and is only a minute's walk to Peter's café.

Facilities

- Fitness centre and gym • Jacuzzi • Turkish bath • Sauna
- Hairdresser and beautician • Restaurant and bar • Private parking

Accommodation

There are 103 ensuite rooms around a central courtyard, all with air conditioning, TV, mini bar and telephone.



"Will be in touch to organise our next adventure in the Azores, we have been well and truly bitten by the Azorean bug." Mr & Mrs J, Lancaster

AZORES EXPLORER°

Faial Accommodation



Estrela do Atlantico

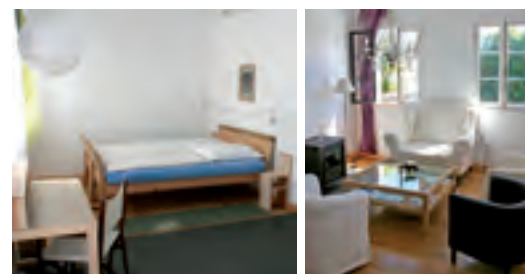
A comfortable guesthouse with a Moorish feel in Horta

LOCATION Horta **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins **CHARACTER** Small, family run guesthouse
ROOMS 3 double rooms and 2 suites **COMBINES WELL WITH** Argonauta (p82)

Located 15-20 minutes walk from the marina, this recently built guesthouse offers a comfortable retreat from the hustle and bustle of Horta. Estrela do Atlantico, which translates as 'Star of the Atlantic' is situated on the slopes of a residential area in Horta and combines a tasteful mix of Azorean architecture and a bohemian interior. Your hosts, Ruth and Chay, are very welcoming and have created a pleasant alternative to the larger hotels in town and since opening in June 2006, Estrela has become a popular choice with our guests.

Facilities

• Outdoor pool • Gardens • Parking



Accommodation

5 en-suite rooms, 2 of which are suites (both with kitchenette and one with balcony), TV, Telephone and Internet.

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£70
Room per night, Twin/Double

Vila Belgica

Hillside location with spectacular views

LOCATION Nearest town Horta (2km)
TRANSFER (APPROX) 25mins
CHARACTER Converted farmhouse **ROOMS** 6 doubles; standard and large rooms available
COMBINES WELL WITH Argonauta (p82); Domus Adepta (p39)
MINIMUM STAY 3 nights

Run by a Belgian couple, Yvette and Jean-Pierre, this friendly guest house was converted from the original farmhouse. The Breakfast room is on the first floor terrace from where you have impressive views of Pico and São Jorge and the beach of Praia do Almoxarife, while enjoying Yvette's delicious breakfasts. There is an honesty bar available and guests can also make themselves drinks.



The garden is well maintained with an abundance of flowers and there is wooden garden furniture positioned by the banana trees for guests to relax on.

Accommodation

There are 3 double ensuite rooms on the ground floor and 3 double rooms on the first floor which share a bathroom.



"The view from Vila Belgica was wonderful – we took pictures every day!"

Mr & Mrs W, Gosforth



All trips can be tailor-made according to your specific requirements – please call for further information

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Quinta Meia Eira

Delightful farmhouse conversion on the south coast

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£62
Room per night, Twin/Double

LOCATION Nearest town Horta (10km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 5mins
CHARACTER Traditional house **ROOMS** 5 rooms, 3 ensuite – 2 apartments
COMBINES WELL WITH Aldeia da Fonte (p69)

This delightful conversion comprises two 19th century farmhouses which have been completely renovated to offer guests modern and fresh B&B accommodation in a rural environment. The Quinta is located 10 km from Horta near to the airport and has wonderful views over the ocean and to Pico. Outside, the grounds extend for 5 hectares right down to the sea and you can walk through the Quinta's fields to the man-made swimming pools on the coast. There is a lovely freshwater swimming pool (8m x 4m, 1.6m deep) set inside a glass house with lots of doors so it is indoor but very light and airy.

Facilities

- Indoor swimming pool • Lounge • Breakfast room • Gardens
- Reading room • Terrace

Accommodation

The main house has two twin rooms with a shared bathroom (ideal for a family or friends) and also a lounge with sea views. The second house has a breakfast room, three twin rooms and two one-bedroom apartments (bedroom, living room, kitchenette) all with air conditioning and cable TV. One apartment has a small sofa bed in the lounge and the other has a double sofa bed.



Quinta do Vale

An elegant manor house located in the picturesque village of Flamengos

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£94
Room per night, Junior suite

LOCATION Nearest town Horta (4km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins **CHARACTER**
 Converted Quinta **ROOMS** 8 ensuite; senior and junior rooms available
COMBINES WELL WITH Quinta do Mar (p30)

This delightful Quinta has been tastefully restored to a high standard, combining contemporary and traditional furnishings and decorated throughout with beautiful dark wood flooring covered with intricate woven rugs. This is one of the few places on the islands where sustainable energy has been incorporated into the design and 70% of the Quinta's hot water is heated by solar panels and water is sourced from a private tank on the hills above.

Facilities

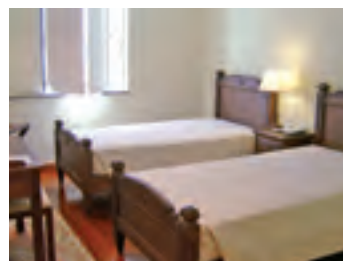
- Outdoor swimming pool • Games room • Breakfast room • Car parking
- Turkish bath • Sauna • Gym

Accommodation

There are 8 ensuite rooms, 2 of which are double and 6 twin rooms. All rooms have air conditioning cable TV and internet connection. There is also a large reception and lounge area with comfy sofas and TV and a breakfast room which overlooks the well maintained gardens and pretty saltwater swimming pool and sun terrace. Home-made products are served for breakfast. Snack lunches and dinner can be provided on request.

"Marvellous... helpful staff, good pool and very quiet."

Dr & Mrs C, Derbyshire



AZORES EXPLORER°

Faial Accommodation



Fantastic view of Pico from the bedroom, very clean and spacious. Excellent central location and wonderful to have such regular housekeeping."

Mr & Mrs P and family, Great Shefford

Verde Mar Apartments

SELF CATERING

PRICES FROM

£110

House per night,
Two Bedroom
Apartment

Modern 1 and 2 bedroom apartments in the centre of Horta

LOCATION Horta **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins **CHARACTER** Modern apartments

ROOMS 1 and 2 bedroom **COMBINES WELL WITH** Quinta da Santana (p35)

MINIMUM STAY 1 night

Close to the centre of Horta, 5 minutes walk from the marina, are the self catering apartments of Verde Mar. The complex has a reception (English spoken), enclosed grounds, gym and parking on site. Most rooms overlook the grounds but some have a view of Pico. The shops, museums, ferry and market place are all within walking distance.

Accommodation

There are three types of apartment; one bedroom apartment, two bedroom apartment and a duplex apartment with one bedroom and an open plan bedroom reached by ladder stairs. All apartments are well decorated and have a bathroom (the two bedroom apartment has two bathrooms), bedrooms and kitchen/living/dining area. They come complete with cooking facilities, TV, linen, towels and daily maid service. Additional utensils are available from reception.

House of Varadouro

Modern home with raised position and glorious sea views

SELF CATERING

PRICES FROM

£88

House per night,
Three Bedroom
House

LOCATION Nearest town Horta (20km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 15mins

CHARACTER Modern house **ROOMS** 3 bedroom

COMBINES WELL WITH House of Correia (p78) **MINIMUM STAY** 4 nights

1km up the road from the pretty spa village of Varadouro is this modern whitewashed house. The house has wonderful views to the ocean from its bougainvillea filled garden.



"Very comfortable with beautiful views."

Mr & Mrs S, London

Accommodation

The house has one double room and one twin room with another twin room on a mezzanine floor. There is also a shower room and large open-plan kitchen/diner/lounge which opens onto a raised terrace area. There is a garage with washing machine and a BBQ in the garden.

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Casa Vulcão

Beautiful traditional accommodation resurrected after the eruption of 1957/8

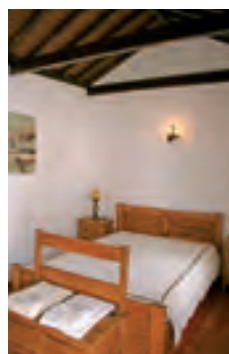
LOCATION Nearest town Horta (20km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 15mins **CHARACTER** Traditional houses
ROOMS 4 rooms (1 ensuite); 5 apartments **COMBINES WELL WITH** Monk's Houses (p41)

This high quality rural accommodation is unique. It is located just 1km from the most important volcanic site on the Azores; the volcano of Capelinhos. Not only that, but the house is the result of extensive renovation of several buildings that were buried by ash during the eruption. The friendly owners live on site with their young daughter and two dogs and a donkey and speak good English.

Within the gated grounds of Casa Vulcão there is a small children's playground area, outdoor swimming pool and lawns with BBQ for guests use. Bicycles are also available if you would like to explore the quiet roads.

Accommodation

This is an imaginative conversion of a farm house and its three outbuildings and was opened in December 2004. The buildings are all of traditional black lava stone brightened with red woodwork for the shutters and doors and inside the floors are all polished wood. The accommodation is fresh and spacious with air conditioning and excellent facilities (especially in the kitchens).



SELF CATERING

PRICES FROM

£82

House per night,
Two Bedroom
House

Main House This houses a 2 bedroom apartment with two twin rooms, kitchen, living room and bathroom.

Atafona Originally the grain store, this building now has 3 twin rooms, two bathrooms, dining room, kitchen and lounge.

Palheiro This was where the straw and farm utensils were kept and now houses two 1 bedroom apartments each with living room, kitchenette, bedroom and bathroom.

Carro de Bois Originally the home of the ox and the ox cart, this now accommodates one double room with private bathroom.

"The scenery is spectacular, every bend or hill reveals another picture postcard view." The K family, Huddersfield

AZORES EXPLORER°

Faial Accommodation



Fonte do Rego

Rural cottages overlooking the pastures of Feteira

SELF CATERING
PRICES FROM
£108
House per night, Two bedroom house

LOCATION Nearest town Horta (8km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 10 mins
CHARACTER Traditional houses **ROOMS** 2 houses; 1 and 2 bedroom **COMBINES WELL WITH** Casa do Termo (P37), Pico Houses (P72)

These two traditional cottages have recently been renovated to a very high standard by Les, an Englishman who first arrived in the Azores in 1987, and his Californian/Azorean wife Isabel. Situated just a short drive from the airport and the main town of Horta, these beautiful stone cottages have solid chestnut kitchen units, elm staircases and careful attention has been given to traditional stonework. They offer peaceful and relaxing accommodation with views over the south coast of Faial towards Pico.

Accommodation

There are two detached houses each with their own private parking, private patio and barbecue area; one two bedroom and the other one bedroom. The 'Upper House' has 2 bedrooms which can either be twins or doubles with one bedroom being a spacious 19m². The master bedroom is downstairs and the smaller bedroom upstairs with the bathroom (bath and shower head), laundry room, kitchen and lounge area.

The 'Studio' has a shower room and bedroom downstairs and a kitchen and lounge upstairs with the lounge opening onto the patio with views of Pico. Both kitchens are well equipped with microwaves, electric ovens and fridge/freezers and each lounge has a TV, DVD player and MP3 stereo.



Casas d'Arramada

Colourful houses which retain many features of the more traditional houses.

SELF CATERING (WITH BREAKFAST)
PRICES FROM
£116
House per night, Two bedroom house

LOCATION Ribeira Funda, near Cedros **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 30 mins **CHARACTER** Modern houses with a traditional feel **ROOMS** 6 houses (1, 2 and 3 bedrooms) **COMBINES WELL WITH** Monk's Houses (p41)

These spacious houses are situated in the small village of Ribeira Funda, on the north coast of Faial. Originally built in the 19th century, each house has been modernised to a high standard yet retain many of the characteristics of traditional houses of Faial. Breakfast is included and each morning a basket of fresh bread, cheese, milk, jam and fruit is placed on the doorstep of your house.

There is a large heated pool with all weather cover and adjoining games rooms. The grounds are well laid out with paths, hedges, flower beds and terraced areas. There is a small bar next to the reception, a café in the village and in the next village of Cedros you will find a shop, bank, café and restaurant.

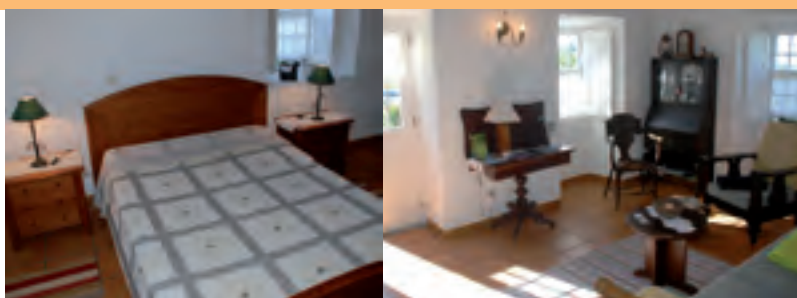
Accommodation

Each house has a well equipped kitchen/diner, lounge, bathroom with shower, heating and TV. There is also a laundry at the reception.



All trips can be tailor made according to your specific requirements – please call for further information

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SELF CATERING

PRICES FROM

£78

House per night,
Two Bedroom
House

House of Aunt Garcia

Charming traditional Azorean cottage

LOCATION Nearest town Horta (19km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 10mins

CHARACTER Traditional house **ROOMS** 2 bedrooms

COMBINES WELL WITH Moega cottage (p73) **MINIMUM STAY** 4 nights

Located near the House of Faia, this whitewashed house with traditional lava stone details makes a lovely base for a family. The owner is delightful and has even taken some of our guests to milk her cows on the crater!

Accommodation

This pretty traditional house has 2 bedrooms, shower room, bathroom, two living rooms and a kitchen. The yard outside includes a covered area with BBQ for entertaining.



House of Faia

Traditional 2 bedroom cottage
in rural setting

SELF CATERING

PRICES FROM

£80

House per night,
Two Bedroom
House

LOCATION Nearest town Horta (19km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 10mins

CHARACTER Traditional house **ROOMS** 2 bedroom

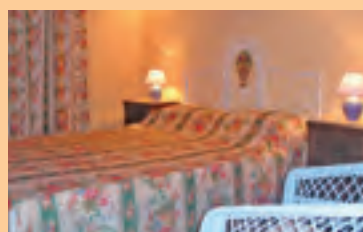
COMBINES WELL WITH House of Correia (p78); Lagar Cottage (p73)

MINIMUM STAY 3 nights

This pretty stone cottage is in the small hamlet of Areiro, on the outskirts of Capelo village on the south coast of Faial. The house is just 10km from the airport and has lovely sea views and there are paths that lead from the house to the secluded bay of Varadouro just 2km away. Here, you can dive, fish and swim in the natural pools or just lay in the sun!

Accommodation

House of Faia has two double bedrooms, a lounge, kitchen/diner and bathroom. A sofa-bed is also available in the lounge. The kitchen is well equipped with everything you need to prepare your own meals and a microwave and washing machine are also provided. Outside, you can relax on the terrace, in the garden or prepare your own barbecue.



AZORES EXPLORER°

Terceira

On Terceira, traditional coastal villages and wild interior moorland are ready to welcome the traveller. Wander through the cobbled streets of the capital, Angra do Heroísmo, and soak up the quiet charm of this UNESCO World Heritage town.



Booking is easy! Use our online booking form or call us direct on...

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Accommodation prices shown in the brochure are based on low season rates in the most popular rooms we use. Please contact us for a quote for other date periods.

"Our experience of the Azores was unique, the scenery uplifting and the pace of life relaxing. It was the perfect place to spend our honeymoon!"

Mr & Mrs F, Dublin



The *Lilac Isle*, so called because of its captivating pastel sunsets, is a vibrant place of people, culture and colour.

Also known as the *Island of Never-Ending Festivals*, the summer months on Terceira bring a permanent festival of colour. The Festas do Espírito Santo (Holy Spirit Celebrations) bring the ceremony of the Crowning of the Emperor to every village on the island, followed by a united celebration where food and locally-produced wine are enjoyed in abundance.

The largest town, Angra do Heroísmo, is a UNESCO world heritage site – a testimony to the royalty and noblemen who have at one time or another contributed to the landscape of the town resulting in its wonderful examples of 17th and 18th century architecture. It's a regional administrative and cultural centre, whereby music, literature, theatre and education influence the style and atmosphere of this fascinating town.

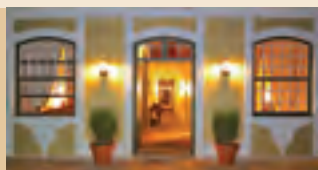
Santa Bárbara is the highest point on Terceira at 1021m. Arrive in the morning – if the sky is clear the view is simply breathtaking.

Don't miss...

The colourful festive passion of 'bull running' in the streets. The bull is not harmed, though the local men often don't get off so lightly! It's an outstanding local event that attracts many people, so be sure to arrive early for a good view.

Island activities

- Driver-guided tours of the island
- Car hire
- Museums
- Golf
- Walking
- Swimming
- Dolphin watching
- Wine tasting
- Festivals

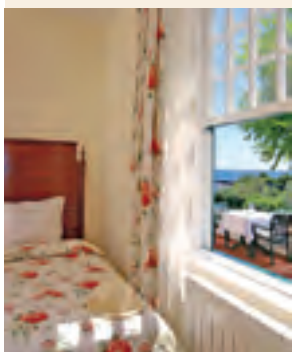


Accommodation fit for a King!

Stay in homes built for royalty and noblemen – see our wonderful collection of Quintas overleaf...

AZORES EXPLORER°

Terceira Accommodation



Quinta das Mercês

Luxurious manor house accommodation with landscaped gardens

LOCATION Nearest town Angra (3km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 30mins **CHARACTER** Manor house
ROOMS 10 ensuite; suite available **COMBINES WELL WITH** Pousada Santa Cruz (p44)

This wonderful house is as close to a stately home as you get in the Azores. Everything about the house is top quality and the owners, Alcino and Maria, who live on site are very hospitable. The house dates back to the 17th century when it was built on the site of the original farm and has been lovingly restored with fresh décor of cream walls, polished wood floors and woodwork, light rugs and heavy luxurious curtains in the rooms.

Outside there is an astro turf tennis court and saltwater eternity pool with a gym underneath. The large gardens (35km²) are full of romantic stone furniture to sit and enjoy the grounds from a hidden vantage point.

If you choose to stay indoors then the views over the sea are beautiful from the lounge and Alcino's library is fascinating, collected from all his travels when he was in the army.

Facilities

- Eternity pool • Turkish bath
- Hot tub • Tennis court • Gym • Games room
- Breakfast room • Lounges • Formal dining room

Accommodation

There are ten ensuite bedrooms with fans (not air conditioning), central heating, marble bathroom, bath robes, cable TV, phone and hairdryer.

"Amazing, wonderful hospitality."

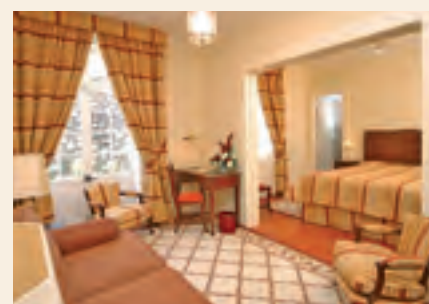
Mr & Mrs D, Bristol

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£86

Room per night,
Twin/Double



All trips can be tailor-made according to your specific requirements – please call for further information

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Quinta do São Carlos

Elegant manor house with welcoming French style furnishings

LOCATION Nearest town Angra (2km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins
CHARACTER Manor house **ROOMS** 6 ensuite; suite available
COMBINES WELL WITH Solar de Lalem (p31); Quinta do Vale (p47)

This elegantly furnished 18th century manor house has been in the same family since 1872 and is located just 5 minutes drive from the centre of Angra. Recently converted, the Quinta is wonderful inside but also offers an idyllic setting with 8000sq m of gardens and a beautiful outdoor swimming pool.

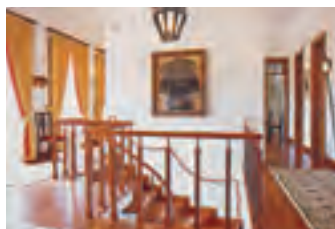
Facilities

- Outdoor swimming pool • Extensive gardens • Lounge

Accommodation

There are six ensuite bedrooms with air conditioning, telephone and cable TV.

"Absolutely loved it! Staff could not be more friendly and helpful." Mr & Mrs B, Horsham



BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£72
Room per night, Twin/Double



Pousada de São Sebastião

Converted 16th century fortress overlooking Angra marina

LOCATION Angra **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins **CHARACTER** 4 star hotel
ROOMS 29 ensuite; suite available **COMBINES WELL WITH** Pousada Santa Cruz (P44); Hotel do Colegio (P26)

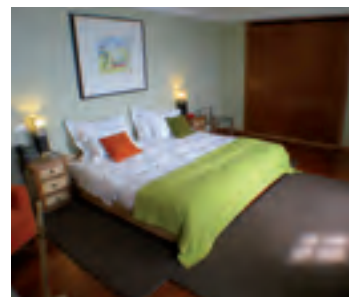
Recently opened in 2006 this Pousada is situated in the historic area of the city of Angra. It has been built within the walls of a 16th century fortress known as the Castelinho de São Sebastião and has kept many of the original castle features. The hotel has a wonderful position on the headland looking out to sea in one direction and over Angra in the other and is within easy walking distance of the town centre.

Facilities

- Restaurant
- Bar
- Fresh water swimming pool
- Paddling pool

Accommodation

There are 29 en-suite rooms all with air conditioning, mini-bar, hairdryer, cable TV (flat screen), telephone and internet access. Rooms are available with either courtyard or sea views.



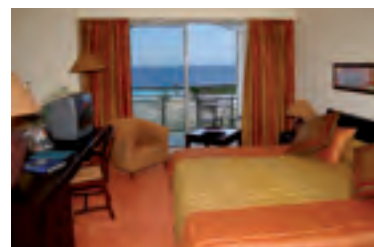
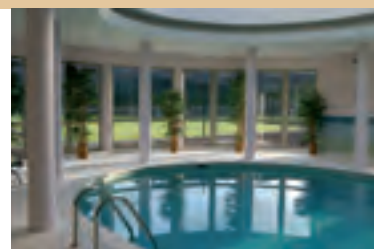
BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£115
Room per night, Twin/Double (Sea View)

"Thanks again for a stress free holiday. Another wonderful experience."

The K family, Huddersfield

AZORES EXPLORER^o

Terceira Accommodation



Hotel Terceira Mar

Magnificently positioned modern hotel on a bay outside Angra

LOCATION Nearest town Angra (1km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 25mins **CHARACTER** 4 star hotel **ROOMS** 139 ensuite; suites available **COMBINES WELL WITH** Hotel Terra Nostra (p29); Quinta do Vale (p47)

Magnificently situated on the bay just outside Angra with views over the sea and the crater of Monte Brasil, this new 4 star hotel has all the facilities you would expect from a modern hotel. Although not in the town of Angra, it is just a 10 minute walk into the centre so makes a good base for exploring if you are looking to be out of the hustle and bustle of the World Heritage town.

Facilities

- Restaurant • Bar • Games room
- Gym • Lounge • Sauna • Turkish bath
- Jacuzzi • Massage • Private car park
- Indoor heated swimming pool
- Outdoor saltwater swimming pool

Accommodation

There are 139 spacious rooms all with air conditioning, telephone, cable TV, radio, internet access, hairdryer, mini bar and private balcony.

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£88
Room per night, Twin/Double (Sea View)



Angra Garden Hotel

Centrally located modern hotel in the charming World Heritage town of Angra

LOCATION Angra **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins **CHARACTER** 3 star hotel **ROOMS** 120 ensuite; junior suites available **COMBINES WELL WITH** Royal Garden Hotel (p27); Hotel do Canal (p45)

Located in the heart of Angra's historical centre, this modern hotel opens out on to the main square of Praça Velha on one side and onto the beautiful public botanical gardens on the restaurant side.

Facilities

- Restaurant • Bar • Lounge • Gym • Sauna
- Turkish bath • Jacuzzi • Indoor swimming pool

Accommodation

There are 120 comfortable ensuite rooms all with air conditioning, hairdryer, telephone, minibar and cable TV.

"Excellent location. An efficient European hotel."

Mr & Mrs C, Birmingham

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£88
Room per night, Twin/Double

All trips can be tailor-made according to your specific requirements – please call for further information

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Hotel Beira Mar

Friendly local hotel overlooking the Bay of Angra

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£66

Room per night,
Twin/Double

LOCATION Angra **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 15mins **CHARACTER** 3 star hotel
ROOMS 30 ensuite **COMBINES WELL WITH** Hotel São Jorge (p76);
Residencial Carvalho Araujo (p32)

Hotel Beira Mar's main attraction is its superb location overlooking the bay of Angra, just a few metres from the sea and the marina. Its excellent restaurant also has one of the best views in town towards the crater and fortress of Monte Brasil. If you are looking to enjoy the beauty of Angra in a small, friendly hotel, this makes a very convenient place for your exploring.

Facilities

- Restaurant • Bar

Accommodation

There are 30 rooms each with private bathroom, TV and telephone.

"Cuisine and setting excellent."

Dr R, Worcester



Hotel Praia Marina

Modern apart hotel on the beach

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£66

Room per night,
Twin/Double

LOCATION Praia da Vitoria **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 5mins **CHARACTER** Modern
apart hotel **ROOMS** 6 twin rooms, 3 suites, 22 apartments
COMBINES WELL WITH Verde Mar (p48)

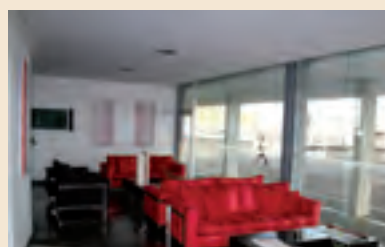
This comfortable high quality apart hotel is located in the lovely traditional town of Praia da Vitoria with its pretty architecture and cobbled streets. The hotel is on one of the Azores few sandy beaches with safe swimming and looks out over the marina. Just a few minutes drive from the airport and the golf course and 20 minutes from Angra, this is an ideal base for relaxing and exploring the island.

Facilities

- Buffet breakfast • Bar • Internet access • Private parking • Reception

Accommodation

There are 6 twin rooms (with land view), 14 To apartments, 8 T1 apartments and 3 suites. The To apartments are all open plan, can sleep 4 people and have a balcony with sea view. The T1 apartments have a private bedroom, can sleep 5 and have a land view balcony. The suites are on the top floor, can sleep 5 and have a large terrace overlooking the sea. The suites and apartments all have air conditioning, small kitchen area, bathroom, cable TV, telephone, radio and broadband internet access.



AZORES EXPLORER°

Santa Maria

Just south east of São Miguel lies some of the Azores' most dramatic beaches and spectacular coastline. With its deep, sandy bays and lush green interior, Santa Maria is a paradise for surfers and walkers alike.



Booking is easy! Use our online booking form or call us direct on...

azoresestates@gmail.com www.azoresestates.co.nr

Accommodation prices shown in the brochure are based on low season rates in the most popular rooms we use. Please contact us for a quote for other date periods.

"We have seen some sights and done some things, but the Azores really knocked us out! As did the standard of service from your team... Archipelago Azores is a company to put your trust in"

Mr & Mrs W, Lancs



As you arrive on Santa Maria, your first sensation will be a feeling of peace and tranquillity. The scenery is breathtaking, and the lush, green mountains in the east, including the imposing peak of Pico Alto at 590m, contrast with the flat plains of the west.

On the west side you'll find the parishes of Vila do Porto, São Pedro and Almagreira, along with the fabulous beach at Praia Formosa and to the east is the shell-shaped bay of São Lourenço (St Lawrence), where pale volcanic sands are lapped by beautifully clear turquoise water and grapevines run down the hillsides almost touching the sea.

On the North coast, you'll find the pretty village of Anjos with its sea pools and chapel which Columbus is reputed to have visited on his return from the Americas.

Island activities

- Car hire
- Diving with manta rays
- Walking
- Swimming
- Surfing
- Horse riding
- Driver guided taxi tours

Look out for...

The white houses with decorative white chimneys reveal the Algarve origin of the first settlers.



Dive with one of the most beautiful and graceful inhabitants of the sea, the impressive manta ray! [See page 16 for details of our 'HIDDEN WORLD' ATLANTIC DIVING holidays and tours...](#)

AZORES EXPLORER°

Santa Maria Accommodation



Hotel Praia de Lobos

Friendly Azorean-style hotel in the centre of town

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£56

Room per night,
Twin/Double

LOCATION Vila do Porto **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 5mins

CHARACTER 3 star residencial hotel **ROOMS** 34 ensuite; suites available

COMBINES WELL WITH Hotel São Jorge (p76)

Located in the capital town of Vila do Porto just 2km from the airport, this eight year old hotel offers a comfortable and friendly base in the heart of this pretty town.

Facilities

• Breakfast room • Bar • Sitting room • Laundry service • Reception

Accommodation

There are 34 ensuite rooms and 2 suites all with air conditioning, cable TV, telephone and internet access.



Hotel Santa Maria

Modern, spacious hotel close to the airport

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£62

Room per night,
Twin/Double

LOCATION Nearest town Vila do Porto (2km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 5mins

CHARACTER 3 star hotel **ROOMS** 50 ensuite; suites available

COMBINES WELL WITH Hotel Clerigos (p34)

MINIMUM STAY 3 nights

Completely renovated in 2004, this modern hotel is located near the airport 2km from Vila do Porto and enjoys a very peaceful setting with good quality facilities.

Facilities

• Restaurant • Lounge with bar • Games room • Internet room
• 2 outdoor tennis courts • Swimming pool (May-Oct)

Accommodation

There are 34 ensuite rooms and 2 suites all with air conditioning, cable TV, telephone and internet access.



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House of St Peter

Traditional manor house with a Noah's Ark of farm animals

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£90
Room per night, Twin/Double

LOCATION Nearest town Vila do Porto (5km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 10mins
CHARACTER Traditional manor house **ROOMS** 4 ensuite, suites available
COMBINES WELL WITH Domus Adepta (p39)

Set in the small inland village of São Pedro, this traditional home was originally built in 1840 and is a lovely base for exploring the whole island and is just 6km from the sandy beach at Praia. Guests have use of the living room on the ground floor with TV, the breakfast room, several games and the large outdoor swimming pool. In the fields around the house there is a horse riding arena, 3 horses, 2 ponies and 3 donkeys; all of which guests can ride. There are also goats, sheep, ducks, potbellied pigs, guinea fowl, swans and pheasants!

The daughter of the owner is a divemaster and has 4 full sets of equipment if you would like to explore the waters around Santa Maria. Also in the family business is the excellent Rosa Alta restaurant 5 minutes walk from the house which previous guests have really enjoyed.

Facilities

- Lounge with TV • Breakfast room • Outdoor swimming pool
- Horse riding

Accommodation

There are 4 ensuite rooms with air conditioning in the manor house.



"An absolutely wonderful place to stay."

Mr & Mrs T, Surrey



Casa do Praia

Modern villa divided into apartments

SELF CATERING
PRICES FROM
£48
House per night, One Bedroom Apartment

LOCATION Nearest town Vila do Porto (10km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 15mins
CHARACTER Modern apartments **ROOMS** 3 apartments; 1 and 2 bedroom
COMBINES WELL WITH Quinta Altamira (p37) **MINIMUM STAY** 7 nights

Just a few yards from the lovely beach at Praia is this modern style villa converted into 3 comfortable apartments. The apartments are on 2 floors and are raised with beautiful views over the ocean. All three apartments are well equipped and have shared use of washing machine and tumble drier.

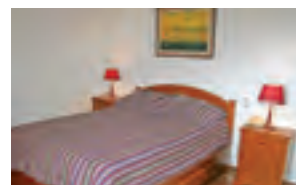
Accommodation

Casa A Situated on the second floor, this apartment has one double room and an open plan room with single bed on a mezzanine floor. There is also a bathroom and kitchen/lounge/diner with small dishwasher and

plenty of cooking utensils and outside there is a private terrace and BBQ.

Casa B On the first floor, this apartment has one double room, a kitchen/lounge/diner and a bathroom. The lounge also has a sofa bed. Outside, there is a private terrace with BBQ and a small swimming pool. Casa B can be rented together with Casa C as there is an interconnecting door between the two (which can be locked).

Casa C On the second floor, this is the smallest apartment with one twin room, a kitchen/lounge/diner and a shower room.



"Could not fault the service you provided, took all the hard work of booking a holiday away."

Mr & Mrs C, Isle of Man



"The tailor-made aspect was wonderful and meant we didn't have to worry about anything but still meant we had lots of freedom."

Mr M and Ms P, Montrose

AZORES EXPLORER°

Santa Maria Accommodation



Casa no Outeiro

Pretty 1 bedroom house
in rural location

SELF CATERING
PRICES FROM
£74
House per night, One Bedroom House

LOCATION Nearest village Santa Barbara (2km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins
CHARACTER Traditional house **ROOMS** 1 bedroom
COMBINES WELL WITH Bibi's Windmill (p36) **MINIMUM STAY** 3 nights

Situated on a small hill at the end of a quiet track, this traditional Santa Maria house has been recently renovated (2007) keeping many of its original features.

Accommodation

The house has one double bedroom with a four poster bed, an open plan living area and fully equipped kitchen with hob and oven, wet room with shower, and a utility room with washing machine, fridge freezer and microwave.

Outside, the garden has lovely views towards the sea and guests have use of the gas BBQ and outdoor furniture. A welcome pack is also provided.



Mar e Sol Apartments

Modern, whitewashed apartments
overlooking sandy beach

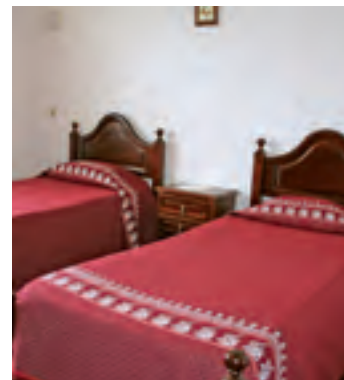
SELF CATERING
PRICES FROM
£57
House per night, Two Bedroom Apartment

LOCATION Nearest town Vila do Porto (10km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 15mins
CHARACTER Modern apartments **ROOMS** 10 apartments; 1 and 2 bedroom
COMBINES WELL WITH Verde Mar Apartments (p48) Nossa Senhora da Estrela (p38) **MINIMUM STAY** 3 nights

Overlooking the famous beach at Praia, these self catering apartments make a practical and independent alternative to the hotel accommodation on the island. Praia is a quiet seaside village 12km from the airport and 10km from the capital, Vila do Porto. Car hire is definitely recommended if staying here as there are no reliable shops in the village.

Accommodation

Apartments are simple but practical and have a TV/living room, kitchen, bathroom and their own private balcony overlooking the beach. Breakfast is not included in the price of the apartments but is usually available at a small additional charge.



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SELF CATERING
PRICES FROM
£72
House per night, Two Bedroom House



Casa Margarida

Traditional Santa Marian house with garden

LOCATION Calheta **NEAREST VILLAGE** Santo Espirito **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins

CHARACTER Traditional house **ROOMS** 2 (sleeps 4/5)

COMBINES WELL WITH House of Faia (p51) **MINIMUM STAY** 3 nights



Located 4km from the village of Santo Espirito, on the south eastern end of Santa Maria, this house offers a quiet and comfortable retreat on the island of Santa Maria. This fully restored house has lovely views over the surrounding valleys and down to the ocean. There is a pleasant garden and the house is tastefully furnished with well equipped kitchen. A short distance from the house, in the village of Maia, are some natural swimming pools which are popular with locals and guests alike. There is a small mini-market in Santo Espirito and a supermarket in the main town of Vila do Porto.

Accommodation

The house has two bedrooms (one double and one room with a bunkbed where the bottom bunk can be used as a double), well equipped kitchen with fridge, dishwasher, washing machine, gas stove and electric oven. There is a lounge diner and garden, with BBQ and outdoor furniture.

Casa do Norte

Country house with typical Santa Maria chimney

SELF CATERING
PRICES FROM
£54
House per night, One Bedroom House

LOCATION Nearest town Vila do Porto (12km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins

CHARACTER Traditional house **ROOMS** Studio; sleeps 2

COMBINES WELL WITH Monks Houses (p41) **MINIMUM STAY** 3 nights

Located 2km from the centre of the village of Santa Bárbara, on the northern slope of Santa Maria island, this pretty house offers beautiful ocean and mountain views and is just 6km from the famous Bay of St Lawrence.

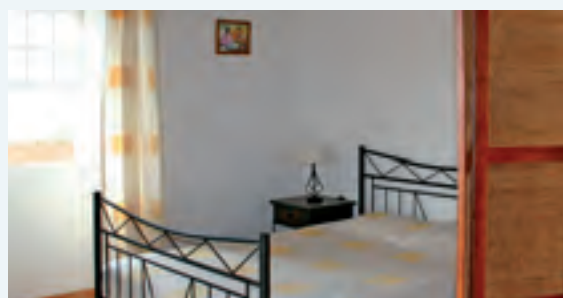
The house is a perfect example of the traditional architecture of the island with its vaulted wood oven which has been fully restored and its typical round chimney.

There is a café and a grocery shop in Santa Bárbara although car hire is recommended.

Accommodation

The house is small and the layout is studio-style with the bedroom separated from the living room by a screen. It has an open-plan first floor which includes the kitchen, living room and bedroom. In addition to the double bed, there is a sofa that can be converted into two single beds.

The lower floor, the old storeroom for the house, has been converted into a spacious bathroom. Casa do Norte is equipped with all the electrical appliances necessary such as a refrigerator, microwave, washing machine, TV and CD player, among others. The house also has a telephone installed.



"House wonderful. Laurinda very helpful & caring."

Mr & Mrs W, Lincoln

"Still lots more to see – we'll be back!"

Mr & Mrs N, Lincs

AZORES EXPLORER°

Graciosa

Known as the 'White Island', Graciosa has a gentle rolling landscape, dotted with windmills and traditional whitewashed houses. The island's peaceful, rural charm is perfect for a truly relaxing break.



Graciosa has kept its farming roots, and still important to the island's economy is the production of wine. The patchwork of vineyards bordered by the low black walls of hardened lava is characteristic of the landscape.

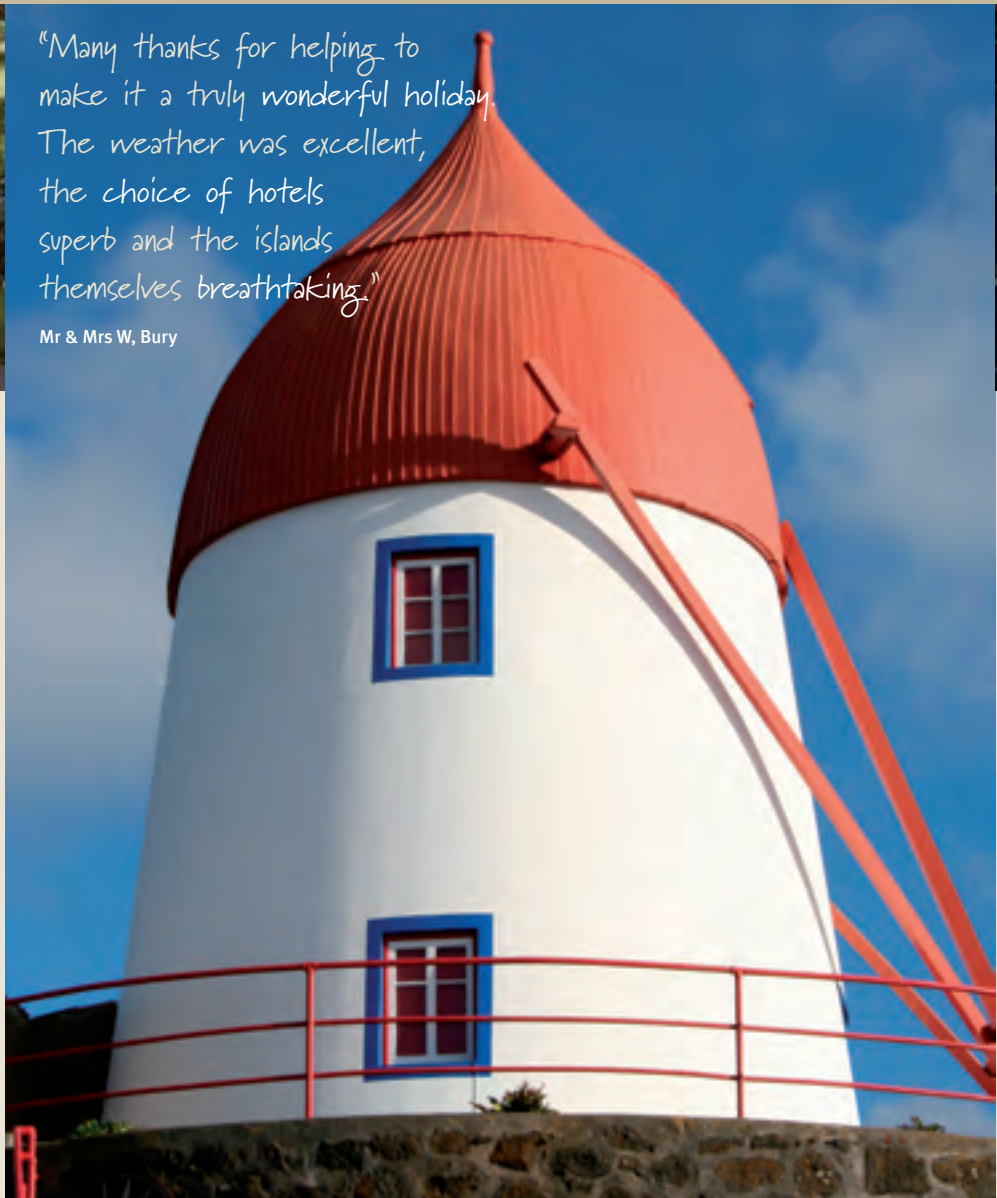
Head South to Carapacho to the thermal baths where a relaxing 15 minute soak is offered as a treatment for rheumatism and skin disorders or alternatively take a boat trip to the islets off the coast to see the sea birds and cetaceans.

The Furna do Enxofre (Sulphur Cavern), is a unique geological phenomenon. In the interior of this former volcano is an extraordinary sight: a tunnel, about 100 metres deep, opens into a huge grotto with a magnificent volcanic vault (80 metres high), and a lake filled with cold sulphurous water. Reached via a 90 metre stone spiral staircase, it is simply awe-inspiring.

"Thank you for a horizon-expanding experience within the confines of a small island" Mr & Mrs P, London

"Many thanks for helping to make it a truly wonderful holiday. The weather was excellent, the choice of hotels superb and the islands themselves breathtaking."

Mr & Mrs W, Bury



To experience the full charm of Graciosa's gentle pace of life, why not book a few nights on the island?

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Accommodation prices shown in the brochure are based on low season rates in the most popular rooms we use. Please contact us for a quote for other date periods.



Island activities

- Car hire
- Cycling
- Walking
- Swimming
- Fishing
- Island boat tours
- Therapeutic spa

Don't miss...

Fish abound off Graciosa's coasts and holds the place of honour in cooking. Fish stews are specialties, whilst the local lobsters are an exquisite meal in themselves.



Residencial Ilha Graciosa

Pretty old world residencial

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£68
Room per night, Twin/Double

LOCATION Santa Cruz **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 10mins
CHARACTER Residencial **ROOMS** 16 ensuite
COMBINES WELL WITH Hotel Beira Mar (p57)

This pretty Residencial is located in Santa Cruz, just 5 minutes walk from the town square. The 80 year old buildings were converted a few years ago and now offers the best quality accommodation on the island.

Facilities

- Bar • TV lounge
- Breakfast room
- Internet access
- 2 tennis courts



Accommodation

There are 16 ensuite rooms each with TV and telephone and a small bar and TV/games room and breakfast room which houses a refurbished wine press.

SELF CATERING
PRICES FROM
£88
House per night, Three Bedroom House

Boina de Vento

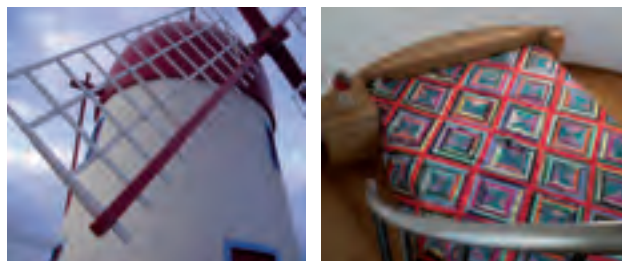
Spacious windmill overlooking Praia island

LOCATION Praia **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins
CHARACTER Traditional windmill **ROOMS** 3 bedrooms (1 is tiny!)
COMBINES WELL WITH Bibi's windmill (P36)

This ingenious windmill conversion is located in a fishing village 300m from the island's only sandy beach. The village has two restaurants, two bakeries and a small supermarket.

Accommodation

The converted threshing floor (the base of the windmill) comprises a double room, two shower rooms, a laundry room (washer and drier) and a kitchen diner. The main windmill has a first floor with lounge and patio, second floor with double bedroom and in the cupola is a tiny single room reached by open steps. A welcome pack is provided and the baker delivers fresh bread every day.



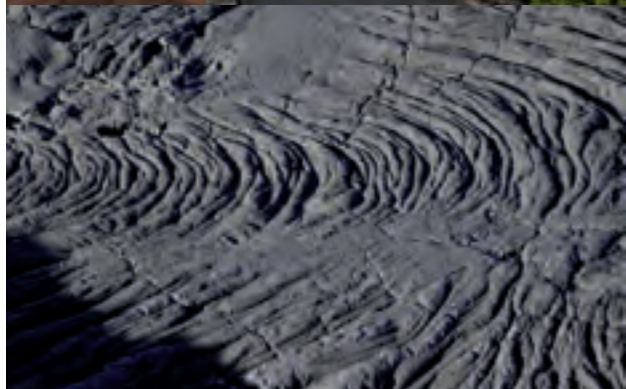
Take a boat trip out to see the seabirds and and islets of Graciosa. You may even spot some dolphins while you are out at sea.

Call us for details on adding BOAT TRIPS to your holiday itinerary...

AZORES EXPLORER°

Pico

Dominated by the majestic volcanic cone from which the island takes its name, Pico provides the keen walker with the opportunity to stand on the highest point of Portugal.



Booking is easy! Use our online booking form or call us direct on...

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"It's an absolutely beautiful part of the world. As for swimming with the dolphins, well that's an experience that will stay with us for many, many years. We'll definitely be going back!"

Mr & Mrs B, Lancaster



The second largest island of the Archipelago, Pico offers a landscape of dramatic contrasts. The Capitão, Caiado, and Paúl lakes are set within rugged moor land along the spine of the island, whilst the mountain climb offers a spectacular view on a clear day of the five islands of the central group. Sunrise viewed from the summit is truly an unforgettable sight.

The distinctive vineyards are a maze of stone walls, adding a unique aspect to Pico's landscape. The product of these grapevines is the famous wine known as 'Verdelho do Pico', a superb aperitif sold in nearly every shop and restaurant.

The island also has a long history with whaling evident from a visit to the old whaling factory in Sao Roque and the fascinating whaling museum in Lajes. You might also be tempted to take a boat trip to see the habitual whales in action.

At Madalena's pier, a ferry runs daily to Faial. From the ocean the visitor is left with a final portrait of the mountain island which includes the islets Deitado (lying down) and Em-pé (standing up) overshadowed by the magnificent mountain.

Look out for...

The Arcos do Cachorro is an impressive lava flow perforated by numerous tunnels and grottoes. The ocean thunders through these volcanic formations and pounds against the rocks shooting up high as foamy spray.

Island activities

- Driver-guided tours
- Walking
- Cycling
- Whale and dolphin watching
- Swimming with dolphins
- Car hire
- Wine and liqueur tasting
- Whaling museums



From Pico, there are some great opportunities to go **WHALE WATCHING**, and seeing these magnificent creatures is a must when visiting the Azores! See page 6 for more details on our Whale & Dolphin Watching trips...

AZORES EXPLORER°

Pico Accommodation



Pocinho Bay

Sophisticated rural retreat set on a bay overlooking Faial

LOCATION Nearest town Madalena (7km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 25mins
CHARACTER Stone cottages **ROOMS** 5 ensuite; suite available
COMBINES WELL WITH Pousada Santa Cruz (p44); Quinta das Mercês (p54)

Located on the lava coast on a small bay opposite Faial, this former hamlet has recently been converted into a high quality rural retreat. This is an ideal place for a special occasion with its cosmopolitan and chic style. The owner has designed and decorated the original stone cottages beautifully with gorgeous gilded framed mirrors and antique paintings set against the interior lava stone walls. The beds are large, handmade from polished cedar and there are tranquil areas to relax everywhere from the extensive 5 hectare gardens to the hammocks on the terrace overlooking the bay. A real treat!

Facilities

- Gardens • Outdoor swimming pool
- Breakfast room • Terrace

Accommodation

There are 4 double ensuite rooms and 1 suite each one separate from the other in the original stone cottages. The bedrooms are all individually decorated and the bathrooms are modern with glass sinks and basalt surround.

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£128
Room per night, Twin/Double

"Awesome, words cannot express how great this is!"

Mr & Mrs F, Germany



"Fabulous, and in a superb location. We loved sitting on the terrace watching the sun set behind Faial"

Mr & Mrs C, Selly Park

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Aldeia da Fonte

Quiet country hotel set in woodland

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£72

Room per night,
Twin/Double

LOCATION Nearest town Lajes (6km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 40mins

CHARACTER Rural hotel **ROOMS** 32 ensuite; suites and studios available

COMBINES WELL WITH Quinta Sao Pedro (p79); Quinta Abelheira (p31)

Near to the famous whaling town of Lajes with its whaling museum and whale watching boats, Aldeia is a tranquil retreat set away from other settlements in a pretty wood on the South coast of Pico. Although there is no swimming pool, there is a rock pool swimming area in the sea just 10 minutes walk away.

Accommodation

There are 14 suites, 2 family suites, 8 studios and 8 twin rooms set in 6 stone cottages in the gardens. The suites and studios have simple kitchenettes, which are suitable for preparing light meals and all rooms are en suite. Aldeia also has a bar and restaurant whose specialities are Azorean regional cooking and Chinese food.

Facilities

- Restaurant • Bar/lounge • Garden



Casa Das Barcas

Former seafarers house overlooking the island of São Jorge

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£90

Room per night,
Twin/Double

LOCATION São Roque (Cais do Pico) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 15mins

CHARACTER Traditional house **ROOMS** 3 doubles (1 ensuite)

COMBINES WELL WITH Argonauta (p82); Convento São Francisco (p33)

This elegantly converted 3 bedroom guesthouse is located on the sea front in the former whaling town of São Roque on the North coast of Pico. The house retains many of the original features and has a grand first floor lounge with large windows overlooking the ocean, open fire, comfortable sofas, antique furniture and some interesting maritime memorabilia. There is a small terrace at the back of the house and from there you can reach a viewpoint overlooking São Jorge. São Roque is also one of the two ferry ports on the island and there is an interesting, recently refurbished whaling museum to explore just 5 minutes walk from the house.

Facilities

- Lounge • Small terrace • Breakfast room

Accommodation

3 doubles (1 en-suite and 2 share a bathroom).



"The Azores are one of the most beautiful and interesting places we have been – an excellent holiday." Mr & Mrs R, Newark

"The Azores was already one of a few of my favourite places to be, but now you are definitely my favourite holiday company." Mr D, Appleby Magna

AZORES EXPLORER°

Pico Accommodation

Residencial 'Whale' come' ao Pico

Small friendly residencial in the town of whales!

LOCATION Lajes **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 40mins **CHARACTER** Residencial
ROOMS 11 ensuite **COMBINES WELL WITH** Casa Antonio (p77)

Right in the centre of the whaling town of Lajes, this quirkily named residencial is next door to the longest established whale watching company in the Azores and the fascinating whaling museum. Run by an entrepreneurial Frenchman and his Azorean partner, the residencial makes an excellent and reasonably priced base for keen whale watchers.

Facilities

- Restaurant • Bar

Accommodation

There are 11 rooms including 3 triples, 3 twins, 4 doubles and 1 family room (1 double and 2 single beds) all with private bathroom and decorated with a mixture of old and new styles. Most of the rooms have a sea view over the fishing harbour and there is also a bar and restaurant open from 11am to 10pm.

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£38
Room per night, Twin/Double



Juniper House

Gorgeous atmospheric rooms at the end of the island

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£76
Room per night, Twin/Double

LOCATION Nearest town Lajes (20km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 60mins **CHARACTER** Modern villa rooms **ROOMS** 5 ensuite **COMBINES WELL WITH** Vila Belgica (p46)

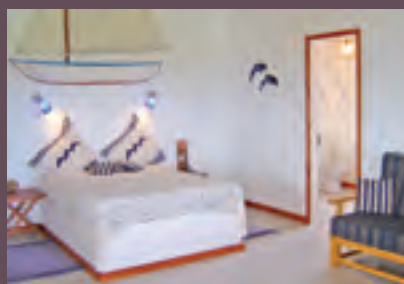
Also known as the house of the potter, there is a small pottery in the main house which also serves as a shop for selling pottery and guidebooks. The location is wonderful, right at the eastern end of Pico in a quiet hamlet with ocean views. Jeremy, the owner, is Belgian though he has lived on Pico for years and will make you very welcome.

Facilities

- Evening meals on request • Outdoor swimming pool • Pottery on site

Accommodation

There are 5 rooms (4 double – 2 of which can sleep 4 guests – and 1 single) all in small whitewashed cottages overlooking the swimming pool with balconies with views over the ocean and São Jorge. The private bathrooms have a shower and the décor in the rooms is fresh and bright with stencils on some of the walls with a nautical theme. Jeremy makes delicious breakfasts with homemade yoghurt, homemade jam, homemade bread and fruits and he cooks something different everyday like pancakes or brownies. If you want to eat at night, this is also possible if you book in advance. Guests also have free internet access and a lovely freshwater pool with loungers and pool towels.



All trips can be tailor made according to your specific requirements – please call for further information

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L'Escale de l'Atlantic

An oasis of tranquillity with wonderful sea views

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£97
Room per night, Twin/Double

LOCATION Piedade **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 60 mins (from Madalena) **CHARACTER** Mediterranean style rooms overlooking the ocean **ROOMS** 6 ensuite **COMBINES WELL WITH** Argonauta (P82)

Beautifully located just on the outskirts of Piedade, 5 minutes walk from the pretty harbour 'Porto do Calhau', this artistic retreat is run by a friendly Swiss couple who settled on Pico in 1989. The rooms all have their own individual style with lots of pretty stencilling, sea shells and mosaics. In fact, the beautiful 2500m² garden is a treasure trove of artefacts where even the lava stones get special mosaic decoration and terracotta pots have gargoyle faces. 5 of the rooms share a terrace (while the fort is in a separate building 50m from the others) and meals are at one large dining table so be prepared to be sociable. French evening meals at l'Escale are legendary and are available on request (but not every night). All meals are prepared using either local or home grown produce. This is definitely a place to relax and unwind. Don't miss watching the sun set over São Jorge swinging in a hammock on the terrace.

Facilities

- Breakfast and dining room overlooking the ocean • Separate guest area with access to HiFi, board games, books etc • Internet Access
- Garden • Balcony and patio area offering stunning views of the ocean and harbour • 15 minutes walk from the village centre • Evening meals and packed lunches on request • Tea and coffee making facilities and honesty bar • 5 minutes walk from natural sea swimming pool

Accommodation

There are 6 rooms all ensuite with a shower and toilet and all with sea view towards São Jorge. 5 of the rooms are in one long building with a pretty shared veranda out front, while the final room is in its own building set apart. Décor is nautical, artistic and very warm and varies from room to room.

* the minimum age of guests is 7 years.



Casa do Ouvidor

Modern houses with great views

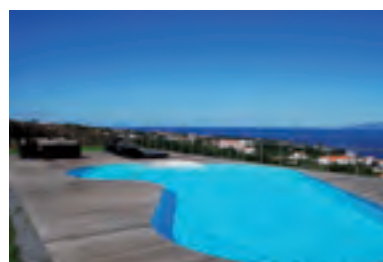
SELF CATERING
PRICES FROM
£108
House per night, Two Bedroom House

LOCATION Prainha **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 30mins **CHARACTER** Modern houses **ROOMS** 3 two bedroom houses **COMBINES WELL WITH** Quinta da Mó (p40)

Modern, contemporary houses situated above the pretty village of Prainha each with spectacular views across to the island of São Jorge. These designer houses with their stylish kitchens, carefully coordinated bedrooms and large decked swimming pool are an ideal base for exploring the island of Pico. The village below has two cafés, a shop and a very good local restaurant.

Accommodation

Each house has a double and twin en-suite room, fully fitted kitchen with open plan lounge/dining area and air conditioning. Shared areas include a swimming pool (unheated), gardens, car park and indoor hot tub.



"I am a world traveller and these islands are on par with anything I have ever seen before, long may they remain a 'secret'" Mrs H, Southampton

AZORES EXPLORER°

Pico Accommodation



GARAJAU PATIO



ALTO DA RIBEIRA DINING ROOM

Pico Houses

Eight traditional stone houses in a fishing village overlooking São Jorge

LOCATION Nearest town São Roque (11km)
TRANSFER (APPROX) 30mins **CHARACTER** Traditional houses **ROOMS** 1-3 bedroom houses **COMBINES** WELL WITH Monks Houses (p41); House of Aunt Garcia (p51)

Having returned from California to Pico supposedly for a quieter life for her husband, the energetic owner of these 8 traditional village houses took on the organisation of their renovation. There are 3 three bedroom houses, 3 two bedroom houses and 2 one bedroom houses all located in or around the quiet fishing village of Prainha on the North coast of the island overlooking São Jorge. Each are built from traditional lava stone and are fully equipped for self catering with towels, linen, coffee machine, toaster, microwave, fridge, oven, TV, hair dryer, iron, portable heaters, and dehumidifiers.

There is a supermarket in the village but the location is fairly remote so a hire car is advisable.

SELF CATERING
1 BED HOUSE

PRICES FROM
£56

House per night,
One Bedroom
House

An excellent holiday. This experience has renewed my faith in using tour operators. Mr & Mrs M, Kent



Garajau Cottage (1 bed)

One of our most sought after hideaways, this pretty one bedroom house is right on the seafront in Prainha so you can fall asleep to the sound of the ocean! The house is on one level raised slightly above the lava coast with twin bedroom, bathroom and kitchen/diner/living room.



Vinha Cottage (1 bed)

Surrounded by vineyards, this is the ideal secluded spot to escape to. This one bedroom house is set on its own with a downstairs kitchen/diner and shower room. Upstairs is a twin bedroom with balcony and TV.

All trips can be tailor made according to your specific requirements – please call for further information

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**SELF CATERING
2 BED HOUSE**

PRICES FROM

£74House per night,
Two Bedroom
House**Flor da Ribeira Cottage (2 bed)**

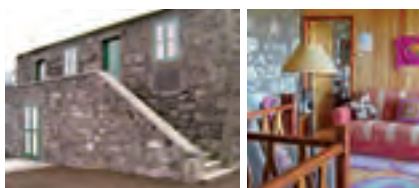
Next to Contearas, this 2 bedroom cottage has access to the same spacious BBQ area with a spacious kitchen/diner upstairs (with dishwasher), 1 twin room (with balcony) and small living area. Downstairs there is a double room and bathroom.

**Lagar Cottage (2 bed)**

1km from the seafront, but in Prainha, this 2 bedroom house is in the same traditional style as Moega (and next to it) and decorated with old wine making antiques. Downstairs there is a lounge with double sofa bed, shower room and a double bedroom. Upstairs there is a twin bedroom, lounge with TV and single sofa bed and a kitchen/diner.

**Moega Cottage (2 bed)**

This 2 bedroom house is a veritable museum! Downstairs there is a small laundry at the front door with a washing machine and toilet opposite, along with a shower room and double bedroom with terrace. Upstairs there is a twin bedroom, lounge with TV and sofa bed and a kitchen/diner. Moega is next to Lagar cottage so if you have a larger group, you may consider renting the two together.

**SELF CATERING
3 BED HOUSE**

PRICES FROM

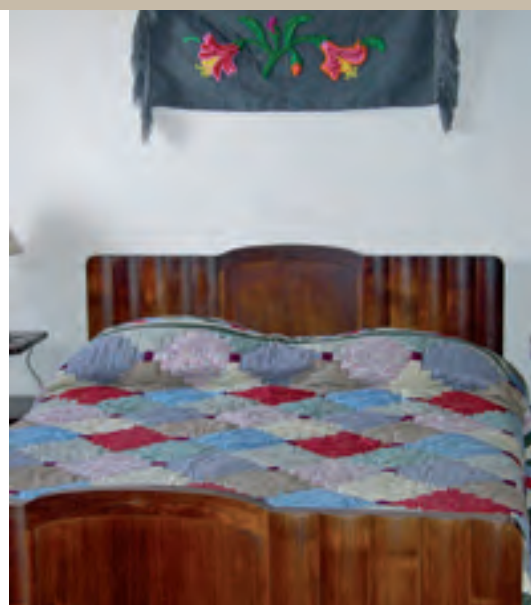
£93House per night,
Three Bedroom
House**Misterio Cottage (3 bed)**

Located 3km from Prainha village centre, this pretty cottage has 2 twins and 1 double bedroom along with kitchen diner (with dishwasher), 2 bathrooms (one with shower, one with bath) and a comfortable lounge.

**Contearas Cottage (3 bed)**

Next to Flor da Ribeira and sharing a spacious yard and BBQ area ideal for eating out, this cottage has an upstairs kitchen/diner/living room (with dishwasher) and attractive fireplace. Also upstairs are 1 double bedroom (with balcony) and 1 bathroom while downstairs there are 2 twin rooms and a second bathroom.

Contearas also has a sofa bed in the living room suitable for children.

**Alto da Ribeira Cottage (3 bed)**

About 1km out of Prainha centre are Alto da Ribeira, Contearas and Flor da Ribeira. Alto da Ribeira Cottage is about 30m up the road from the other two and all have gorgeous views of São Jorge and the sea. Alto (meaning 'high') has a small fully equipped kitchen with dishwasher, a lounge/diner which opens out on to the balcony. At the end of the house is one double bedroom with ensuite bathroom while the 2 twin rooms are downstairs sharing a second bathroom (both with shower). Outside, there is a private terrace with outdoor furniture – a lovely place to eat and watch the sun set.

Please note there is also a double sofa bed suitable for children in the lounge.

"We loved the seclusion, the views and the area. Maria welcomes you like old friends." Mr & Mrs F, Somerset

"Our friends are fed up of hearing how wonderful the Azores are and what a great company we travelled with!" Mr & Mrs D, Guernsey

AZORES EXPLORER°

São Jorge

A walker's paradise! São Jorge is a long, snaking spine of peaks, whose backbone is peppered with lush green craters, the sides dramatically tumbling to the ocean blue below.



Booking is easy! Use our online booking form or call us direct on...

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Accommodation prices shown in the brochure are based on low season rates in the most popular rooms we use. Please contact us for a quote for other date periods.

"We were pleased and surprised to find each island was so different and had its own unique charm."

Mr & Mrs M, Taunton



São Jorge is one of the most scenically dramatic and friendly islands of the group, and is an ideal base from which to explore with regular ferry connections to Pico and Faial. Velas, the picturesque capital, is a sleepy harbour town dating from the mid 1400s and has a delightful, traditional Azorean bandstand in the main square.

The majority of the locals live on the coastal plains (fajãs). These fajãs lie at the foot of the steep volcanic cliffs, and are home to an abundance of bird life including the Cory Shearwater. The Topo islet, at the east end of the island, with its nesting and resting areas for many resident and migratory birds, has been classified a Natural Reserve.

One of the most beautiful walks heads off from the top of the island down to Fajã do Santa Cristo with its pretty church and lagoon. After a refreshing swim in the ocean, you continue along the coastal path past an abandoned fajã until you reach the stunning Fajã dos Cubres.

While you're there make sure you sample the local delicacies of the famous Sao Jorge cheese and the clams farmed in the lagoons on a number of the Fajãs.

Don't miss...

The church of Santa Barbara at Manadas is one of the finest examples of religious architecture on the islands, containing glazed tile work, carved ceilings and rich gilded altars.

Island activities

- Driver-guided tours
- Walking
- Car hire
- Swimming
- Cheese tasting
- Canyoning
- Kayaking
- Jeep tours
- Boat trips



Take the time to walk to the sublime Fajã do Santo Cristo on our **GUIDED** and **INDEPENDENT ISLAND TRAIL WALKING** holidays.
See pages 12-14 for more details...

AZORES EXPLORER°

Sao Jorge Accommodation



Hotel São Jorge

Azorean style hotel with great views of Pico

LOCATION Velas **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 15mins **CHARACTER** 3 star residencial hotel
ROOMS 58 ensuite **COMBINES WELL WITH** Hotel Fayal (p45)

Located on the sea front in Velas, all rooms look out over the sea towards Pico and the collapsed crater just outside Velas. This is a comfortable, no frills Azorean hotel with a large outdoor swimming pool (May-Oct) in the lawns out front where guests can relax and admire the wonderful sea views.

Facilities

- Outdoor swimming pool • Breakfast room
- Lounge • Internet access

"Excellent choice! Room very nice and just the right location on the edge of town – a nice stroll to the restaurant in the evenings."

Mr & Mrs V, Huddersfield

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£74

Room per night,
Twin/Double

Accommodation

There are 58 ensuite rooms all with cable TV, hairdryer, mini bar, radio and air conditioning. The main attraction of this hotel is that all rooms have private balconies with views of Pico (on a clear day!).



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"Excellent. We were made to feel very welcome."

Mr & Mrs C, Somerset

Residencial Livramento

Small family run guesthouse on the outskirts of Velas

LOCATION Velas **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 15mins

CHARACTER Local guesthouse **ROOMS** 12 ensuite

COMBINES WELL WITH Residencial Carvalho Araujo (p32)

This small family run guesthouse is a short walk from the centre of Velas; the owners speak fluent English and are on hand to advise. Breakfast is not included during the winter months (October to June); however there is a small café next door that serves breakfast and other meals.

Facilities

• Breakfast room • Telephone • TV • Small courtyard/garden

Accommodation

There are 12 ensuite rooms (2 rooms share a bathroom and are ideal for families).

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£48

Room per night,
Twin/Double

Casa Antonio

Comfortable and friendly hotel on the harbour front in Velas

LOCATION Velas **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 15mins **CHARACTER** Local hotel/guesthouse

ROOMS 8 ensuite **COMBINES WELL WITH** Argonauta (p82)



This new hotel has a fresh and modern feel to it; the ensuite rooms are spacious and comfortable and the staff are always welcoming. For a special treat book the tower room and enjoy the lofty views across to Pico.

Facilities

• Breakfast room • Lounge

Accommodation

There are 8 ensuite rooms with telephone, air conditioning and cable TV. There is also a reasonably priced laundry.

"The excitement of flying to another island was great. Everyone was so helpful and the islands so beautiful — I could go on forever!"

Mr & Mrs H, Yorkshire



"The ultimate location & fantastic accommodation."

Mr & Mrs G, London

"Long may the Azores remain so unspoilt. It was so refreshing not to be charged for every view!"

Mr & Mrs B, Barnet

AZORES EXPLORER°

Sao Jorge Accommodation



Quinta do Canavial

Pretty family home above Velas with fantastic views

LOCATION Nearest town Velas (2km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins
CHARACTER Local guesthouse **ROOMS** 4 ensuite (main house), 6 ensuite (annexe)
COMBINES WELL WITH Quinta Abelheira (p31)

Located on the outskirts of Velas overlooking the spectacular Bay of Entre-Moros, this converted family home makes a friendly, peaceful retreat with lovely ocean views towards Pico and Faial. During your stay, eat at the owner's restaurant (meals on request) and visit the lovely Holy Spirit chapel in the grounds.

Facilities

• Restaurant • Chapel

Accommodation

There are 3 double rooms and 1 twin room in the main house and 6 twin rooms and 1 one bedroom apartment in the annexe. All have ensuite shower rooms.

BED + BREAKFAST
 PRICES FROM
£62
 Room per night,
 Twin/Double



House of Correia

Traditional stone house with luxurious touches

LOCATION Nearest town Velas (7km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins
CHARACTER Traditional house **ROOMS** 3 bedroom
COMBINES WELL WITH House of Varadouro (p48) **MINIMUM STAY** 3 nights

Just 10 minutes drive from Velas is the House of Correia, a traditional renovated stone house in the small inland village of Rosais famous for its strong cheese. It is simply decorated but in a traditional rustic way and has lovely views from its pretty outdoor swimming pool over Pico and Faial.

Accommodation

The house has 3 bedrooms (1 double, 1 twin and 1 bunkbed), 2 bathrooms, kitchen, lounge, sauna and shower (hydromassage) with fresh towels and dressing gowns provided.

SELF CATERING
 PRICES FROM
£152
 House per night,
 Three Bedroom
 House

"Very luxurious – loved the fresh towels and dressing gowns!" Mr & Mrs H, Stroud



All trips can be tailor-made according to your specific requirements – please call for further information

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Jardim do Triangulo

Peaceful garden rooms with wonderful sea views

LOCATION Terreiros **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 15 mins (from Velas)
CHARACTER Converted farmhouse **ROOMS** 4 ensuite; 1 apartment
COMBINES WELL WITH Juniper House (P70)

Run by Elfi and Christian, this converted 18th century farmhouse and its cottages are on the south coast of São Jorge with great views of Mt Pico. Just 3 minutes walk from the pretty harbour of Terreiros with a swimming area, this is a wonderful oasis on one of the Azores' quietest islands.

Accommodation

All the rooms and the apartment are set in three modern cottages in the garden of the main house, each with its own terrace facing the sea. There are 2 twin rooms and 2 double rooms (all ensuite) and 1 one bedroom apartment with living room, kitchenette, double bedroom and bathroom. Breakfast is served on the terrace of the main farmhouse and is a highlight, made up of local and homemade products (yoghurt, jam, bread, fresh eggs, and fruit and vegetables from the garden).



BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£62
Apartment per night, One Bedroom

Quinta São Pedro

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£90
Room per night, Twin/Double

Traditional farm house conversion
close to Velas with pool.

LOCATION Nearest town Velas (2km) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 15mins
CHARACTER Traditional guesthouse **ROOMS** 4 twins; 4 suites; 1 bedroom house **COMBINES WELL WITH** Quinta do Mar (p30)

Originally built in the 17th century, this farmhouse has been sympathetically restored incorporating the original outbuildings and barns.

Facilities

- Air conditioning • Outdoor swimming pool • Internet access
- Games room • Home cinema • Telescope

Accommodation

There are 4 twin rooms in the main house on the second floor sharing 2 bathrooms. Also in an annex in the grounds are 3 studios each with one twin room, living room, bathroom and kitchenette and next to these is a family suite with 2 twin rooms, a living room, bathroom and kitchenette. Guests can also rent Casa dos Caseiros, which is a separate house with 1 double room, 2 living rooms, bathroom, kitchen and fireplace. All rooms include breakfast.

"The walking, views and diversity of plant life were stunning.
A real treat – thank you." Mr M, Edinburgh

AZORES EXPLORER°

Flores & Corvo

With its semi-tropical landscape, Flores is reputed to be the most beautiful island of the archipelago, whereas the picturesque Corvo and the warm hospitality of the people that call it home will certainly find a place in your heart.



Booking is easy! Use our online booking form or call us direct on...

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"Excellent holiday – fabulous scenery, amazingly green, birdsong, views to die for... the land that time forgot!"

Mr & Mrs B, Surrey



Flores is an island of incomparable beauty, due to its different geological structure, jagged terrain and beautiful flora. Waterfalls plunge down green cliffs into the ocean, the landscape has deep creases formed by eons of volcanic activity, and tiny whitewashed villages nestle on the coastal plains.

The western-most village in Europe, Fajã Grande, is backed by a natural bowl with myriad cascades, tropical foliage and romantic pools. The little capital of Santa Cruz on the east coast is home to fishermen and boat builders and is a haven for native birds.

One of the main attractions of Flores is its seven extinct craters. Once active volcanoes, they are now beautiful mountain lakes.

To the north of Flores, a 60min boat trip takes you to the smallest island, Corvo. The picturesque town of Vila Nova with a population of just 400 is a maze of narrow streets, called 'canadas', waiting to be explored. Monte Grosso, the highest point on the island offers an extraordinary view overlooking the steep sided crater that formed the island.

Look out for...

Flores takes its name from the miles of blue hydrangea hedgerows which bloom between June and September, creating an explosion of colour.

Island activities

- Car hire
- Walking
- Fishing
- Diving
- Jeep tours
- Kayaking
- Canyoning



SEA KAYAK to the outer reaches of the EU, the Islet of Monchique off Flores' western coast. Day trips, fishing expeditions and crater lake kayaking are just a few of the exciting activities now possible. Call us for more details...

AZORES EXPLORER°

Flores & Corvo Accommodation



Hotel das Flores

Modern hotel overlooking Corvo

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£82
Room per night,
Twin/Double

LOCATION Santa Cruz **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 5mins **CHARACTER** 4 star hotel
ROOMS 25 en-suite rooms and 1 suite rooms
COMBINES WELL WITH Pousada Santa Cruz (p44)

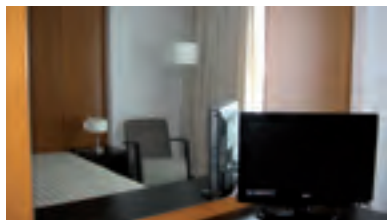
This hotel is a much welcomed addition to the islands. Opened in September 2009 it is the first 4 star hotel on Flores. The Hotel das Flores has been built on the Boqueirao promontory, just to the north of the main town Santa Cruz, and has spectacular views over the Atlantic and Flores' neighbour, Corvo.

Facilities

- Swimming pool • bar • restaurant, parking • laundry service • gym • jogging area.

Accommodation

There are 26 en-suite rooms each with air conditioning, mini bar, telephone/ internet and hairdryer. All the rooms are on the first floor with balconies and some have sea views.



Argonauta

Rustic guesthouse located in the westernmost village in Europe

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£76
Room per night,
Twin/Double

LOCATION Faja Grande **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins
CHARACTER Traditional stone merchant's house **ROOMS** 6 ensuite rooms; 2 suites available **COMBINES WELL WITH** Estrela do Atlantico (p46) **MINIMUM STAY** 3 nights

Located in the delightful village of Fajã Grande at Europe's westernmost point, Argonauta is surrounded by a paradise of natural beauty and tranquillity. The owner of this delightful house is a resident Italian who has written many books on the history of the islands and walking in the Azores. The house has a bohemian and homely feel with original floral frescos from the 1930's on the walls and woodwork from a vessel shipwrecked off Flores' western reefs. There is a guest lounge on the first floor with TV, CD player, library and internet

access. Delicious evening meals on request though please note they are expensive relative to local restaurants. The location is wonderful, just a short walk from the port and swimming area and there are some great rock pools close by. Walking to the North and South of Fajã Grande is spectacular.

Accommodation

There are 6 ensuite double rooms available (bathrooms are quite small), including 2 suites in the eaves of the house.

"The best place to stay at 'the end of the world'." Mr & Mrs V, Huddersfield



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Very homely and well equipped. Luisa and Pierluigi were excellent. As was Flores... we loved it!

Mr & Mrs D, Surrey

Via d'Agua

Pretty cottage in coastal village

SELF CATERING

PRICES FROM

£140

House per night,
Two Bedroom
House

LOCATION Faja Grande **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins

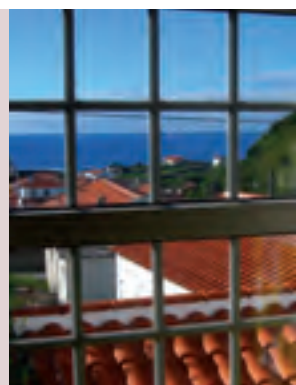
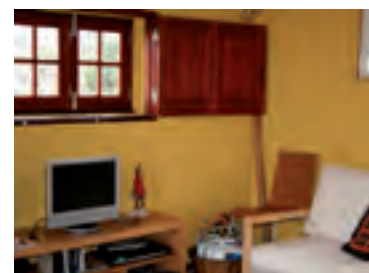
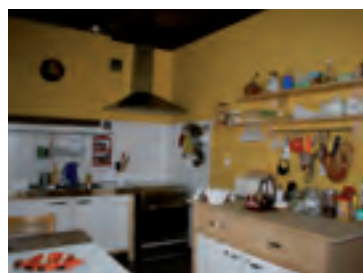
CHARACTER Traditional cottage **ROOMS** 2 bedrooms

COMBINES WELL WITH Casa do Monte (p36)

This traditional one storey cottage is owned by Pierluigi and Luisa from Argonauta and is just down the road from this popular guesthouse. You can either rent one room and then share facilities (see below) or rent both rooms and have the house to yourself. The kitchen is well equipped (and rustic!) with oven, fridge, BBQ and an old wood fire. You also have use of a washing machine. Please note that the cottage is reached by a narrow path (50m) from the road. There is no private parking but there is lots of space in the village to park.

Accommodation

There are 2 double bedrooms, each with a private entrance and ensuite bathroom. The shared facilities include a large garden, living room (with TV, DVD, CD player and radio and a selection of DVDs and CDs) and kitchen.



STUDIO



HOUSE

Palheiro

Pretty studio cottage and traditional house with sea views

LOCATION Faja Grande

TRANSFER (APPROX) 20mins

CHARACTER Traditional cottage/house

ROOMS 2 houses: 1 bedroom studio cottage and 3 bedroom house

COMBINES WELL WITH Commodore Guesthouse (p84)

SELF CATERING

PRICES FROM

£46

House per night,
One Bedroom
Cottage

SELF CATERING

PRICES FROM

£192

House per night,
Three Bedroom
House

Owned by a lovely resident British couple, these houses consist of a tiny but cosy studio apartment and a traditional three bedroom house. Centrally located in the village of Faja Grande, they are close to shops, restaurants and the sea and enjoy wonderful views down over the rooftops of the village to the ocean and the islet of Monchique, Europe's most westerly point. The cottage was comprehensively refurbished by local craftsmen in 2007 while the house has also been recently redecorated to retain period features.

Accommodation

Ideal for a couple, the studio cottage is open plan (20m²) comprising a sleeping area with double bed at an upper level and well appointed kitchen, dining area and shower-room at a lower level. Outside is a large private garden with BBQ. Access to a washing machine and tumble dryer. Ideal for a family, the main house comprises three bedrooms, bathroom (bedrooms 1&2 access the bathroom via bedroom 3), kitchen, sitting room and dining room. Facilities include electric oven, gas hob, fridge-freezer, washing machine, tumble dryer, TV and DVD player. Outside, is a private sitting and BBQ area shaded by a vine.

Excellent holiday. Helpful friendly staff who were very knowledgeable which helped us plan our trip before we got there."

The H family, Farnham

AZORES EXPLORER°

Flores & Corvo Accommodation



"It was so quiet and the village brilliantly reconstructed."

Mr & Mrs C, Westminster

SELF CATERING
PRICES FROM
£88
House per night,
Two Bedroom
House

Cuada

Abandoned village brought to life!

LOCATION Nearest town Faja Grande (2kms) **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins
CHARACTER Traditional village **ROOMS** 16 cottages, 1 and 2 bedroom
COMBINES WELL WITH Quinta Altamira (p37) **MINIMUM STAY** 3 nights

On the west coast of the island, lies the lovely village of Cuada. Situated on a small plateau near the coast, the village was almost abandoned during the 1960's as people emigrated to the US, leaving a virtual ghost town. But now, many of the houses have been renovated and modernised but in a traditional style, and the village welcomes people for a very tranquil stay.

Accommodation

Cuada has no roads between the cottages and the car park for the village is a 2-3 minute walk, along a winding cobbled path. The 16 houses available are all equipped for self catering and each benefits from having a stereo, TV, telephone, kitchen, either one or two bedrooms, living room, bathroom and a patio with BBQ and garden furniture.

Each cottage is constructed of stone and decorated in a comfortable but traditional manner. Car hire is definitely recommended as the village is remotely located and has no shops. The nearest small shops are 5 minutes drive or a 30 minute walk away.

Commodore Guesthouse

Cosy guesthouse on the Azores' most remote yet stunning island

LOCATION Vila Nova **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 5mins
CHARACTER Modern guesthouse **ROOMS** 6 ensuite
COMBINES WELL WITH Argonauta (p82) **MINIMUM STAY** 3 nights

This comfortable guesthouse is located 2 minutes walk from the centre of Corvo's only settlement, Vila Nova, and offers guests a unique opportunity to stay on the Azores' smallest island. The owners are originally from Corvo though spent some time in the US before returning to the island 17 years ago.

Accommodation

There are three twin rooms and three double rooms all with private bathroom and there is also a small lounge and breakfast room.

Facilities

- Lounge • Breakfast room

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£70
Room per night,
Twin/Double



All trips can be tailor-made according to your specific requirements – please call for further information

azoresstates@gmail.com www.azoresstates.co.nr

AZORES EXPLORER°

Lisbon

Why not break up or extend your trip to the Azores with a stopover in Lisbon? This colourful city has lots to offer and provides a fascinating introduction to Portuguese life.

Accommodation prices shown in the brochure are based on low season rates in the most popular rooms we use. Please contact us for a quote or other date periods.



Lapa Palace

A luxurious retreat in the heart of Lisbon!

LOCATION Lisbon **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins **CHARACTER** Palatial 19th century residence

ROOMS 109 ensuite; garden view, pool view, suites available

COMBINES WELL WITH Pocinho Bay (p68); Pousada Santa Cruz (p44)

By far the best hotel in Lisbon, the Lapa Palace is popular with the rich and famous with guests including Catherine Deneuve, Cher and Sting. It is located on a hilltop at the heart of Lisbon's most elegant Embassy district, overlooking the Tagus river, amid lush tropical gardens dotted with ornamental fountains and streams. Built in 1870 as the private residence of the Count of Valencas, it has kept its typical Portuguese décor and offers guests a tranquil and luxurious retreat in the heart of Lisbon.

Facilities

- Italian restaurant • Piano bar • Outdoor heated swimming pool • Sauna • Steam bath • Gym
- Massage • Babysitting • Valet parking

Accommodation

There are 109 rooms including various suites all with air conditioning, large marble bathrooms and broadband access in the rooms. Rooms have marvellous views of the gardens, the city and the river. Other facilities include a gastronomic Italian restaurant, Piano bar, Lapa Palace Wellness Centre with free of charge outdoor and indoor heated swimming pool, sauna, steam bath and fully equipped gymnasium. A wide selection of massages and body treatments are also available. There is also a babysitting service and private valet parking for 120 vehicles.

BED + BREAKFAST
PRICES FROM
£298
Room per night Twin/Double (Garden View)



We have a wide range of other accommodation in Lisbon, and tailored tours to other parts of Portugal can also be organised.

Please contact us for further details... azoresstates@gmail.com www.azoresstates.co.nr

AZORES EXPLORER°

Lisbon



Hotel Olissipo

Stylish small hotel in the Alfama, the old city

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£130

Room per night
Twin/Double

LOCATION Lisbon **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins **CHARACTER** 4 star hotel
ROOMS 24 ensuite; suites and superior rooms available
COMBINES WELL WITH Hotel do Colegio (p26); Pousada Santa Cruz (p44)

In the heart of Lisbon ideally located just below the Castelo de São Jorge, the Hotel Olissipo has one of the most impressive panoramic views of Lisbon. The staff are friendly and helpful and the generous breakfasts are delicious. The city can easily be explored with the help of the charming old trams that wind their way through the hills of Lisbon and down to the lower parts of the city. There is no restaurant in the hotel but the area offers an excellent choice of restaurants and bars within walking distance.

Facilities

- Breakfast room • Bar • Sitting room • Laundry service
- Reception • Private garage

Accommodation

There are 24 ensuite rooms, including 2 suites and 4 superior rooms all with air conditioning, cable TV, telephone and internet access, mini bar and safe. Some rooms have a large sun terrace with lovely potted plants and teak sun loungers.



Janelas Verdes

A charming boutique hotel

BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£160

Room per night
Twin/Double

LOCATION Lisbon **TRANSFER (APPROX)** 20mins
CHARACTER Boutique hotel **ROOMS** 29 rooms (twins and doubles)
COMBINES WELL WITH Quinta do Mar (p30); Pocinho Bay (p68)

Janelas Verdes is a charming boutique hotel in the historic centre of Lisbon next to the Museum of Ancient Art. This 18th century former palace has a relaxing atmosphere which emanates from the small waterfall in the lounge area giving it the feel of a Roman villa and is ideal for a short break or honeymoon stay.

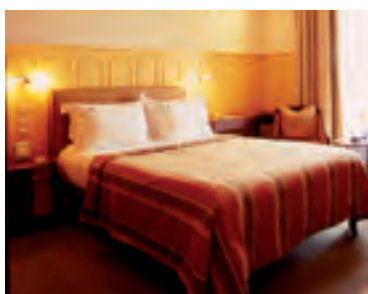
Accommodation

The hotel is tastefully decorated with delightful reception rooms, top floor library, concierge, honesty bar, lounge (with views of the small garden and the river Tagus) and garage. There are 29 rooms each with double glazing, air conditioning, satellite TV (flat screen), telephone, CD/ DVD player, hair drier and safe.



All trips can be tailor-made according to your specific requirements – please call for further information

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BED + BREAKFAST

PRICES FROM

£242

Room per night
Superior

Bairro Alto Hotel

A Chic hotel close to bars and restaurants

LOCATION Bairro Alto district of Lisbon

TRANSFER (APPROX) 20mins

CHARACTER A luxurious 5 star hotel in the heart of Lisbon

ROOMS 55 rooms (with triple glazing)

COMBINES WELL WITH Pousada Santa Cruz (p44) and Quinta das Mercês (p54)

The Bairro Alto district of Lisbon has become, in recent years, one of the most popular areas of this historical city and the hotel is in a perfect location to explore this vibrant part of Lisbon with its café life, bars, restaurants and shopping. The hotel has recently been renovated and is without doubt one of the most desirable city centre hotels in the world.

Facilities

- Breakfast room • Restaurant • Bar • Open air roof top terrace (with views to die for over the city!) • Air Conditioning • Cable TV
- Internet • Baby sitting service

Accommodation

51 triple glazed rooms and 4 suites.

AZORES EXPERIENCE®

Lisbon Experiences

Sightseeing in Lisbon and surrounding areas by motorbike and side car. Travelling as a passenger on a motorbike and sidecar is a fun and exciting way to see Lisbon and the surrounding countryside and has proven very popular over the past few years. All the bikes are fully insured, helmets are provided and driver/riders keep to a maximum speed of 50kms/hr.

We have 4 trips for you to choose from; half day around Lisbon or to Cascais along the coast road. A full day trip from Lisbon to the Sintra Mountains (near Lisbon) and a 2 to 3 hour tour of Lisbon at night. If you would like to know more about these and other Lisbon Experiences please call us.



City activities

- Touring Lisbon by motor bike and side car
- Sailing on the Tejo
- Guided walks of Lisbon
- Specialist historical tours of Lisbon
- Day trips to Sintra, Cascais and Arrabida National Park
- Car Hire
- Transfers

We have a wide range of other accommodation in Lisbon, and tailored tours to other parts of Portugal can also be organised.

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

Parties and Definitions

The Operator
Archipelago Azores Ltd. 1b Museum Square, Keswick, CA12 5DZ, which includes the Operator's agents, its servants or employees.

The Client The lead name on the booking.
The Tour The holiday/trip offered in the brochure/website by the Operator.

The Contract
1) these Conditions of Contract
2) the brochure/website for the Tour for which the Client has booked
3) the tailor-made itinerary
4) the Operator's current "Dates and Prices" all of which are hereby incorporated into and shall constitute the entire contract made between the Operator and the Client. The Client agrees that the pre departure information booklet sent to him after booking does not in any way constitute part of the contract.

The Price The price of the Tour as set out in the Operator's brochure (Prices From) are current at the time of booking or specified on the clients quotation, if the Tour booked is part of the Tailor-made programme.

Date of Departure The date of commencement of the Tour as set out in the quotation agreed with the client.

Force Majeure Unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond the control of the Operator, the consequences of which could not have been avoided, even if all due care had been exercised which without prejudice to the generality of the above shall include war, threat of war, riot, civil disobedience or strife, industrial dispute, terrorist activity, natural or nuclear disaster, fire or adverse weather conditions, technical or maintenance problems with transport and changes of schedules or operational decisions of air carriers.

A) BOOKING CONDITIONS

1) Brochure/website Description

The contents of the brochure/website are based on knowledge and information available to the Operator prior to publication of the brochure/website and several months prior to the date of departure. No changes will be made to the particulars contained in the brochure/website relating to the Tour unless they are also clearly communicated to the Client before the Contract is made with the Client or, if the changes are made after the Contract is made, only with the agreement of the Client.

2) Deposit

A deposit of £125 per person shall be sent by the Client to the Operator with the completed Booking Form. The Client understands that any special medical conditions, dietary requirements or needs must be made known to the Operator when booking. The Operator cannot be held responsible in regard of any loss, where the above medical conditions, dietary requirements or special needs were not made known to the operator at the time of booking.

3) Acceptance of Deposit

The Contract between the Operator and the Client will be final and binding on both parties with effect from the date that notification of acceptance of the deposit has been sent by the Operator to the Client. Notice of acceptance, or otherwise, will be given to the Client in writing within 21 days of receipt of the Client's booking.

4) Balance of Payment

The client will pay the balance of the Price not later than 70 days before the Date of Departure. This payment will be made to the Operator in the same currency as the original deposit was made.

5) Transfer of Booking

If the Client wishes to transfer from the tour he has booked, to a tour with a different Date of Departure, he must inform the Operator in writing as early as possible. The Client agrees to pay all reasonable costs of the transfer, incurred by the Operator. The Operator will endeavour to keep these costs to a minimum. Transfer will be at the Operator's discretion.

6) Failure to Pay the Balance of Payment When Due

If the balance of the monies is not paid 70 days prior to departure, the Operator may treat the Contract as cancelled by the Client, and retain the deposit.

7) Cancellation or Alteration of the Contract

7.1 The Client acknowledges that payment for the Tour is an intrinsic part of the Tour's income and contributes to the overall cost of equipment, running costs, staffing, administration etc., and that the Operator will incur the largest part of its costs before the actual date of departure. Cancellation by the Client must be in writing.

7.2 If the cancellation is made by the Client not less than 70 days before the Date of Departure, the deposit only will be retained by the Operator.

7.3 If the cancellation is made by the Client less than 70 days before the Date of Departure, the Client will be liable to pay cancellation charges. The charges are based entirely upon the date that written confirmation of cancellation is received by the Operator. The charges are calculated as a percentage of the Price of the Client's tour as detailed below:

Date of written notification before depart	Tour cost cancellation charges (excluding air fares)	Flight cost cancellation charges
Up to 70 Days	Deposit only	From
69 - 35 days	40%	50% - 100%
34 - 0 days	100%	

Note: If the reason for your cancellation is covered under the terms of your insurance policy, you may be able to claim these charges. Please note insurance premiums are non-refundable.

7.4.1 The Operator will endeavour, at all times after a booking is taken, to provide the tour booked by the Client. However, the Operator reserves the right to cancel a tour up to 70 days before its scheduled Date of Departure. In such circumstances, the Client will be entitled to:

- a) an alternative tour of at least the same value, or lesser value with the refund of balance or
- b) if this is not available or acceptable by the Client, a refund of all monies paid.

7.4.2 The Client accepts that it is reasonable for the Operator to cancel the Tour up to 70 days prior to the Date of Departure if: a) cancellation is on the grounds that the number of persons enrolled on the tour is less than the number required for the tour. The minimum number of persons required for each tour is three. This number may be reduced at the operators discretion. b) cancellation is on grounds of "Force Majeure".

7.4.3 A cancellation by the Operator less than 70 days before the departure date will only happen in exceptional circumstances, due to Force Majeure, and after other reasonable alternatives have been exhausted.

7.5.1 If the Operator alters significantly any of the essential terms of the contract, excluding the price, prior to 70 days before the Date of Departure, the client shall be entitled to decide between:

- a) withdrawing from the contract and being repaid all monies paid by him under the Contract.
- b) accepting an alternative tour of at least the same value or of a lesser value with a refund of the balance.
- c) accepting the changes or alterations without compensation.

7.5.2 If the Operator alters significantly any of the essential terms of the contract, excluding the price, 70 or less than 70 days before the Date of Departure, the Client will be entitled to decide between 7.5.1 a & b and in addition will be entitled to a compensation payment from the Operator, to the Client, (as liquidated damages), covering loss of enjoyment, inconvenience and disappointment. The amount of compensation will be; between 69-14 days before Date of Departure £30; within 14 days of the Date of Departure £45.

7.5.3 Alterations by the Client at any time after booking, will be implemented by the Operator if possible, but no guarantee can be made of this, and any alterations will be made entirely at the discretion of the Operator. The Client will be informed before the alteration is implemented, of any fee that may be applicable.

7.6 After the departure date, no refund for any unused portion or part of the tour or services to be provided, will be given. If the Client of his own volition makes any alteration to or departs from any portion or part of the tour, such alterations or departure will be entirely at the Client's expense and liability.

8) Tour Price

The tour price can be subject to increase due to fluctuation in the exchange rate and unexpected increased fuel costs. With these variations in mind, the Operator reserves the right to increase the Tour Price at any time up to 70 days before Date of Departure. The Operator will absorb the first 2% of any increase. Should the surcharge be more than 10%, the Client will be entitled to cancel his tour and receive a full refund of all monies paid, excluding insurance premiums. The Client must notify the Operator of this decision within 14 days of receiving notice of surcharge from the Operator. The price of your travel arrangements was calculated using an exchange rate of £1 = €1.1612 as quoted in the 'FT' on the 9th November 2010.

B) OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS

1) In The Event of a Complaint and/or a Claim

In regard to a complaint or a claim, the Client agrees to the following procedure.

1.1 The Client will ensure that at the earliest opportunity, any perceived failure in the performance, or improper performance of the Contract, whether by the Operator or its suppliers, is communicated to the Operator's Tour Leader, its local representative or the operator, as applicable. The Operator and the Client will then make prompt efforts to resolve the complaint; and

1.2 In the event of a claim for compensation, the Client agrees that any such claims must be received by the Operator, in writing, at the address given in the definition of Operator, within 30 days from the end of his tour.

1.3 The Client agrees that these provisions are reasonable and that any failure by the Client to comply with them will, at the Operator's discretion, exclude any rights arising out of this Contract.

C) EXTENT AND FINANCIAL LIMITS OF LIABILITY

1) The Operator shall be liable to the Client for the proper performance of the obligations arising from the Contract, irrespective of whether such obligations are to be performed by the Operator or by other suppliers of services contracted by the Operator. However, the Operator will not be liable if such failure to perform is attributable neither to any fault of the Operator nor to that of another supplier of services, because;

- 1.1 such failure to perform is attributable to the Client, or
- 1.2 such failure being attributable to a third party unconnected with the provision of the services contracted for is either unforeseeable or unavoidable, or

1.3 such failure is due to a case of Force Majeure, or

1.4 such failure is due to an event which the Operator or the supplier of services, even with due care, could not have foreseen or forestalled.

In the Cases referred to in sub-clauses C1.2, C1.3, C1.4 above, the Operator will give prompt and appropriate assistance to a Client in difficulty.

2) The Operator's maximum aggregate liability under, arising from or in connection with this contract shall be limited to a reasonable sum and in no circumstances shall be greater than the Price. However, nothing in this Contract shall exclude, restrict or limit the Operator's liability for death or personal injury resulting from the Operator's negligence nor affect the Client's statutory rights.

3.1 Subject to Clause C2 above, if any claim is made against the Operator by the Client pursuant to sub-clause C1 above arising from the non-performance or improper performance of services by the Operator or a supplier of services other than the Operator, the Operator's maximum liability in respect of such

claim shall be limited to the amount to which the Client would be entitled to receive as damages from the Operator or such other supplier of services under applicable law (including relevant international conventions).

3.2 If any such claim as is set out in sub-clause 3.1 above is made, the Operator reserves the right to claim in place of the Client against the relevant supplier of services. In these circumstances, the Client hereby agrees to assign to the Operator all his rights against such supplier in respect of the relevant claim and the Operator will be subrogated to these rights.

D) COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

The Client will comply at his expense and his liability with all legislation, visa requirements, immigration, customs and foreign exchange regulations in connection with the Tour. Should there be any failure to comply or any contravention by the Client of such laws, requirements or regulations and subject to the provisions of this Contract, the Operator shall have the right to require the Client to leave the Tour without recourse to refund or other compensation.

E) TRAVEL AND CANCELLATION INSURANCE

The Client accepts that it is a condition of booking that all persons travelling on the Tour have adequate travel insurance (including, medical, personal accident and repatriation in the event of illness, baggage, money and liability cover as well as loss of monies paid in the event of cancellation).

F) ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

The Client acknowledges that there is an element of personal risk in participating in the Tour. The Client accepts and consents to the personal risks inherent in implementation of this Contract and accepts the limitations of the Operator's liability set out herein as being reasonable. The Operator reserves the right at any time to require the Client to produce a doctor's certificate certifying that the Client is fit to participate in the Tour.

G) GENERAL CONDITIONS

1) Passport/Visas

The Client acknowledges that prior to Contract he has been given general information on passport and visa requirements for the Tour and of the health formalities required for the Tour, and knows of no reason that would cause the Client to be unable to comply with these requirements.

2) Appropriate Law and Courts of Law

This Contract shall be construed in accordance with English law and the parties irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts to settle any disputes which may arise out of or in connection with this Contract.

3) Brochure/website Validity

Brochure/website validity is from November 2010. The brochure/website, conditions of contract, and Dates and Prices replace all previous editions.

H) FINANCIAL SECURITY

1) The air holidays and flights in the brochure ATOL Protected since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's License granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 6059. For further information visit the ATOL website at www.atol.org.uk.

2) Holidays without flights

In accordance with "The Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992" all passengers booking with Archipelago Azores are fully protected for the initial deposit and subsequently the balance of all monies paid to us, including repatriation if required, arising from cancellation or curtailment of your travel arrangements due to the liquidation of Archipelago Azores.

There is no requirement for Financial Protection of day trips, and none is provided.

A certificate detailing this cover will be given to the lead name on the 'Booking' as evidence of cover. Please ensure that you have been given the appropriate certificate at the time of booking.

Consumer aware: – This insurance is only valid for passengers who book and pay directly with/to Archipelago Azores Ltd. If you have booked and/ or paid direct to a Travel Agent for a holiday with Archipelago Azores Ltd please request proof of how the booking is secured as you should not receive an IPP certificate of insurance from Archipelago Azores Ltd in this instance.

This Insurance has been arranged by International Passenger Protection Limited and underwritten by Insurers who are members of the Association of British Insurers.

PLEASE NOTE: The consumer must submit a claim form with 6 months of the date of financial failure of the company. We cannot consider or pay claims received after such date.

J) Credit cards

All credit card payments are subject to a 1.5% handling fee which is imposed upon us by the credit card companies.

K) Privacy Policy

We do not store any credit or debit card details; all card information is destroyed immediately after each transaction.

ESSENTIAL READING°

Helping you get the most from your trip

Accommodation

You will find that most hotels and guest houses in the Azores have twin rooms rather than rooms with a double bed. Sometimes it is possible to book a double room, so please let us know if you would specifically like this.

The accommodation we have selected covers a wide range of tastes and includes many 'Quintas'. A Quinta is a farmhouse or manor house and these have generally been carefully restored with the help of government grants in an effort to encourage this type of traditional but excellent quality tourism. As these are houses and not purpose-built hotels, not all rooms are identical and they are generally missing many of the facilities you would usually find in a hotel, although you can be assured of a friendly welcome and a more relaxed atmosphere.

*Photographs of hotel rooms in the brochure reflect a variety of room types and in some cases may be superior rooms or suites. It is important to specify your preferred room type when booking.

Azorean food and language

There are many pleasant cafés and restaurants (many of which we list in the pre-departure information we send you) on all the islands and prices are reasonable. For dinner (with wine) allow £10-£15 per person, although it can be done more economically.

Local beef, pork and chicken are readily available and few dishes are highly spiced. Local fish is a speciality and greatly varied. Azorean bread and cheese are excellent and easy to find. Salads are fairly readily available although often are quite basic and vegetarian dishes are slowly starting to appear on menus. There are small supermarkets in most towns and like all shopping, prices are displayed and fixed.

If you do not speak Portuguese, you should not worry about getting by in the Azores. Many Azoreans have lived abroad for part of their lives and the young people often speak excellent English. Learning a few Portuguese phrases is always appreciated however, and you can make friends quickly if you have a go – our pre-departure information booklet contains some phrases to get started!

Visas and passports

Visas are not needed by UK or EC passport holders. You should check with your nearest Portuguese consulate if you have a passport other than these. Check your passport is valid until after your planned return date and it is recommended that you take a copy of your travel insurance policy for consultation in case of emergency.

Time difference

The Azores are 1 hour behind UK time throughout the year.

Health

There are no special health formalities for visitors to the Azores and local hospitals are well equipped, should you be taken ill. Special fitness requirements for tours (if any) are detailed in tour 'dossiers'.

Money

Travellers cheques are expensive to cash but ATM machines are common in most towns – remember to take your PIN number for your ATM card though! Credit cards are only accepted in larger restaurants and shops so you will still need currency (Euros) for smaller establishments.

Financial security

Holidays with flights:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL Protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's License granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 6059. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid to us for an advance booking. All our flight inclusive holidays include the £2.50pp ATOL Protection Contribution (APC). For further information, visit the ATOL website at www.atol.org.uk.

Holidays without flights:

All holidays where flights have not been purchased through Archipelago Azores will be protected under an IPP (International Passenger Protection) insurance policy.

Flight prices

Our return flight prices to the Azores from the UK start at £270 per adult in the winter and at £290 in the summer including all UK and Azorean airport taxes. However, prices can vary considerably depending on the class available and the combination of islands visited. This is especially the case in July, August and September. International flights are all scheduled and are with either TAP Air Portugal or SATA International. Inter island flights are approximately £55 per flight and are booked with SATA Air Azores. There are reductions for children under 12 years of age on the date of departure.

Other UK departure airports

We can also arrange flights to the Azores (via Lisbon or Oporto) from Liverpool, Bristol and Stansted with the budget airlines and UK connecting flights from certain regional airports to Heathrow and Gatwick. These flights tend to be very restrictive and have to be paid for when booking. Once booked they usually incur 100% cancellation charges and the airlines charge amendment fees.

Airport parking and hotels

We can pre book airport parking, hotels and lounges. Please call for more information.

Guidebooks

Archipelago Azores recommends these useful guidebooks to the Azores...

Landscapes of the Azores

136 pages, full colour, 24 maps. This handy guidebook geared more towards walkers and those wanting to tour by car with helpful routes, large scale maps and plans of towns.



Remember to include your name and address and mention **Archipelago Azores** when requesting your copy!

Azores Bradt Guide

248 pages, with some maps. This definitive guide book of the Azores is full of helpful information about these wonderful islands and is a must for any traveller. It's packed with information on the history, geology, fauna and flora of the islands.



ESSENTIAL READING°

Helping you get the most from your trip

Getting to the Azores *It's never been easier...*



Via Lisbon

Flight connections from the UK are excellent. For example, in the summer you can depart Heathrow at 0830 in the morning and be on São Miguel by 1430 and Faial by 1450. There are daily scheduled flights via Lisbon from Heathrow to the islands of São Miguel, Faial and Terceira. Flying time is around 2.5 hours for each leg.

Direct flight

Alternatively, you can catch the weekly flight on a Saturday from Manchester and Gatwick to the main island of São Miguel. Outbound from the UK, the flight starts in Manchester, stops to pick up in Gatwick for 50 minutes and then continues to Ponta Delgada. Returning from Ponta Delgada, the flight goes direct to Manchester and then on to Gatwick. The direct flight time is 3hrs 30mins and 5hrs 10mins with a stop.

Please note the direct flight only has 168 seats (per flight) which tend to fill up very quickly. These flights operate on Saturdays from 02nd April to 29th October 2011. It is possible to combine the direct flight with one leg via Lisbon.



*flight times and departure dates are subject to change and may be amended by the airlines after going to print.

*This flight originates in Ponta Delgada and goes to Manchester first, where passengers disembark or board (returning Gatwick passengers have to disembark and wait in departure lounge at Manchester), the flight then continues on to Gatwick (Manchester passengers have to wait in the departure lounge whilst the plane is refuelled and cleaned). The flight then returns to Ponta Delgada.

Getting around the islands

Air All nine islands are linked by the local airline (SATA Air Azores) whose planes operate scheduled flights around the archipelago. They operate like buses flying to one island, stopping for 20 minutes then flying on to another island, making island hopping easy. Planes used are usually 40 and 80 seat twin propeller Bombardiers.

Ferries are fairly limited but it is possible to sail between Flores and Corvo, between São Miguel and Santa Maria and there is a good service around the central group of islands, particularly between Faial, Pico and São Jorge.

Car hire is available on most islands and we can reserve this for you. Vehicles are generally fairly new and range from super mini to people carrier. Petrol is a little lower in price than the UK. The Portuguese drive on the right and the Azorean roads although sometimes bumpy, are generally traffic free and fairly well sign posted on main routes. Mopeds and bicycles are also available for hire and a European style license (with photo ID) is required for all motorised vehicle hire (or an old style license and passport).

Taxis are an excellent way of getting around as many drivers speak English and prices are very low compared to the UK. The vehicles are generally quite new and of a high standard.

Bus services run on all of the islands and they are a very inexpensive (though slow!) way to get around the islands. The best service is offered on São Miguel where the main towns are linked 3 or 4 times a day. However, the service is definitely designed for the locals rather than visitors, so if you want to see all the sights, you might be better off hiring a car.

Summer flights (June to September)*

UK Airport	Departures	Via	To (No. of flights)
Heathrow	Daily	Lisbon	São Miguel (2)
Heathrow	Daily	Lisbon	Terceira (1)
Heathrow	Daily	Lisbon	Faial (1)
Gatwick	Daily	Lisbon	São Miguel (1)
Gatwick	Daily	Lisbon	Terceira (1)
Gatwick	Daily	Lisbon	Faial (1)
Gatwick*	Sat (Apr-Oct)	Direct	São Miguel (1)
Manchester #	Sat (Apr-Oct)	Direct	São Miguel (1)

Non-UK Airport	Departures	Via	To (No. of flights)
Boston	Fri	Direct	São Miguel (1)
Boston	Sun	Direct	São Miguel (1)
Boston	Tue	Direct	Terceira (1)
Toronto	Fri	Direct	São Miguel (1)

Winter flights (October to May)*

UK Airport	Departures	Via	To (No. of flights)
Heathrow	Daily	Lisbon	São Miguel (2)
Heathrow	Daily	Lisbon	Terceira (1)
Gatwick	Daily	Lisbon	São Miguel (1)
Gatwick	Daily	Lisbon	Terceira (1)
Heathrow	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun	Lisbon	Faial (1)
Gatwick	Daily	Lisbon	Terceira (1)
Heathrow	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun	Lisbon	Faial (1)

Non-UK Airport	Departures	Via	To (No. of flights)
Toronto	Fri (all winter) Wed (Oct-Apr)	Direct	São Miguel (1)
Boston	Fri, Tue (Oct-Apr)	Direct	São Miguel (1)

Car Hire



We can offer competitive car hire rates for all the islands which usually include the following:

Unlimited mileage, delivery and collection to/from any part of the islands. Local taxes, additional driver, child seats (if required) and CDW insurance.

PLEASE NOTE All cars have a collision damage excess of between €400 and €1400, however this can be removed by paying an additional premium of between €10 and €15 per day (wilful damage and driving under the influence of alcohol will void your insurance). **Not included:** fuel, traffic fines, Personal Accident Insurance (PAI – available when renting) and any refundable deposits. Minimum rental period is one day and the minimum age is 23 (on some islands this can be reduced to 18 with an additional payment).

Super CDW waiver: some travel insurance companies now offer policies which can be substantially more competitive than those offered by the car hire companies. If you have any questions about this please ask your travel insurance company or call us.

Example of cars in each model group:

- A Fiat Seiscento / Renault Twingo / VW Lupo
- B Fiat Punto / Renault Clio / GM Corsa
- C Citroen C3 / Toyota Yaris / Ford Fiesta
- D Daihatsu Jeep / GM Astra
- F Ford Focus

Automatics, convertibles, estates, larger cars and MPVs also available on request.