

# AZORES 2015 – 9 Island Tour

Sep 4<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> itinerary

- SEP 04      **BOSTON/PONTA DELGADA**  
Evening depart from Logan Airport to Ponta Delgada aboard SATA International. Complimentary meal served on board with beverages.
- SEP 05      **PONTA DELGADA/SETE CIDADES/LAGOA DO FOGO**  
We arrive in the morning at Joao Paulo Airport in Ponta Delgada, upon arrival you will be transferred to Hotel Acores Atlantico. This afternoon we will start our half day sightseeing tour on Sete Cidades, the famous twin lakes that are one of the seven natural wonders of Portugal. Our first stop will be at one of the many pineapple plantations on the island. The guide explains how the pineapple is cultivated in the greenhouses and we will receive a delicious sampling of “licor” made from the pineapple. After visiting the plantation we make our way along the Southwest part of the island, where you can view the green pastures of the island and also the blue Atlantic Ocean. One of the stops will be Lagoa dos Canarios, then Vista do Rei, viewing the famous blue and green lakes of Sete Cidades. After viewing and photographing the famous lakes, we decent to the village of Sete Cidades, while there we will be able to visit the quaint Church of Sao Nicolau. After word we proceed to the coastal road taking us to view such parish as Mosteiros, the city of Ribeira Grande and Lagoa do Fogo. We then return to the hotel and enjoy the rest of the evening at your leisure. (B, L)
- SEP 06      **PONTA DELGADA/FURNAS/NORDESTE**  
Today we will be off on a full day tour, to the southern and northern part of Sao Miguel. We travel along the southern coast heading toward Vila Franca, stopping at the pottery factory in Lagoa, we then proceed to the northern coast to Ribeira Grande, Ladeira Velha and a thrilling climb to Pico do Ferro with a magnificent view of both valley and lake of Furnas. We continue to the town of Furnas taking the southern coast to visit the Caldeiras, which are natural hot water springs. Lunch will be served in Furnas (Cozido). After lunch we continue on our trip to Ribeira dos Caldeiros, Nordeste via Salto do Cavalo, and return to our hotel in the evening. (B, L)
- SEP 07      **PONTA DELGADA/ SANTA MARIA**  
We depart in the early morning to Santa Maria for a full day tour with lunch. Our first stop is *Anjos*, the location of the first landfall of Christopher Columbus on his return from America. We then proceed to the historical Church of Sao Pedro, followed by a stop at the scenic point of *Lagoinha*. We continue to the town of Santa Barbara and visit the beautiful Church of Santa Barbara in the Baroque Style. We then travel west to Sao Lourenco for a splendid bird’s-eye view of the bay and its Cliffside vineyards. After that, we head to the pretty village of Santo Espirito, visiting the Ethnographic Museum and the XVI Century Church. According to legend, this is where the first Mass was celebrated in the Azores. On our return to Vila do Porto we pass through the town of Almagreira. In the evening, we depart back to Ponta Delgada, to our hotel (B, L)
- SEP 08      **PONTA DELGADA/GRACIOSA**  
We depart in the afternoon to “The White Island” of Graciosa. Upon arrival in Graciosa, you will be transferred to Hotel Graciosa Resort. The rest of the day will be spent at your leisure to either enjoy the pool or visit the nearby town of Santa Cruz, which has an ethnographic museum, churches and a beautiful shoreline. (B)
- SEP 09      **GRACIOSA**  
Today we embark on a full day tour to explore the island of Graciosa. We head to Monte Nossa Senhora da Ajuda that has breath-taking views of the surrounding countryside. On our travels around the island, we stop to see windmills and the Farol da Ponta da Barca. Here, there are views of volcanic formations in the shape of a whale, (Ilheus). Afterwards we drive to the unique

geological formation of Caldeira and Furna de Enxofre, (Sulphur Cavern), (admission optional). While we circle the island we stop at various scenic areas to view the different points of the island as well as to have lunch. (B, L)

SEP 10

### **GRACIOSA/TERCEIRA**

Today we make our way back to the airport, for a quick flight to the island of Terceira, upon arrival you will be transferred to Hotel Terceira Mar and the rest of the day will be at leisure to explore the historical center of Angra do Heroismo (World Heritage site by UNESCO, in 1983) or enjoy the hotel beautiful pool. (B)

SEP 11

### **TERCEIRA**

Today we take a full day tour to explore the island of Terceira “The Lilac Island”. We depart for Monte Brazil passing by the beautiful city of Angra do Heroismo stopping at Pico das Cruzinhas. This is the highest point on Monte Brasil, with a beautiful view of the city and its outskirts. The tour continues towards the eastern side of the island, showing the typical settlements and rural architecture and colorful “Imperios”. We stop in the town of Sao Sebastiao, where the church is one of the oldest of the Azores. After lunch we drive to Praia da Vitoria, and then onto Serra do Cume, with beautiful views overlooking the town of Lajes and the ocean. Our final stop is Biscoitos, a wine area, where we visit a wine cellar, and a taste of the wine is a must. (B, L)

SEP 12

### **TERCEIRA/PICO**

We depart to the island of Pico in the afternoon, upon arrival you will be transferred to the Hotel Caravela. The rest of day will be spent at leisure to explore the town of Madalena do Pico. (B)

SEP 13

### **PICO/SAO JORGE**

Today our full day tour of Pico “Mountain Island” begins at the famous wine vineyards (Criacao Velha), recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2004. We continue on to Lajes do Pico stopping at the beautiful Church in Sao Mateus. As we proceed we make several stops at handicraft exhibition, cheese factory, whaling museum (Museu dos Baleeiros), etc. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant as the tour proceeds around the island. We continue our tour towards Sao Roque do Pico we stop briefly at the *Arcos do Cachorro*, an impressive display of rock formations (one in the shape of a dog), coming out of the sea as well as to taste the various liquors of the region. Our final stop will be Sao Roque do Pico a beautiful town by the sea. Depart in evening to Sao Jorge Island by ferry, upon arrival transfer to Hotel Sao Jorge. (B, L)

SEP 14

### **SAO JORGE/FAIAL**

We depart from the hotel on a full day tour and head towards the western part of the island, visiting a forestry park and cheese factory. We travel through Fajas, Faja do Ouvidor and Faja dos Cubres. As we travel around the island, our lunch time will be at a local restaurant. After lunch we stop by Manadas to see the beautiful church of Santa Barbara. Our final stop before heading back to Velas, is the town of Urzelina where we will see the remains of a church buried under lava from the eruption of 1808. Evening departure by ferry to the Island of Faial, upon arrival transfer to Hotel Horta. (B, L)

SEP 15

### **FAIAL**

We begin our full day tour to discover the island of Faial by driving through the city of Horta. Horta is most famous for its cosmopolitan yacht harbor. We next stop at the scenic point of Espalamaca to view the harbor and all its surroundings, followed by a visit to the Caldeira. The Caldeira is a large crater in the central part of the island, where we view the beautiful natural landscape. As we descend the center of the island, we encounter cattle grazing on hill sides. Our tour’s next destination is the Capelinhos volcano area, where the volcano last erupted in 1958 (Museum entrance optional). Lunch will be served at a local restaurant, after lunch we stop at a camping area with a reconstructed home depicting a typical “old” farm Faial house. (B, L)

SEP 16

**FAIAL/FLORES**

In the morning, we depart to the island of Flores, upon arrival you will be transferred to the Hotel das Flores, the rest of your day will be at your leisure. (B)

SEP 17

**FLORES/CORVO**

We depart in the morning by boat for our Corvo island tour. As the boat proceeds to Corvo, our local skipper takes us along the shoreline of Flores to view the caves, faults and waterfalls. Our first view point is to see the village, named Vila do Corvo. We then head north to the Monte Gordo “Caldeirao”, an enormous caldera with an unusual topography. We return to Vila do Corvo for our lunch. After lunch you will be able to explore the town and photograph the windmills before returning to the island of Flores. This tour operates weather permitting. (B, L)

SEP 18

**FLORES**

Our tour today begins by heading northeastern, stopping at Ponta dos Cedros and the town of Ponta Delgada to view the island of Corvo. Our next stop is the lighthouse where we’ll be able to see Ilheu do Monchinque, the furthest Western point of Europe. As we circle the island and head toward Fajazinha we stop at several Lakes and observe flora of Flores. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. After lunch our tour continues along the Southwest stopping at the Rocha dos Bordoos, basalt rock formations. The next stop will be the Nossa Senhora do Rosario Church to visit and view the town of Lajes. Farewell dinner will be served in the evening at the Hotel. (B, L, D)

SEP 19

**FLORES/BOSTON**

Our final morning in the Azores will be at your leisure and preparing for the trip home. We will be checking out by noon from the hotel and transfer to the airport for our return flight to Boston via Ponta Delgada. (B)

**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Roundtrip airfare from Boston to the Azores, including inter-island flights between island groups;
- Inter-island ferry tickets between the “triangle islands”;
- Fourteen hotel nights with breakfast included in the morning;
- 10 full day tours including lunch (One on each island and two in Sao Miguel);
- Farewell dinner on the last night of the tour;
- Roundtrip transfers from airport to hotel.

**MEALS:** 26 - MEALS = (15) BREAKFAST, (10) LUNCH, (1) DINNER

Price **\$3,299.00** per person, including all applicable taxes.

A deposit of **\$1,000.00 (NON-REFUNDABLE)** per person is due to book the tour and final payment is due 60 days prior (**July 6, 2015**), we recommend insurance after final payment.

**Contact us at:**

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