

AZORES 2017 – 9 Island Tour

September 2nd to September 19th itinerary

- SEP. 2 **BOSTON/PONTA DELGADA**
Evening depart from Logan Airport to Flores via Ponta Delgada aboard Azores Airlines. Complimentary meal served on board with beverages.
- SEP. 3 **PONTA DELGADA/FLORES**
After arrival, we will be transferred to our hotel, the rest of the day is at leisure to get acquainted with the town of Santa Cruz das Flores.
- SEP. 4 **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. We finally head back to our hotel at the end of the day. (B, L, D)
- SEP. 5 **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 before our crossing over to the island of Corvo. After arriving in Vila do Corvo, we 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. 6 **FLORES/FAIAL**
We depart to the island of Faial, upon arrival you will be transferred to your hotel, the rest of your day will be at your leisure to explore the town of Horta. (B)
- SEP. 7 **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 hillsides. Our tour's next destination is the Capelinhos volcano area, where the volcano last erupted in 1958. 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. 8 **PICO**
In the morning we take a short ferry ride over to the island of Pico. After dropping our luggage off at the hotel, we begin the full day tour of Pico "Mountain Island" beginning 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 stopping 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. (B, L)

- SEP. 9 SAO JORGE**
Today we depart on a full day tour to Sao Jorge Island. We 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 will be at a local restaurant in Topo. 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. Prior to returning to our hotel in Pico by ferry we'll have "lanche" in Velas. (B, L)
- SEP. 10 PICO/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 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). (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/GRACIOSA**
In the morning you will have time to do any last minute shopping, before departing to the airport in the early afternoon. Afterwards we will be brought to the airport for a quick flight to the island of Graciosa. After checking into the hotel you will have the rest of the day to enjoy the town of Santa Cruz da Graciosa. (B)
- SEP. 13 GRACIOSA/PONTA DELGADA**
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 to descend into the cave). 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) We depart in the afternoon to Sao Miguel Island. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your Hotel. The rest of the day will be spent at your leisure to either enjoy the pool or visit city of Ponta Delgada.. (B)
- SEP. 14 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 coast heading toward Vila Franca, stopping at the pottery factory in Lagoa, we then proceed 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 Caldeiroes, Nordeste via Salto do Cavalo, and return to our hotel in the evening. (B, L)
- SEP. 15 PONTA DELGADA**
The last day in the Island of Sao Miguel is at leisure to explore, shop and revisit points of interest. (B)

SEP. 16

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. 17

PONTA DELGADA/SETE CIDADES/LAGOA DO FOGO

Today we will be off on our full day tour of Sete Cidades and Lagoa do Fogo. We begin by making a short visit to a pineapple plantation. There we will see how the pineapple is cultivated, followed by a sampling of the pineapple liquor. We then proceed to visit the Lagoa dos Canarios and Lagoa de Santiago. After that we make a climb to the Vista do Rei for a panoramic view of the two lakes of Sete Cidades. A typical lunch will then be served. After lunch we head to the Lagoa do Fogo, making stops in Ribeira Grande and Caldeira Velha. At the top of Lagoa do Fogo we are able to see both the north and south coasts of São Miguel (B, L)

SEP. 18

PONTA DELGADA

Today the day is at leisure to complete any last minute shopping or relax. In the evening we will be going to a local restaurant for our farewell dinner. (B)

SEP. 19

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. (B)

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Round trip airfare from Boston to the Azores, including inter-island flights between island groups;
- Inter-island ferry tickets between the "triangle islands" and Flores and Corvo;
- 16 hotel nights with breakfast included in the morning;
- 10 full day tours including lunch (one on each island and two in Sao Miguel) – Tours conducted by English speaking local guides;
- Farewell dinner on the last night of the 9 Island tour (Sao Miguel);
- Round trip transfers from the airports to hotels (Azores).

MEALS: 27 - MEALS = (16) BREAKFAST, (10) LUNCH, (1) DINNER

Price **\$3,399.00** 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 3rd, 2017**), we recommend travel insurance. Not responsible for any errors or omissions.

Contact us at:

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