

Azores Sample Itinerary

<u>Day</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Hotels</u>
1 and 2	<p>Day 1 and 2-Sao Miguel Island: Depart from NYC on an overnight flight to Sao Miguel Island. Transfer to local hotel.</p> <p>Afternoon: After checking into the hotel, we will visit 2 local swim spots. The first is called Piscinas do Pesqueiro. This protected area provides entrance into the calm ocean waters. The second, Complexo De Piscinas De S. Pedro pool provides a relaxing atmosphere with beautiful ocean views.</p> <p>Evening: Explore the city of Ponta Delgada. This quaint city boasts a history over five centuries and precious testimonies of the past. Ponta Delgada is a multifaceted city where tradition lives hand-in-hand with the present and cosmopolitanism with wholesome tranquility of the Azorean life. Participants will partake in a scavenger hunt of the city for a fun way to explore the area.</p>	<p>Hotel Marina Atlântico Av. João Bosco Mota Amaral n.º1, 767, 9500- 767 Ponta Delgada, Portugal Tel: +351 296 307 900</p>
3	<p>Day 3-Emblematic Lagoons - FD Sete Cidades & Lagoa do Fogo land tour</p> <p>Morning: The guide will meet the group at the hotel reception and brief them about the experiences prepared for this day. The group will be able to observe the fauna and flora of the island of São Miguel and admire the beautiful Lagoas de Santiago and the green and blue Lagoon of Sete Cidades, where we can create unique photographic moments. Stop for lunch at a local restaurant. Then, we will travel through stunning paths towards Pico da Barrosa. At Pico da Barrosa, we will have the opportunity to see Lagoa do Fogo, with its unique characteristics. Stop to visit Caldeira Velha for a visit.</p> <p>Afternoon: Hike the Serra Devassa trail. This hike takes place in a designated protected area of Sao Miguel Island. The trail starts in front of the enchanting Lagoa do Canário. Along the path you can appreciate the beauty of the Muro das Nove Janelas, an ancient aqueduct that used to supply water to Ponta Delgada, and the Lagoa do Pau Pique, a lake located in the center of a small volcanic cone. Upon reaching the top of the slope, you will be presented with a breathtaking view of Lagoa das Éguas and a picturesque round lake on your right. (B, L, D)</p>	<p>Hotel Marina Atlântico Av. João Bosco Mota Amaral n.º1, 767, 9500- 767 Ponta Delgada, Portugal Tel: +351 296 307 900</p>
4	<p>Day 4-Volcanic experience</p> <p>Morning: First stop will be the pineapple plantation, where will learn how pineapples are grown. And yes, there are free samples. The tour continues to Furnas Lake. Here you will see the thermal features like mud pots and hot springs that make this area famous. We will attend a demonstration of the traditional Cozido and learn how to cook in the Calderas. The Cozido is a special stew that uses the heat from the volcano to cook meals. This will be our lunch, and will be served at a local restaurant.</p> <p>Afternoon: The tour follows into the Furnas Valley, to visit the Terra Nostra Park, possibly the best example of the romantic 18th century gardens in the Azores. Here, in addition to walking through paths surrounded by vegetation from around the world, there is time to enjoy a thermal bath in the pool. (B, L, D)</p>	<p>Hotel Marina Atlântico Av. João Bosco Mota Amaral n.º1, 767, 9500- 767 Ponta Delgada, Portugal Tel: +351 296 307 900</p>

5	<p>Day 5-Swimming with Dolphins and Canyoning Morning: Prepare to be amazed by the deep blue sea, the curiosity of dolphins and the crystal clear waters that surround our island. In an interaction of full respect for animals, swimming with dolphins seeks the perfect balance between an unforgettable experience and the preservation of the Azores' natural resources. In this experience you can count on the presence of common dolphins (<i>Delphinus delphis</i>), Atlantic spotted dolphins (<i>Stenella frontalis</i>) or bottlenose dolphins (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>).</p> <p>Afternoon: Canyoning is a unique sport that combines several outdoor sports like rock climbing, hiking, swimming, and rappelling. This activity starts with a short walk of about 20 minutes, until the entry point in the stream. After a safety meeting, you will begin to traverse several vertical challenges (waterfalls) which will require rappelling through the waterfall to reach the bottom. There will also be opportunities to swim and jump from cliffs into the stream. (B, L)</p>	<p>Hotel Marina Atlântico Av. João Bosco Mota Amaral n.º1, 767, 9500-767 Ponta Delgada, Portugal Tel: +351 296 307 900</p>
6	<p>Day 6-Flight to Faial Island Morning: This morning we will take a plane to Faial Island. Known as the "Blue Island", Faial has quiet inlets with beaches of soft sand, and a plethora of hydrangeas standing out against the landscape. You will see the masts of sailing boats from all over the world and the ochre walls of a fortress that has witnessed countless naval battles;</p> <p>Afternoon: We will partake in absolutely breathtaking hike high about the city of Horta. Along the way you will have birds eye views of rugged coastline, beautiful beaches and a host of wild birds. From the top you can see the city and the harbor beneath you. (B, L, D)</p>	<p>Hotel Do Canal Largo Dr. Manuel de Arriaga, 9900-026 Horta, Portugal Tel: +351 292 202 120</p>
7	<p>Day 7-Mt. Pico hike or Pico Island tour Morning: Mt. Pico Hike - This 5-star hike takes you to the highest point in Portugal, Pico. Located on Pico Island in the Azores, this trail is an unmissable experience for lovers of nature and outdoor challenges. Be ready for a unique adventure where you will overcome challenges and marvel at the breathtaking natural beauty of Pico. Enjoy every moment as you hike towards the highest point in Portugal, and enjoy spectacular views along the way.</p> <p>Island Tour- Whales, vineyards, natural pools, lagoons and caves. This is what this island tour is all about. A combination of the 'must see' and places you wouldn't find by yourself. Discover some of the most astonishing hidden corners Pico has to offer. Swim in a natural ocean pool created by the landscape. Afterwards, we will wander inside a lava tunnel, underneath the surface, which holds geological formations that bear witness to the forces of nature. (B, L, D)</p>	<p>Hotel Do Canal Largo Dr. Manuel de Arriaga, 9900-026 Horta, Portugal Tel: +351 292 202 120</p>
8	<p>Day 8-Whale watching Morning: The day begins with an ocean boat tour. Spotters on land will help navigate the ships to find pods of dolphins and of course whales. The Azores are currently one of the largest whale sanctuaries in the world. Between common and rare and resident and migratory species, one can spot 24 different types of cetaceans in Azorean waters. The number is impressive and represents a third of all existing species.</p> <p>Evening: Evening dinner and wrap-up activities. (B, L, D)</p>	<p>Hotel Do Canal Largo Dr. Manuel de Arriaga, 9900-026 Horta, Portugal Tel: +351 292 202 120</p>
9	<p>Day 9: Departure: Leave Faial in the morning for a flight to Sao Miguel Island. Then board a flight back to New York. (B)</p>	