



[www.visitazores.com](http://www.visitazores.com)



 **36° 55' 44" N, 25° 01' 02" W - Azores, PORTUGAL**

## Who and Where we are

- The Azores Islands are located in the North Atlantic Ocean, between parallels 36 and 39 North and meridians 25 and 31 West.
- Autonomous Region of Portugal.
- Approximately two hours by air from Mainland Portugal and four and a half hours by air from the North American Continent.
- Made up of nine islands, divided in three groups:
  - Eastern Group: islands of **Santa Maria** and **São Miguel**
  - Central Group: islands of **Terceira, Graciosa, São Jorge, Pico** and **Faial**
  - Western Group: islands of **Flores** and **Corvo**.

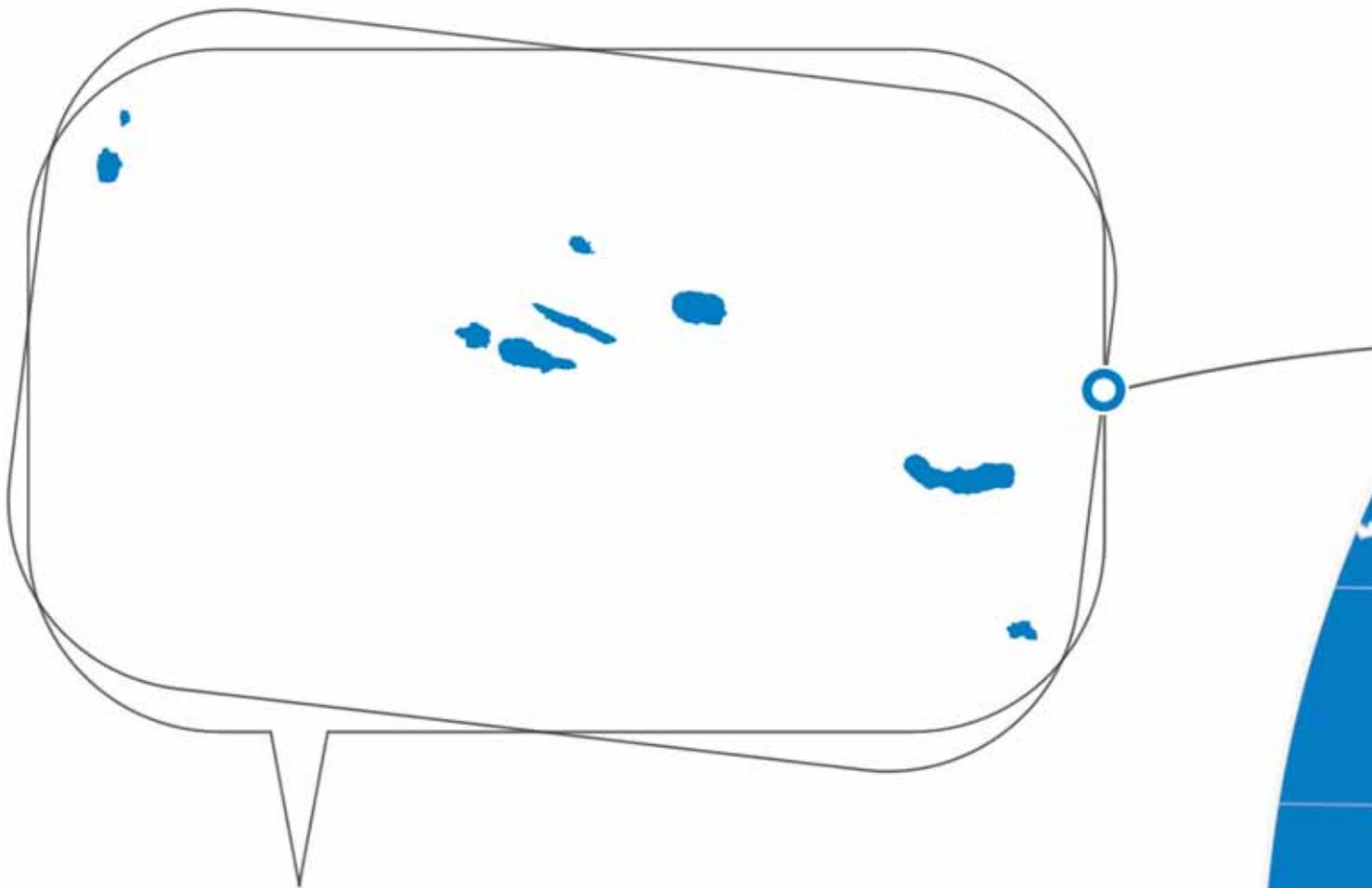
**Time zone:** UTC-1 | **Language:** Portuguese | **Currency:** Euro (€) | **Electricity:** 220V

## Climate

	Monthly average air temperature (°C)	Monthly average ocean temperature(°C)	Monthly average rainfall (mm)
<b>January</b>	14,1	16,1	125,7
<b>February</b>	13,6	15,5	118,4
<b>March</b>	14,3	15,4	94,4
<b>April</b>	14,9	15,8	77,0
<b>May</b>	16,6	16,7	61,9
<b>June</b>	18,7	18,3	50,2
<b>July</b>	21,0	20,4	38,8
<b>August</b>	22,1	21,9	55,5
<b>September</b>	21,1	21,7	88,3
<b>October</b>	18,9	20,3	106,8
<b>November</b>	16,9	18,5	132,1
<b>December</b>	15,1	17,0	133,1

Source: UA, CLIMAAT

Feel alive.



## The Azores 9 islands

### WESTERN Group



\_Corvo

\_Flores

### CENTRAL Group



\_Graciosa

\_Terceira

\_São Jorge

\_Pico

\_Faial

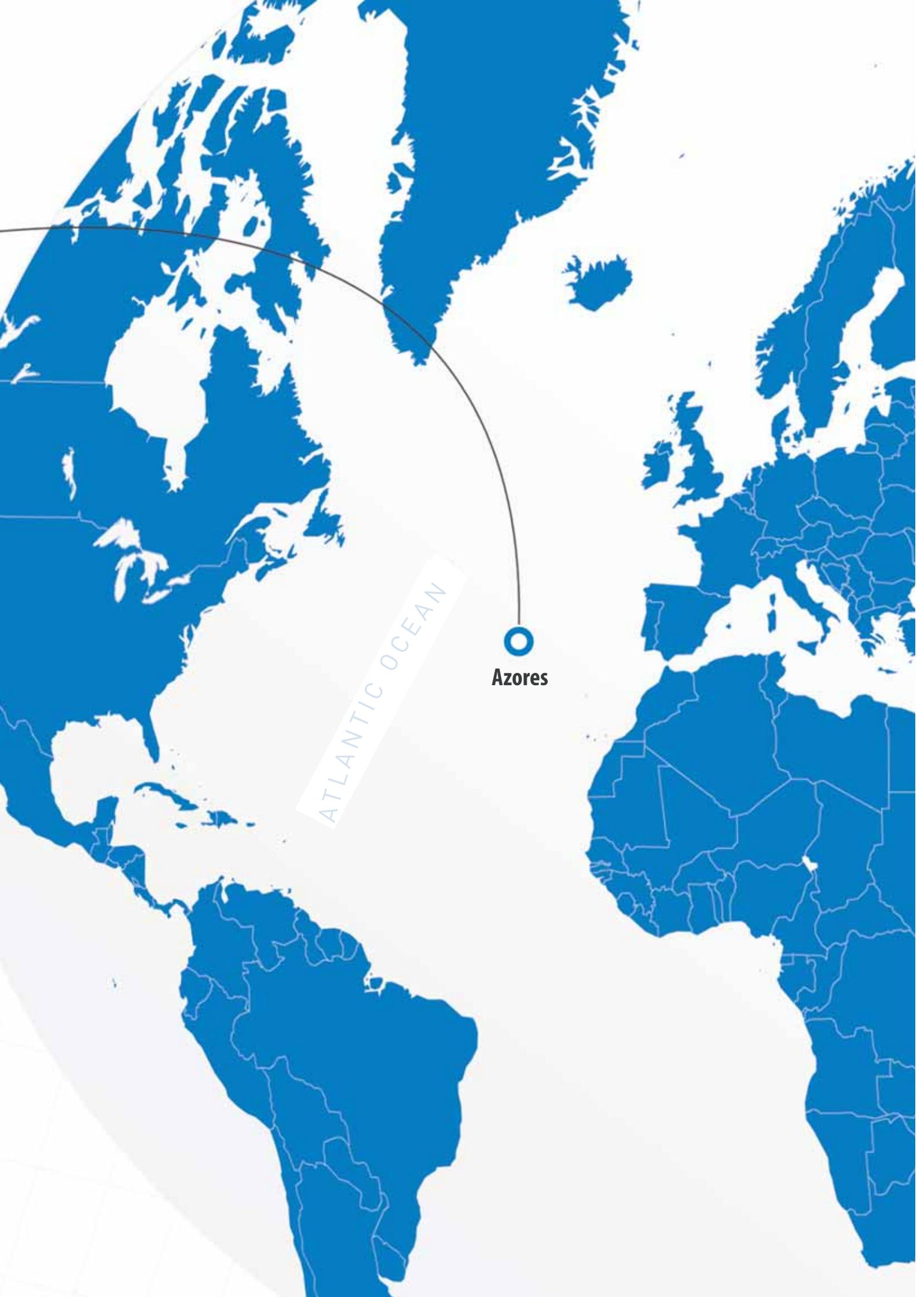
### EASTERN Group



\_São Miguel

\_Santa Maria

	São Miguel	Santa Maria	Terceira	Faial	Pico	São Jorge	Graciosa	Flores	Corvo	Total
<b>Population</b> 	137.699 55,95%	5.547 2,25%	56.062 22,78%	15.038 6,11%	14.144 5,75%	8.998 3,66%	4.393 1,79%	3.791 1,54%	430 0,17%	<b>246.102</b> <b>100%</b>
<b>Total Area</b> 	744,7 km <sup>2</sup> 32,03%	97 km <sup>2</sup> 4,17%	401,9 km <sup>2</sup> 17,29%	173,1 km <sup>2</sup> 7,45%	444,9 km <sup>2</sup> 19,14%	243,9 km <sup>2</sup> 10,49%	60,9 km <sup>2</sup> 2,62%	141,4 km <sup>2</sup> 6,08%	17,1 km <sup>2</sup> 0,74%	<b>2324,9 km<sup>2</sup></b> <b>100%</b>
<b>Coordinates</b> 	37°48'34" N 25°12'40" W	36°58'59" N 25°05'26" W	38°43'47" N 27°19'11" W	38°34'34" N 28°42'47" W	38°28'07" N 28°23'58" W	38°39'02" N 28°04'27" W	39°01'17" N 27°57'59" W	39°27'48" N 31°13'13" W	39°41'58" N 31°06'55" W	
<b>Highest Point</b> 	Pico da Vara 1105 m	Pico Alto 587 m	Serra de Santa Bárbara - 1021 m	Cabeço Gordo 1043 m	Piquinho 2350 m	Pico da Esperança 1053 m	Caldeira 405 m	Morro Alto 911 m	Zona Estreitinho 720 m	



ATLANTIC OCEAN

Azores

15<sup>th</sup>  
Century

**1427** - Probable year of the discovery of the first islands of the Archipelago by Diogo de Silves.

**1439** - Royal decree for the settlement of seven islands of the Azores.

**1452** - Discovery of the Western Group of islands, Flores and Corvo, by Diogo de Teive.

16<sup>th</sup>  
Century

Settlement of the Western Group of islands. - **1508**

Birth of Gaspar Frutuoso, historian and chronicler of the Macaronesia. His most famous work is *Saudades da Terra*. - **1522**

Creation of the Diocese of Angra and the islands of the Azores. - **1534**

Last stand of the Portuguese resistance, then the Azores were finally submitted to Spanish rule. - **1583**

17<sup>th</sup>  
Century

**1642** - Withdrawal of the last Castilian troops from the Azores after the independence of Portugal was restored.

Period of large emigration to Brazil. One of the periods when privateers and pirates were most active on the islands.

18<sup>th</sup>  
Century

Beginning of the so-called Orange Trade, which brought prosperity from the export of the fruit, and lasted approximately one hundred years. - **1750**

Expulsion of the Jesuits due to the reforms introduced by the Marquis of Pombal. - **1759/60**

Creation of the General Captancy, which aimed to unify the Azores under the same political-administrative institution. - **1766**

19<sup>th</sup>  
Century

**1831** - Victory of the Liberal Movement in the Azores.

**1834** - Suppression of convents and monasteries in the archipelago in line with the suppression of all religious orders by the King D. Pedro IV.

**1893** - Installation of the first submarine cable linking Lisbon to the Azores.

**1895** - First laws on the autonomy of the Azores.

20<sup>th</sup>  
Century

Official visit of the King of Portugal, D. Carlos, and of the Queen, D. Amélia. - **1901**

Eruption of the volcano of Capelinhos (island of Faial). - **1957/58**

Establishment of the Autonomous Region of the Azores, with its own government and parliament. - **1976**

Visit by the Head of the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II. - **1991**



## SANTA MARIA

**1493** - Christopher Columbus drops anchor off the coast of Anjos on his return trip after the discovery of America.



## SÃO MIGUEL

**1874** - The first tea plantation is established in São Miguel, now the only plantation in Europe.



## TERCEIRA

**1983** - Angra do Heroísmo is classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.



## FAIAL

**1893** - Installation of the first submarine communications cable linking Horta to the rest of the world, thus making the island an important transoceanic communications centre.



## PICO

**2004** - UNESCO classifies the Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture as a World Heritage Site.



## SÃO JORGE

**1757** - "God's Emissary" hits the island; a huge earthquake that formed many of the present-day *fajãs* (low-lying strips of land along the coast), amongst them the Fajã da Caldeira de Santo Cristo.



## GRACIOSA

**2007** - Graciosa is classified as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO.



## FLORES

**2009** - Flores is classified as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO.



## CORVO

**2007** - Corvo is classified as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO.



## Azores: 2nd Best Islands in the World for Sustainable Tourism

The Azores Archipelago was elected the second best island destination in the world for sustainable tourism. The survey involved 111 islands and archipelagos that were evaluated by 522 experts. The Azores scored 84 out of 100 points. In 2006, *National Geographic Traveller* described the Azores as a “wonderful place [with] green volcanic mountains and picturesque black-and-white towns [that] look set to remain unspoiled”.



## Azores: One of the Best 2011 Summer Trips

The Azores is a place for all seasons. The magazine *National Geographic Traveller* said that visiting the archipelago was one of the 10 best summer trips of 2011. Furthermore, the Azores was described as “an unspoiled archipelago” and ranked as the 8th best summer destination. The magazine also highlighted its cultural wealth which it said complements the natural elements, and part of which lies in the large number of religious processions and cultural events.



## Azores: One of the World's Top Ten Destinations for Whale Watching

In 2010, the *Sunday Telegraph* declared the Azores to be one of the best destinations for whale watching, classifying it as one of the world's ten best destinations.



## Quality Coast Award

In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the European Union awarded the Azores with the only international prize for Sustainable Tourism in Coastal Destinations. The archipelago enjoys the official status of ‘Quality Coastal Destination’.



## Azores: One of the World's Best Destinations

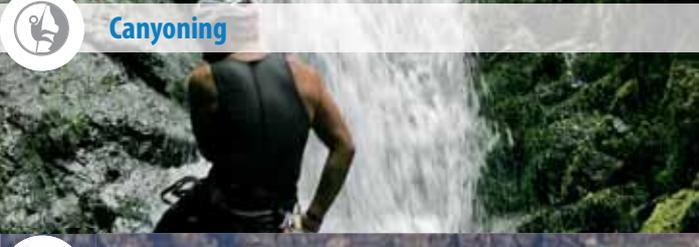
In 2008, the prestigious travel guide *Lonely Planet*, which is read by millions of tourists and travellers, named the Azores as one of the world's best tourism destinations.



## Azores: A Unique Travel Destination

In 2010, the North American magazine, *Forbes*, declared the Azores a ‘Unique Travel Destination’. Sustainability, culture and the cuisine were the features that were taken into account by the magazine.





Feel alive.

### Walking trails



In the Azores, there is a network of approximately 60 mapped trails, all of great biogeological, historical and ethnographical interest. They are classified in accordance with their level of difficulty, distance and type of route (linear or circular) - [www.trails-azores.com](http://www.trails-azores.com). As you walk inland from the coast, you will enjoy a stunning landscape

marked by dense coastal woods, juniper trees and the remains of *lauris-silva* forest. But there is much more to see than just vegetation. There are also waterfalls, vineyards, typical homes, windmills, fishing boats, and corrals. What's more, on the coast, there are tidal pools nestling amongst rock formations, great for a refreshing swim!

### Whale watching and swimming with dolphins



The Azores is one of the best places in the world for whale watching. Around the archipelago, approximately 25 different resident and migratory species can be spotted. The sperm whale (*Physeter macro-*

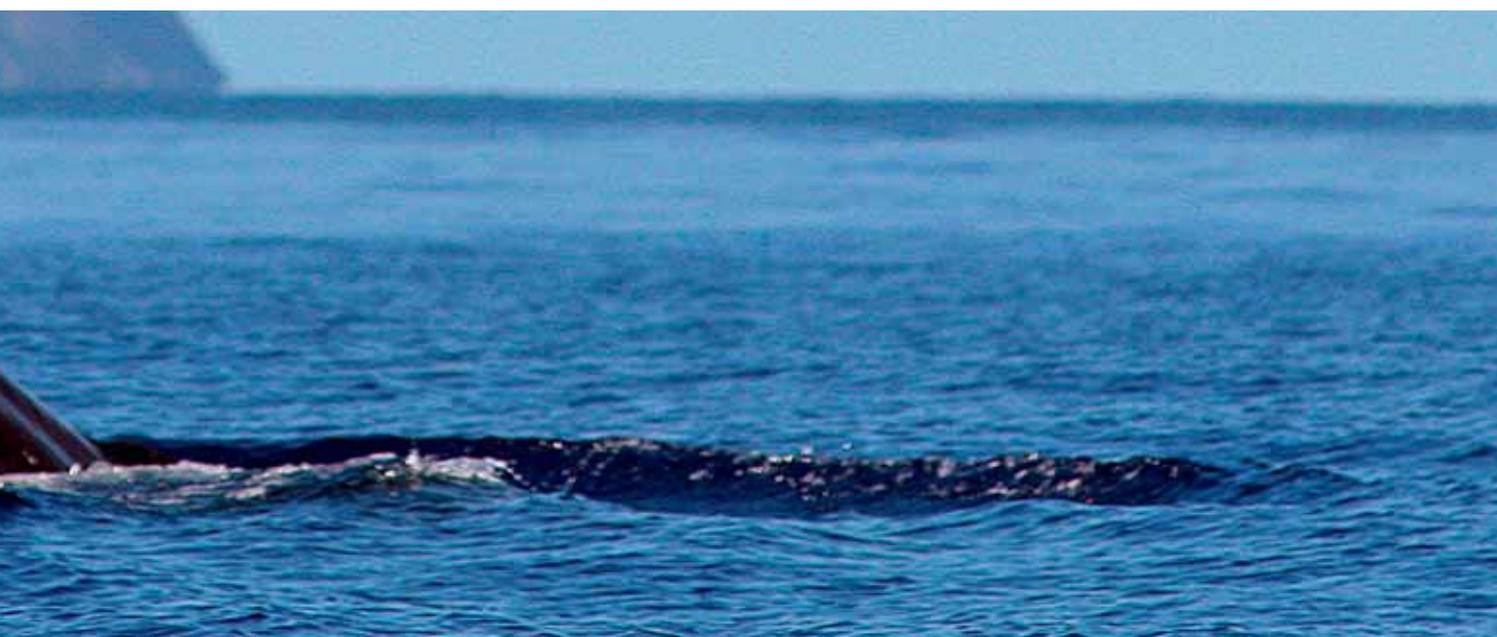
*cephalus*) is amongst the most common: the same giant of the seas that was immortalised in the classic book, *Moby Dick*. These whales can be as long as 18 metres and weigh as much as 44 tonnes. Other

## Golfing



Considered by the IGTM (International Golf Travel Market) as one of the best and least exploited places in the world to play golf, the Azores combines a beautiful landscape with a mild climate, allowing golfers to play year round. There are two golf courses on the island of São Miguel and one on the island of Terceira, which are all certified and recognised internationally. On the island of São Miguel, the Furnas Golf Course, approximately 40 km from Ponta Delgada, is a par 72 course

with 18 holes. The Batalha Golf Course, located on the north coast of the island, only 10 minutes away from Ponta Delgada, is a par 72 course with 27 holes. The Terceira Golf Course is only one km away from the American Lajes Air Base and less than 15 km away from the city of Angra do Heroísmo. It is a par 72 course with 18 holes. These three golf courses are able to host large events, offering a restaurant/bar, a pro shop, golf carts, a chipping area, putting greens and a driving range.



whales can also be seen, such as the blue whale (*Balaenopterus musculus*) and the fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), as well as several species of sharks, turtles and dolphins, namely the common dolphin

(*Delphinus delphis*), the common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), the spotted dolphin (*Stenella frontalis*), and many other fascinating marine animals.

### Diving



Mild sea temperatures, between 15° C and 22° C, and clear waters are some of the features that make the Azores an ideal destination for diving. Besides the mild weather conditions, there is also the diverse underwater landscape, featuring a volcanic seafloor inhabited by a variety of species from which arches and lava tubes emerge. What's more, there are also archaeological parks filled with the wrecks of merchant and war

ships that have been buried here throughout history. Dozens of sites have been described and listed, suiting all tastes and types of dive: snorkelling, beginner dives, night dives, coastal dives, caves and shipwreck dives, coastal shoals or deep water dives.

### Geotourism



The volcanic origin of the archipelago, the small size of the islands, and the short distance between some of them, make it easy to explore the region's biodiversity, magnificent landscapes and geolocations at any time of the year.

Stand and stare at the collapsed calderas and their beautiful lakes, walk through the fajãs, see the volcanic ridges and the formations

left behind by recent eruptions, discover the underground world by descending into caves and walking into lava tubes, or watch the bubbling hot springs – a few of the numerous reasons to visit the Azores. The region also has a number of volcano interpretation centres giving visitors even further insight into its history - <http://siaram.azores.gov.pt/>.

## Cycling and mountain biking



There are various cycling and mountain bike trails suited to both professional and amateur in the Azores. Throughout the whole year, with or without a guide, there are plenty of options for cycling enthusiasts throughout the year and there are local guides available.

## Health and well being



The Azores Islands are well known for their hydro-thermal resources which have been exploited for centuries. There are various springs of natural carbonic water, waterfalls and iron water pools which have

been used since the sixteenth century. The Ferraria Spa and the iron water pools in Furnas are unmissable on the island of São Miguel, whilst on the island of Graciosa, the highlight is the Carapacho Spa.

## Canyoning



Together the islands of São Miguel, Santa Maria, São Jorge and Flores offer more than 50 equipped routes, some with small drops accessible to beginners and others with sheer vertical drops that will delight even the

most experienced canyoners. The ideal time for this sport is between April and October, but, if weather conditions are favourable, it can be practised throughout the whole year.

## Bird watching

The geographical location of the Azores along the migration route of many birds, the archipelago's great variety of ecosystems, and their proximity to each other, all guarantee that you can see many species of land and seabirds during one single outing. Some of these birds form worldwide-important colonies. 37 species usually nest in the Azores, of which two are endemic and ten are subspecies. More than 350 species have been recorded in the archipelago, most of which come from mainland Nearctic and Palaearctic. All the islands showcase many bird species in all sorts of habitats and landscapes, but the wetlands, such as lakes, coastal marshes and islets, offer the best spots for bird watching. This is because so many species flock there as they provide a refuge for resting, breeding and nesting; a refuge that is protected from predators and offers easy access to food. The best time to spot birds in the Azores is between the months of September and November. The local species of birds include the **Azores bullfinch** (*Pyrrhula murina* Godman, 1866), the **Cory's shearwater** (*Calonectris diomedea borealis* Cory, 1881), the **Monteiro's storm petrel** (*Oceanodroma monteiroi* Bolton et al, 2008), the **common buzzard** (*Buteo buteo rothschildi* Swann, 1919), the **roseate tern** (*Sterna dougallii dougallii* Montagu, 1813), and the **common tern** (*Sterna hirundo* Linnaeus, 1758) amongst others.



Monteiro's storm petrel



Azores bullfinch

## Surfing and body boarding



The diverse coastline of the various islands, which can be either high and steep with a rocky seafloor, or plain and sandy, offers a variety of great quality waves which are remarkably consistent. The mild climate and the constant air and water temperatures are ideal for surfing throughout the year. Besides its natural beauty, the archipelago is attractive to surfers because of its uncrowded surf spots and the short distances them. Good waves can be found

on all islands. Although the point breaks and beach breaks of the islands of Santa Maria and São Miguel have achieved a greater international fame, it is on the island of São Jorge, with its *fajãs* and reef breaks, that longer, tube-shaped waves are more common.

## Fishing



The Azores is a paradise for fishing enthusiasts, especially those who love big game fishing. You can find large pelagic species a few miles off the coast and the world records for the fishing of some species have been set in the Azores. The best time for fishing is from April to October, and the most often caught species are the swordfish, the

wahoo, the yellowmouth barracuda, several species of tuna, (such as the bigeye tuna, the skipjack tuna and the yellowfin tuna), some species of shark, the white marlin and the most coveted species of all - the great Atlantic blue marlin.

## Sailing



For centuries, sailors from all over the world have been attracted to the Azores mainly because of the international relevance of Horta Marina. All the islands of the archipelago have quays and harbours. The islands of São Miguel, Terceira and Faial have harbour centres with equipment for repairs and other facilities for boats and crews. Together, all marinas have been awarded the blue flag and together they offer more than 1,000 mooring berths. Many international regattas start, pass or end here.

## Canoeing and kayaking



These sports can be practised in the Azores both in inland waters and in the open sea. Whether you're enjoying the escarpments that surround the lakes at the bottom of volcanic calderas, or rowing

around small islets to watch sea birds and visiting caves, canoeing and kayaking offer a real physical and emotional involvement with the Azorean landscape.

## Paragliding



Regardless of the direction of the wind and without having to walk long distances, there are all sorts of platforms on these islands from where it is possible to take off and land safely. Flying silently over the volcanic landscape, escorted by common buzzards searching for

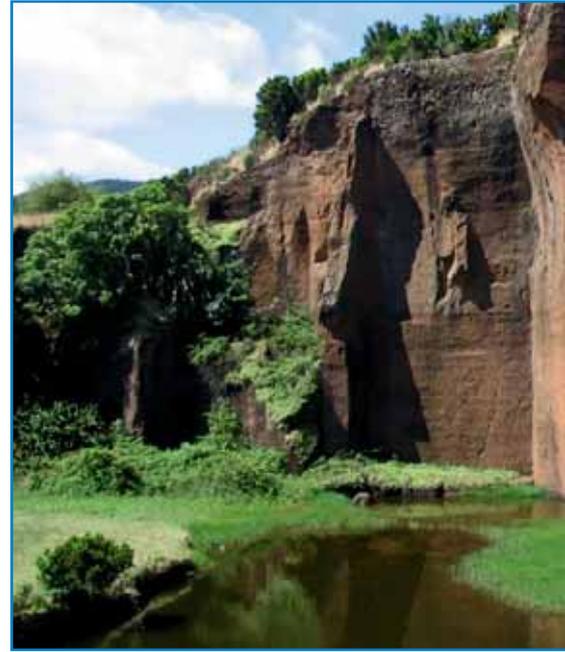
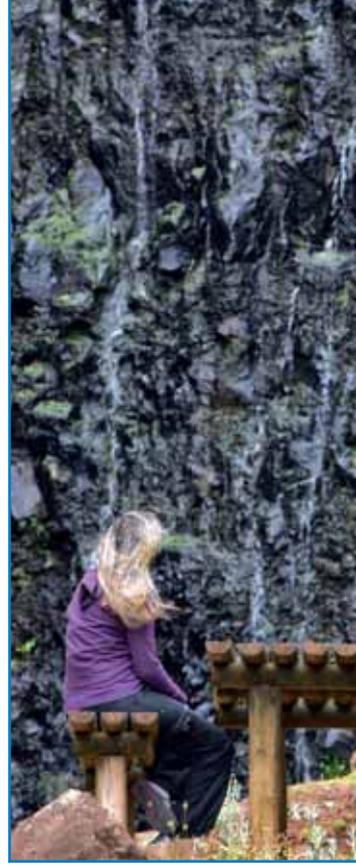
ascending air currents, is undoubtedly a once in a lifetime experience that will give you quite an adrenaline rush. This sport can be enjoyed solo or in groups and, because of the mild climate, is possible year round.

## Horse riding

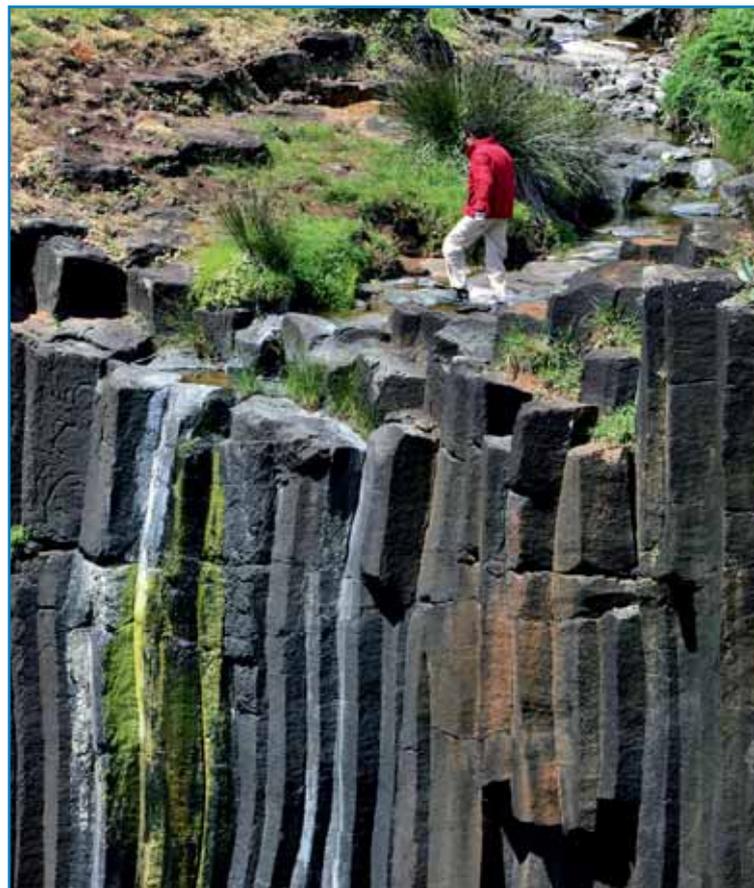


Horse riding in the Azores is more than a sport; it is a tradition. It is believed that the horse came to the archipelago with the first settlers, as horses are mentioned in property inventories dating back to the early sixteenth century. Walking or trotting along trails and

around lakes on horseback is an unforgettable experience. There are horse riding programmes available for first timers or experienced riders throughout the year.



# Santa Maria





## Suggested Activities

### Diving

- **Pedrinha** - Dusky groupers, comb groupers and barred hogfish swim through cracks, the lava seafloor and arch formations.
- **Formigas/Dollabarat** - A rocky reef and underwater mountain with crystal-clear water. Devil rays and large schools of pelagic fish are often spotted.
- **Ambrósio** - The most iconic dive site of Santa Maria. This shoal is located a few miles away from the coast of the island. Here it is possible to dive with dozens of graceful devil rays.

### Walking trails

- **Santa Bárbara** - From this trail you can see the island's typical houses. The trail passes through an old quarry and ends at the magnificent Baía de São Lourenço.
- **Santo Espírito - Maia** - On the eastern side of the island, this trail passes by a waterfall in the parish of Maia, where you'll find an old whaling factory.
- **Pico Alto - Anjos** - This trail begins at the highest point of Santa Maria, from where you can see the contrast between the green and desert-like landscape, and comes to an end by the sea.

### Geotourism / Geolocations

- **Pedreira do Campo** - Pillow lavas formed by very fluid underwater flows are an unmissable sight.
- **Poço da Pedreira** - An arid clay surface, very red in colour, formed by the flow of lava and ash.
- **Ponta do Castelo** - Famous for its fossil site from the Miocene and Pleistocene periods known as "Pedra-que-Pica".
- **Ribeira do Maloás** - Columnar basalt typically formed by the contraction of the cooling lava flow when it comes into contact with water.

### Fishing

- **Big Game Fishing** - Departures from the Marina of Vila do Porto
- **Coastal fishing** - Ponta Negra, Ponta do Marvão, Maia

### Sailing

- **Marina of Vila do Porto**

### Surfing and body boarding

- **Anjos** - Reef break with strong waves that require some experience.
- **Praia formosa** - Beach break with a mixed seafloor that is accessible to everyone.

### Canoeing and kayaking

- **Praia Formosa**
- **Baía da Vila do Porto**
- **Baía dos Anjos**

### Paragliding

- **Praia Formosa**
- **Baía de São Lourenço**
- **Anjos**

### Bird watching

- **Airport area** - A good location to spot ducks, herons and waders.
- **Baía dos Anjos** - Various species of migratory birds.



**Praia Formosa** - A very popular beach with white sand which is unusual in the Azores.



**Baía de São Lourenço** - Shaped like an amphitheatre and surrounded by vineyards planted up the slope, it features a beach and tidal pools which are enjoyed by many visitors during the summer.



**Baía dos Anjos** - Located in the north part of the island, the chapel where Christopher Columbus attended Mass on his return trip from America is still standing.



**N. Sr.<sup>a</sup> dos Anjos Chapel (15<sup>th</sup> century)** - This is considered to be the first temple built on these islands. Christopher Columbus prayed there when he returned from America. Inside this chapel, there is a tile panel and a triptych altar which probably belonged to Gonçalo Velho Cabral, who was the first settler of Santa Maria.



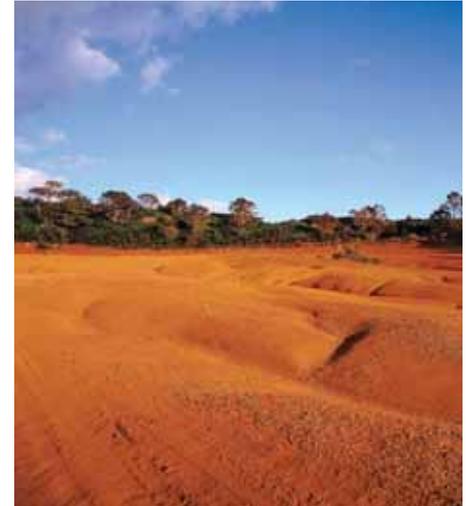
**N. Sr.<sup>a</sup> da Assunção Church (15<sup>th</sup> century)** - Dedicated to the patron saint of the island, this is one of the oldest churches built in the archipelago. It has been changed throughout the centuries, due to looting, fire and reconstruction, but it still keeps some elements of the original structure.



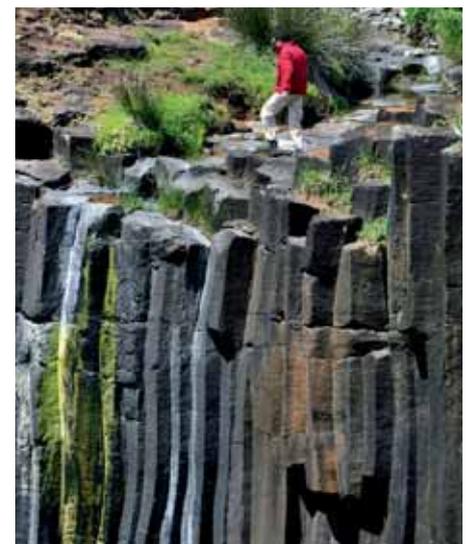
**Dalberto Pombo Environmental Interpretation Centre** - Displaying collections of the island's natural heritage, this centre forms part of the estate of the eminent Azorean naturalist after which it was named.



**Pedreira do Campo** - At a height of over 100 metres, visitors can see a wall of pillow lavas, proving that this part of the island was submerged thousands of years ago.



**Barreiro da Faneca** - A semi-desert, arid and clayish landscape, red in colour, it is usually called "red desert". This is a unique protected landscape area of the Azores of approximately 8.35 square km, and includes the Bays of Raposo, Tagarete and Cré.



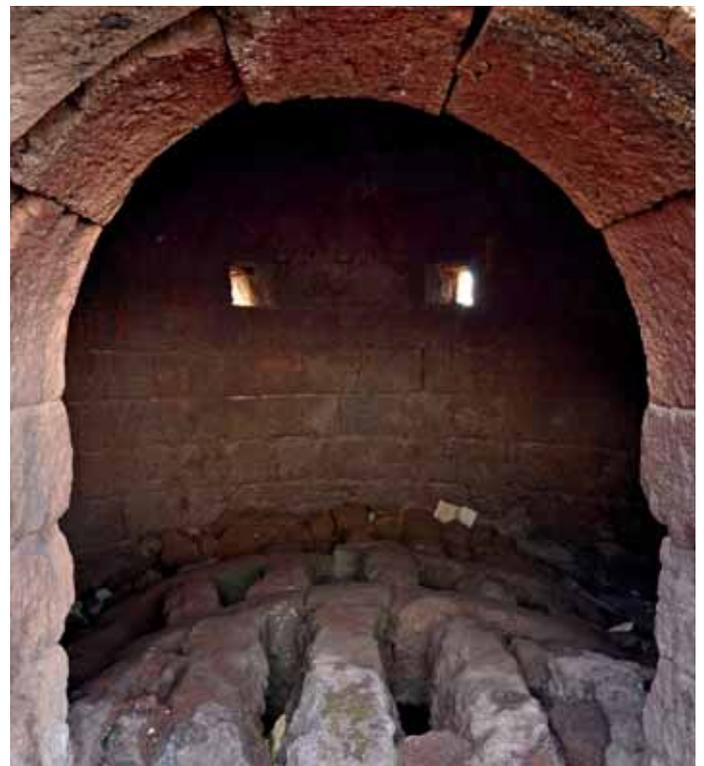
**Ribeira de Maloás** - A unique geologic formation at Malbusca that resulted from the contact of the sea with the lava flow, it is part of a waterfall that stands approximately 20 metres high.



**Maré de Agosto** - This is the oldest music festival of the Azores. Every year, during four days in the month of August, thousands of youngsters get together in the bay of Praia Formosa to enjoy live concerts and other cultural activities.



**Typical houses of Santa Maria** - Built in stone, their roofs are covered with half-tube-shaped tiles made from the clay of the island. The white washed walls keep the houses cool, but they are painted with colourful stripes around the windows and the doors. The colours of the stripes - blue, indigo, yellow, red and green - represent the different parishes.



**Old tile ovens** - Clay extraction began on the island in the sixteenth century. The finished product was then exported to the other islands of the archipelago, and it was used to manufacture local tableware and tiles. It was a successful industry for a long period of time.



**Fossils of Santa Maria** - Santa Maria features geological structures that are more than eight million years old. Since the island has not had any volcanic activity for more than two million years, it has extended sedimentary formations containing fossils that are unique in the archipelago and rare in volcanic areas. Many of these belong to species that no longer exist in the Azores and others to species that have become extinct. Presently there are 18 known fossil sites whose age ranges from seven million years (Miocene) to 117 thousand years (Pleistocene)



**Old whitewash ovens** - The whitewash produced from the limestone deposits of marine origin was used to finish and isolate the houses from humidity. As clay, it also became an exclusive export product, reaching its peak in the beginning of the twentieth century.



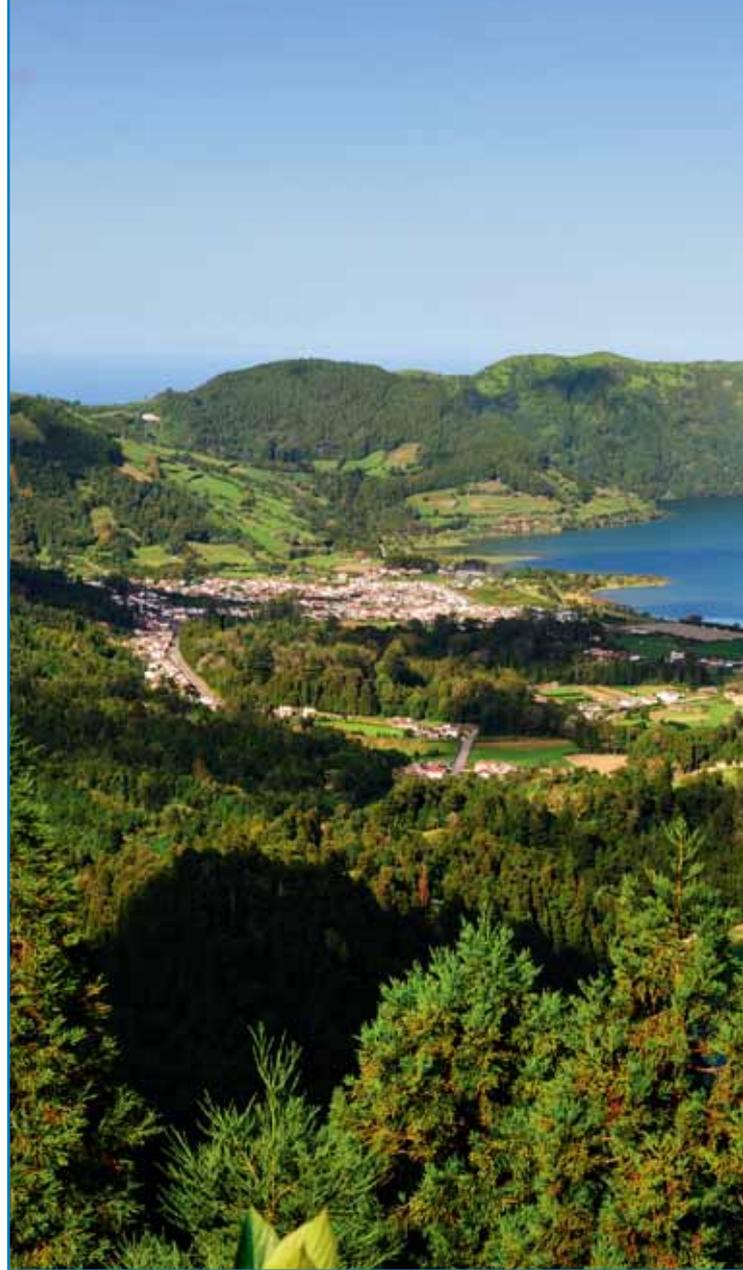
**Melo (Cantaloupe)**



**Caldo de nabos (Turnip broth)**



**Biscoitos de orelha (Ear-shaped biscuits)**







## Suggested Activities



### Diving

- **Navio Dori** - Old military cargo ship which was shipwrecked near the coast 47 years ago whilst in merchant service.
- **Arcos da Caloura** - Large arches and cave 300 metres from the coast.
- **Ilhéu dos Mosteiros** - The remains of a volcanic cone shaped by the erosion of the sea.



### Whale watching and swimming with dolphins

- **Departures from Marina of Ponta Delgada**
- **Departures from Marina of Vila Franca do Campo**



### Walking trails

- **Sanguinho** - Passes through an abandoned village and a waterfall.
- **Praia-Lagoa do Fogo** - Splendid view over the south coast with many samples of endemic vegetation.
- **Ribeira Funda (Maia)** - On the north coast amidst streams flanked by water-mills.



### Geotourism / Geolocations

- **Furnas volcano caldera** - Complex that features secondary volcanic activity.
- **Fogo volcano caldera** - Collapsed caldera with tuff and pumice cones.
- **Lagoa do Congro** - Lake on the bottom of a crater formed after a phreatic (or ultravulcanian) eruption.
- **Sete Cidades volcano caldera** - Collapsed caldera featuring the largest fresh surface water reservoir of the Azores.



### Golfing

- **Furnas Golf Course**
- **Batalha Golf Course**



### Health and well being

- **Ferraria** - Spa and bathing area, where hot water from volcanic springs emerges to the surface and gets mixed with sea water, giving it therapeutic properties.
- **Furnas** - One of the richest hydrologic regions of Europe, it features approximately 30 different water springs, highly important for their mineral and medicinal properties. These waters have been used since the seventeenth century.



### Fishing

- **Departures from the Marina of Ponta Delgada**
- **Departures from the Marina of Vila Franca do Campo**
- **Coastal fishing** - Ponta da Bretanha, Poços de São Vicente, Ribeira do Nordeste.



### Sailing

- **Marina of Ponta Delgada**
- **Marina of Vila Franca do Campo**



### Surfing and body boarding

- **Ribeira Grande** - Beach break for experienced surfers.
- **Rabo de Peixe** - Rocky seafloor and quality waves for the more demanding surfers.
- **Pópulo** - Near Ponta Delgada, also accessible to beginners.



### Canyoning

- **Lombadas** - Five descents requiring a rappel device, 45-metre drop.
- **Faial da Terra** - For beginners, 12-metre drop.
- **Pico da Vela** - Eight descents requiring a rappel device, 40-metre drop.



### Canoeing and kayaking

- **Sete Cidades Lake**
- **Furnas Lake**
- **Vila Franca do Campo Islet**



### Paragliding

- **Sete Cidades**
- **Salto do Cavalo (Furnas/Povoação)**
- **Fogo Lake**



### Cycling and mountain biking

- **Furnas Lake**
- **Sete Cidades Summit (Cumeleiras)**
- **Ponta Delgada**



### Horse riding

- **Furnas**
- **Ginetes**
- **Ponta Delgada**



### Bird watching

- **Serra da Tronqueira** - Habitat of the Azores bullfinch, one of the rarest species in Europe, which is endemic to the island of São Miguel.
- **Furnas Lake** - A great spot for Holarctic species, with the anatidae (ducks, geese and swans) regular visitors.
- **Mosteiros Village** - Tidal pools from where one can spot winter species, mainly waders.

**Protected Landscape of the Sete Cidades Lake** - One of the 7 Natural Wonders of Portugal, it showcases the Green and Blue Lakes, which according to legend, were formed from the tears of a shepherd and a princess who shared a forbidden love. These lakes can be seen from the Vista do Rei (King's View) Lookout, named after King D. Carlos and Queen D. Amélia to celebrate their visit to the island in 1901.



**Ponta da Ferraria** - Spa and bathing site with therapeutic water springs that have been used since the fifteenth century.



**Fogo Lake** - A nature reserve since 1974, this crater lake reaches a maximum depth of 30 metres.



**Terra Nostra Park** - One of the most beautiful gardens in Europe, it features a thermal swimming pool and more than 2,000 different trees.



**Romantic Gardens** - Dating back to the nineteenth century, they include the António Borges Garden, named after the greatest Azorean landscape architect, and the José do Canto Garden, which has rare collections of plants.



**Caldeira Velha** - A waterfall of warm, iron water where you can take a dip, it is located on the north slope of the Fogo Volcano.



**Ribeira Quente Village** - A small fishing village with traditional fishing boats and a sheltered beach.



**Vila Franca do Campo Islet** - A nature reserve located approximately one km away from the coast, it features a salt water inlet inside. A popular spot for visitors during the summer.



**Furnas Valley** - Home of the lake and parish of Furnas, the valley's typical smell of sulphur and the boiling, smoking hot springs are secondary evidence of volcanic activity.



**Ponta da Madrugada and Ponta do Sossego Lookouts** - Located in the municipality of Nordeste, these are prime locations to see the sun rising.

## Places to visit



**Expolab** - Located in the town of Lagoa, it is a scientific laboratory where visitors learn about new technologies and carry out scientific experiments.



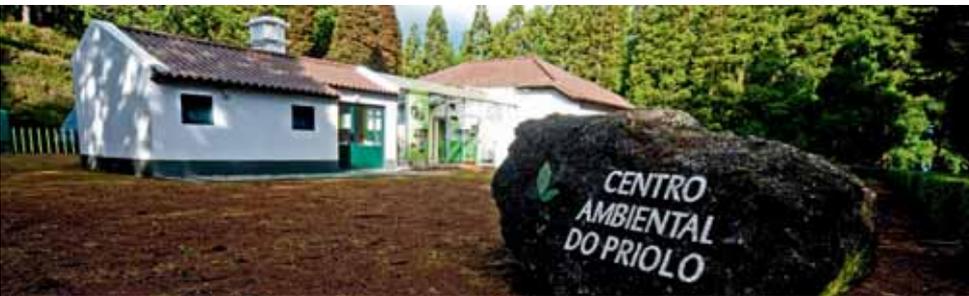
**Observatório Vulcanológico e Geotérmico** - This is the centre for the dissemination of volcanological and geoenvironmental science, focused on the geodynamics of the Atlantic amongst other topics.



**Observatório Astronómico de Santana** - This Astronomic Observatory is a science centre that is becoming a respected centre of learning and discussion of astronomy.



**Núcleo Museológico da Central Hídrica da Fajã Redonda e Museu Hidroeléctrico da Praia** - This place takes the visitor back to the time when energy generation started on the island.



**Centro Ambiental do Priolo** - It is coordinated by the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds. It promotes, preserves and rehabilitates the endemic fauna and flora of the Pico da Vara/Ribeira do Guilherme Special Protection Area, mainly for the protection of the Azores bullfinch.

## Heritage and Culture



**Pineapple Plantations** - The pineapple of São Miguel (*Ananas comosus* L.) was originally introduced as an ornamental plant, with its industrial production only starting in the mid nineteenth century. It grows in glass greenhouses, taking approximately two years to ripen and be ready to harvest.



**Tea plantations** - São Miguel is the only place in Europe where tea is produced. The first seeds (*Camelia sinensis*) arrived at the end of the nineteenth century, along with experts who came to teach the various phases of production. The different varieties of tea depend upon the maturity of the leaves used and upon the manufacturing process.



**Festas do Senhor Santo Cristo dos Milagres** - The biggest religious festivity of the Azores, it reaches its peak with the procession that passes through streets covered with flower petals. It takes place on the fifth Sunday after Easter Sunday, and the procession has been held since the seventeenth century, when the statue of Jesus as *Ecce Homo* was taken in procession for the first time, asking for the end of the constant seismic activity.



**Forte de São Brás (16<sup>th</sup> century)** - This is the biggest fortress on the island and it protected it against the invasions of pirates and privateers. Presently, it is the headquarters of the Military Command of the Azores and it includes the Military Museum of the Azores.



**Portas da Cidade de Ponta Delgada (1783)** - The gates marked the city's entry point. They were removed from their original location due to the construction of the Avenida Infante D. Henrique (Prince Henry Avenue) and were placed where they now stand in 1952.



**Igreja Matriz de São Sebastião (16<sup>th</sup> century)** - Mother church with late gothic features, its façade was built according to the Portuguese Manueline style, with some baroque elements being introduced later during the eighteenth century.



**Romeiros** - Organised groups of pilgrims who walk the island on foot praying in all churches during Lent. This is the only island with this tradition which started during the sixteenth century.

## Regional Food



**Cozido das Furnas (boiled meat and vegetables cooked underground by volcanic heat)**



**Queijadas da Vila (custard)**

## Other Suggestions:

- Chicharos com molho de vilão (Blue Jack mackerel with *vilão* sauce)
- Morcela com ananás (Black pudding with pineapple)
- Bolo lêvedo (typical bread)
- Mel de Incenso (Honey made from the nectar of Australian cheesewood)





# Terceira





 56 062 hab

 401,9 km<sup>2</sup>

 Serra de Santa Bárbara a1021 m

 38°43'47"N  
27°19'11"W

## Suggested Activities



Diving

- **Cemitério das Âncoras** - Archaeological park with more than 30 anchors left there by various ships since the sixteenth century.
- **Dom João de Castro Bank** - Submarine volcano whose summit lies at a depth of 12 metres and where volcanic activity can still be seen, whilst diving amongst several schools of pelagic, or near surface dwelling, fish.
- **Lidador** - A trans-Atlantic ship from the nineteenth century that lies in shallow, quiet waters in the bay of Angra do Heroísmo.



Whale watching and swimming with dolphins

- **Departures from Marina of Angra do Heroísmo**
- **Departures from Marina of Praia da Vitória**



Walking trails

- **Mistérios Negros** - A five km long trail that passes by three black rock domes formed during the 1761 historic eruption.
- **Serreta** - A circular trail that passes through forest reserves.
- **Baías da Aqualva** - A trail with mixed terrain and with many views over the north coast of the island.



Geotourism / Geolocations

- **Algar do Carvão** - A volcanic cave showcasing magnificent stalactites and stalagmites of amorphous silica that are over 3,000 years old.
- **Caldeira de Guilherme Moniz** - Caldeira de colapso com 15 km de perímetro e uma zona de fumarolas.
- **Ponta da Serreta** - Located in the west of the island, it features domes and thick trachyte (a form of volcanic rock) flows.



Golfing

- **Terceira Island Golf Club**



Fishing

- **Departures from Marina of Angra do Heroísmo and/or Praia da Vitória**
- **Coastal fishing** - Silveira, São Mateus, Porto Novo.



Sailing

- **Marina of Angra do Heroísmo**
- **Marina of Praia da Vitória**



Surfing and body boarding

- **Baía das Quatro Ribeiras** - Reef break on the north coast of the island.
- **Praia da Vitória** - Sheltered but uncrowded reef break.
- **Baixa da Vila Nova** - World class waves for the most experienced surfers.



Canoeing and kayaking

- **Marina of Praia da Vitória**
- **Porto Judeu**



Cycling and mountain biking

- **Monte Brasil**
- **Biscoitos**



Horse riding

- **Terra Chã**



Paragliding

- **Serra do Cume**
- **Serra do Moreão**
- **Serra de Santa Bárbara**



Bird watching

- **Cabo da Praia** - During low tide this is an ideal place to spot species from North America.
- **Lagoa do Ginjal** - A good location to spot rare birds, it is also where the rare Azores common moorhen nests.
- **Ponta das Contendas** - Classified as a special protection area, this is a sanctuary for sea birds.



**Serra do Cume Lookout** - From here, you can enjoy a view over the bay of Praia da Vitória and the flat interior of the island divided by walls of volcanic stone known as “patchwork”.



**Museu de Angra do Heroísmo** - The main section of the museum is located at the old Saint Francis Convent. In this construction dating back to the seventeenth century, visitors can learn about the Azores and its history through the ceramic, furniture, coin, painting and ethnographic collections on display.



**Sé Catedral** - This cathedral is considered to be the biggest temple of the archipelago, its construction began in 1570 over the ruins of the gothic church of the Holy Saviour (fifteenth century) and ended 42 years later. Inside the highlight is the silver frontal of the altar of the Blessed Sacrament made by local artisans during the eighteenth century.



**Monte Brasil** - An extinct volcano of three square kilometres, it is surrounded by the four km long walls of the São João Baptista Fort, nowadays the oldest fortress that has been continuously occupied by the Portuguese army.



**Obelisco do Alto da Memória (19<sup>th</sup> century)** - Built with stone from the old Moinhos Castle, this obelisk was erected in 1856 to pay homage to the visit of King D. Pedro IV to the island during the Portuguese Civil War. The first stone used for its construction was one of the stones that the emperor had stepped on when he disembarked in 1832. It affords an excellent panoramic view over Angra do Heroísmo.



**Algar do Carvão** - A 90 metre-deep volcanic chimney formed approximately 3,200 years ago after the magma drained from the main chimney receding to the magma chamber.

## Places to visit



**Forte de São Sebastião** - Best known as Castelinho, this fort was built in 1580 and represented a new concept for coastal protection. It played an important role in the defence of Porto Pipas, where it was a very important harbour for international maritime trade.



**Observatório do Ambiente dos Açores** - The Environmental Observatory of the Azores is located in the historic centre of Angra do Heroísmo, and its facilities are equipped to study the environment.

## Heritage and Culture



**Sanjoaninas** - Celebrations in honour of the popular saint São João (Saint John). Saint John's life is celebrated on 24<sup>th</sup> of June, but festivities take place over several days. It includes bullfighting on a rope, parades and popular dances from various parts of Terceira and other islands, which are rehearsed throughout the year.



**Festas da Praia** - These festivities take place in Praia da Vitória in early August. Entertainment includes musical and cultural events.



**Carnival Bailinhos** - Popular theatre brought to the island during the sixteenth century, which was probably influenced by the Portuguese playwright Gil Vicente. These Bailinhos are considered to be the largest theatrical performances in Portuguese in the whole world.



**Angra do Heroísmo** - The only city of the archipelago that has been classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.



**Impérios do Divino Espírito Santo** - Small buildings all over the island that are central to the ceremonies dedicated to the Holy Ghost. The external walls are painted in bright colours, and inside there is an altar covered with white silk on top of which the symbols of this worship, a silver crown and sceptre, are placed. There are about 70 empires on the Island of Terceira.



**Bullfighting on a rope** - Inherited from the first settlers who came from regions with a strong bullfighting tradition, this type of bullfighting has its origins in the sixteenth century and has benefited from the large number of cattle and the Castilian influence on the island.

## Regional Food



**Alcatra de Carne (Beef stew)**



**Queijadas Dona Amélia (custard)**

### Other Suggestions

- Massa Sovada (Portuguese sweet bread)
- Sopas do Espírito Santo (Soups of the Holy Ghost)







4 393 hab

60,9 km<sup>2</sup>

Caldeira a 405 m

39°01'17" N  
27°57'59" W

## Suggested Activities

### Diving

- **Terceirense** - Ship adapted to transport live cattle, it was shipwrecked in 1969 after colliding with the Carapacho Islet.
- **Baixa do Pesqueiro Longo** - Shoal close to the coast in front of the Barro Vermelho Islets, where you will come across manta rays and large schools of pelagic fish during the summer.
- **Baixa do Farol** - Shoal in front of the Ponta da Barca Lighthouse where you'll find dusky groupers, moray eels and grey triggerfish amongst other species.

### Whale watching and swimming with dolphins

- **Departures from Port of Santa Cruz and/or Port of São Mateus**

### Walking trails

- **Serra Branca - Praia** - Affording a panoramic view over the north coast, this trail cuts across the whole island.
- **Volta à Caldeira** - Trail along the whole perimeter of the volcanic cone offering a view over almost the entire island.
- **Baía da Folga** - With a view over the other islands of the central group, this trail ends near the quay of Folga, which used to be one of the main fishing ports of the island.

### Geotourism / Geolocations

- **Furna do Enxofre** - Volcanic cave classified as a regional natural monument.
- **Ilhéu da Baleia** - This islet is a volcanic chimney featuring columnar basalt and shaped like a whale.

- **Caldeirinha de Pêro Botelho** - Spatter cone formed by the accumulation of drops of lava, the only one of its kind on the island.

### Health and well being

- **Carapacho**

### Fishing

- **Departures from the Port of Praia**
- **Coastal fishing** - Baía do Carapacho, Baía da Folga, Porto Afonso.

### Cycling and mountain biking

- **Monte da Ajuda**
- **Barro Vermelho**

### Paragliding

- **Caldeira**
- **Serra das Fontes**
- **Serra Branca**

### Bird watching

- **Ilhéu da Praia** - The nesting location of the Monteiro's storm petrel (*Oceanodroma monteiroi*), an endemic species.
- **Ilhéu de Baixo** - An islet with colonies of various types of sea birds.

## Places to visit



**Furna do Enxofre** - A 194-metre wide and 40-metre high volcanic cave, it features stalactites and a sulphurous, cold water lake, 130 metres in diameter. The first explorations of the cave took place during the nineteenth century, with the participation of international researchers such as Prince Albert I of Monaco in 1879, who was one of the first to descend down to the lake.

## Places to visit



**Carapacho** - A spa complex from the nineteenth century, it is located by the sea, and its warm, sulphur water (between 36°C and 40°C) has been used since 1750 for the treatment of rheumatism and skin diseases. This area is also visited by many people because of its tidal pools.



**Monte de N. Sr.ª da Ajuda** - A natural lookout affording a view over Santa Cruz, it hosts three chapels, with the highlight being the Nossa Sr.ª da Ajuda Chapel (sixteenth century). Resembling a miniature castle, this chapel is one of the best illustrations of the “fortified religious architecture” of the Azores. The pilgrims’ house, which hosts those who go there on pilgrimage, is an annexe to the chapel.



**Guadalupe Church (18<sup>th</sup> century)** - Built to replace an old chapel from the sixteenth century, which housed a statue of the Virgin of Guadalupe that had been brought by one of the first settlers, the construction of this church lasted approximately fifty years because of an earthquake that caused great damage to the parish.



**Centro de Visitantes da Furna do Enxofre** - Located in the Natural Monument of Caldeira da Graciosa it's the Biosphere Reserve and the Natural Park of Graciosa heart, and it's also the access to the Furna do Enxofre.

## Heritage and culture



**Windmills** - Of Flemish tradition and with red domes, about 20 windmills stand as witnesses to the island's large production of cereals that were exported over the centuries, giving the island the nickname of ‘breadbasket of the Azores’.

**Monteiro's storm petrel (*Oceanodroma monteiroi*)** - An endemic species and the smallest seabird of the archipelago, it builds its nests on the islets off the coast of Graciosa and feeds from small fish, squid and plankton, which it catches during the day and night.



**Santa Cruz Mother Church (18<sup>th</sup> century)** - The construction of this church lasted approximately two centuries, mixing the Portuguese Manueline and the baroque styles of architecture. It was one of the first churches in Graciosa.

## Regional Food



**Queijadas da Graciosa (pastry)**

### Other Suggestions:

- Vinho Branco (White wine)
- Aguardente (firewater)



# São Jorge





## Suggested Activities



Diving

- **Entre-Morros** - A site with various different habitats and a large number of species.
- **Baixa dos Rosais** - Excellent site to spot large pelagic fish, including the yellowmouth barracuda, the almaco jack, and the atlantic bonito.
- **Ilhéu do Topo** - On the eastern tip of São Jorge, this is an excellent place to see various pelagic species and typical species of the Azorean sea.



Walking trails

- **Fajã de Santo Cristo - Fajã dos Cubres** - The most famous route to one of the most iconic *fajãs* of the island.
- **Fajã dos Vimes** - Descend from the top of the hill down to the sea to visit a *fajã* lost in time, to see handicraft workshops weaving wool, and to taste the coffee grown there.
- **Pico da Esperança - Fajã do Ouvidor** - Trail along the summits of São Jorge, passing by the island's highest point (1,053 metres) and ending on the coast where you will find one of the most beautiful natural tidal pools.



Geotourism / Geolocations

- **Fajã do Ouvidor** - On the north coast of the island and formed by basaltic flows, this is one of the island's few lava *fajãs*.
- **Fajãs dos Cubres and Fajã de Santo Cristo** - Formed by deposits from the slopes and landslides, these are the only *fajãs* with coastal lagoons.
- **Morro de Velas and Morro de Lemos** - Tuff surtseyan cones that were formed by underwater volcanic events.



Fishing

- **Departures from Port of Velas**
- **Coastal fishing** - Laje do Morro, Baía da Enfiada, Ponta das Eiras.



Sailing

- **Port of Velas**



Surfing and body boarding

- **Caldeira da Fajã de Santo Cristo** - Considered to be a surf sanctuary, this is a reef break in a paradise location.
- **Fajã dos Cubres** - Quick waves and the longest left of the Azores.



Canyoning

- **Sanguinhal** - 750-metre drop, with the biggest descent of 75 metres, with exit through the sea.
- **Cavaletes (Lower route)** - 18 descents requiring rappel devices along this V4 level route.
- **Fajã Redonda** - Six descents requiring rappel devices. 35 metres of rope is required to overcome the 160-metre drop.



Canoeing and kayaking

- **Baía de Entre os Morros** • **Baía de Velas** • **Baía de Urzelina**



Cycling and mountain biking

- **Pico da Esperança** • **Topo**



Horse riding

- **Ribeira Seca** • **Calheta** • **Serra do Topo**



Paragliding

- **Urzelina** • **Brenhas** • **Pico da Esperança**



Bird watching

- **Fajãs dos Cubres** - Species from Europe and North America can be spotted here during the winter. *rica do Norte*.

## Places to visit



**Pico da Esperança** - 1053-metres high, this is the highest peak of São Jorge from where one can see the other islands of the central group.



**Mirante** - A lookout affording a panoramic view over the town of Velas and the other two islands of the so-called "triangle", Pico and Faial.



**Museu Etnográfico** - This ethnographic museum displays some local traditions, such as baking bread and the home slaughtering of livestock. Several rural objects and instruments used in the day-to-day work are also on display.



**Santa Bárbara Church** - The original building dates back to 1485, when a 28-cm long statue of Santa Bárbara was found, leading to the construction of the church. In 1770 the building was extended and the only vestiges of the old temple can be seen in the present-day sacristy. Lavishly decorated in Baroque style, this church is a lesson in the religious art of the time.



**Ilhéu da Ponta do Topo** - A nesting place for birds on the eastern side of the island. During the summer, cows swim to the islet to graze there. Topo is also well known for the quality of its cheese.



**Centro de Interpretação da Fajã da Caldeira de Santo Cristo** - Centre of the geological, biological and cultural History of this fajã.

## Heritage and culture



**Portão do Mar (18<sup>th</sup> century)** - Part of the walls that defended the town of Velas from external attacks.



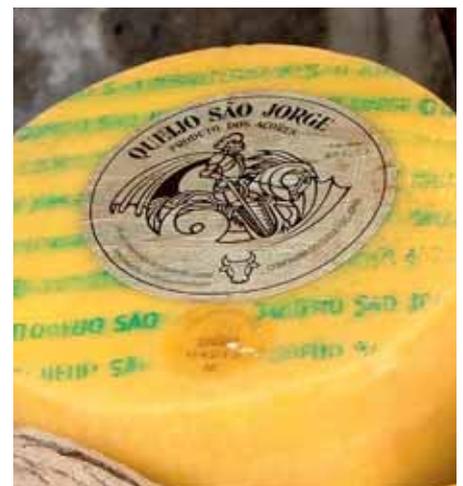
**Fajã de São João** - Typical homes built in black stone with sash windows, and small farms, whose production is all for the farmer's own consumption. This fajã is one of the most picturesque on the island.



**Fajã da Caldeira de Santo Cristo** - A nature reserve and special ecological area, it is considered to be a sanctuary for body boarding and surfing. It is the only place in the archipelago where clams (*Tapes decussatus*), a local delicacy, grow.



**Fajã dos Vimes** - Weaving in manual looms has subsisted in this fajã since the sixteenth century. Various stitching techniques are applied to produce beautiful bedspreads and carpets. Because of the micro climate of this fajã, coffee is planted here for local consumption.



**São Jorge cheese** - Possibly produced since the initial settlement of the island in the fifteenth century and strongly influenced by the Flemish, this is known to be one of the best cheeses in the world. A Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) since 1991, it is produced from whole and raw cow milk and coagulated by animal rennet, with the ripening taking at least three months. Cheese wheels weigh between eight and 12 kg with a hard or semi-hard paste.

## Regional Food

### Other Suggestions:

- Queijo de São Jorge (cheese)
- Linguiça com inhames (cured pork sausage with taro root)



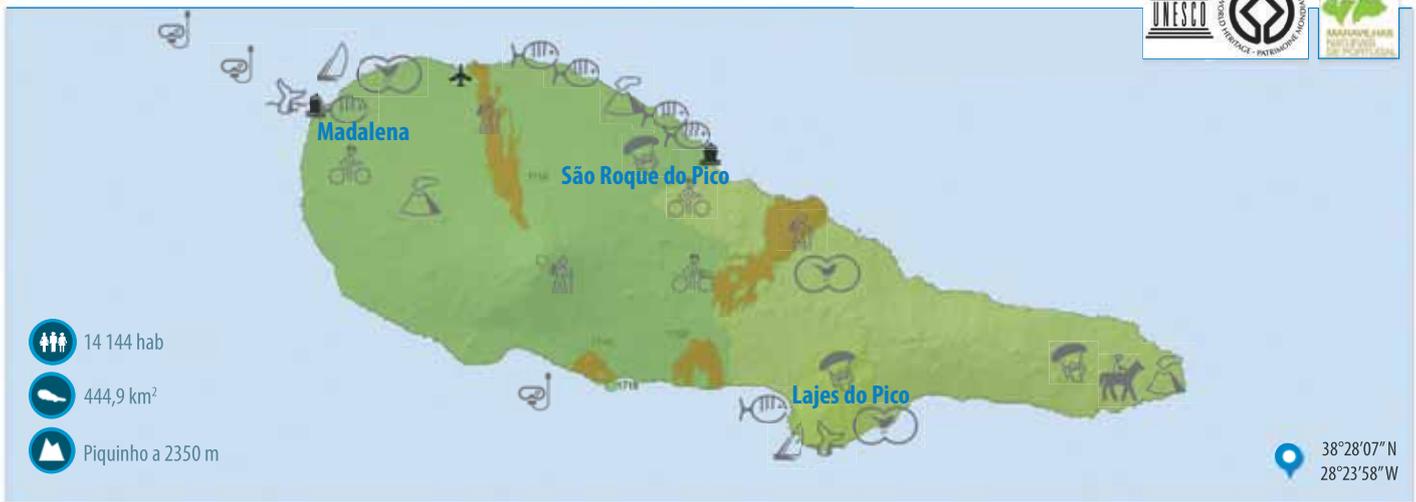
**Espécies (pastry)**



**Amêijoas (Clams)**







## Suggested Activities



### Diving

- **Arcos da Formosinha** - Diving in shallow water, you'll see various tunnels, arches and different fish species.
- **Baixa da Barca** - Deep water dive for experienced divers. There are many schools of large pelagic fish and dusky groupers.
- **Corais de S. Caetano** - Wall dive in a site with masses of black coral.



### Whale watching and swimming with dolphins

- **Departures from Madalena**
- **Departures from Marina of Lajes**



### Walking trails

- **Caminho dos Burros** - A trail that crosses the island from the north to the south coast.
- **Montanha do Pico** - Climb the mountain of Pico, the highest peak of Portugal with an altitude of 2,351 metres.
- **Caminhos de Santa Luzia** - A trail that crosses the Landscape of the Vineyard Culture, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



### Geotourism / Geolocations

- **Gruta das Torres** - This cave is one of the biggest lava tubes in Europe, where its interior features stalactites and stalagmites and other geo-volcanic formations.
- **Lajido de Santa Luzia** - Showcasing *pahoehoe toes*, *tumuli* and other typical structures formed by effusive lava flows.
- **Ponta da Ilha** - On the east side of the island, it features structures that are typically formed by very fluid basaltic flows.



### Fishing

- **Departures from Madalena, Lajes and/or São Roque**
- **Coastal fishing** - Lugar da Furna, Baía de São Roque, Correntes.



### Sailing

- **Marina of Lajes**
- **Port of Madalena**



### Cycling and mountain biking

- **Rota do Verdelho (vineyard culture)**
- **Rota dos Moinhos (mills)**
- **Rota das Lagoas (lakes)**



### Horse riding

- **Ponta da ilha**



### Paragliding

- **Pico do Geraldo**
- **São Roque**
- **Cabeço do Silvado**



### Bird watching

- **Plataforma Costeira das Lajes** - The coastal platforms of Lajes are the best place to spot waders.
- **Lagoa do Caiado** - At a height of 800 metres, this lake is an ideal place to spot anatidae birds.
- **Zona da Barca** - It is possible to spot waders, passerines and columbiformes here.

## Places to visit



**Montanha do Pico** - A 2351-metre high basaltic stratovolcano, it is the highest point in Portugal and has been classified as a nature reserve since 1982.



**Gruta das Torres** - At five km, it is one of the longest lava tubes in the world and has been classified as a regional natural monument.



**Museu do Vinho** - Located at the Carmelite Conventual House, the museum includes a cellar and a distillery. The area also has many age-old dragon trees.



**Museu dos Baleeiros** - Located at the old warehouses of the whaling boats, the museum opened in 1988 and portrays whaling which prospered on the island from the nineteenth century up until the 1980s.



**Museu da Indústria Baleeira de São Roque do Pico** - This museum is an old industrial complex that used to deal with the processing of cetaceans during the whaling period.



**Mistérios de S. João (1718) e Silveira (1720)** - Places formed by volcanic activity, the local population named them “mistérios” (mysteries), as they saw “rivers of fire” coming out of the earth for no apparent reason, destroying their belongings.



**Centro de Artes e Ciências do Mar** - A centre for cultural education related to arts and sea science, it is located at an old whaling factory and showcases multimedia displays about whales.



**Centro de Interpretação da Paisagem Protegida da Cultura da Vinha** - This interpretation centre includes the Lajido de Santa Luzia Museum Centre, and it has exhibits on display about the vineyard culture.

## Heritage and culture



**Semana dos Baleeiros** - Linked to the cult of the patron saint of fishermen, the festivities include religious activities that reach their peak during a procession, and also cultural and sporting activities that include whaling boat regattas.



**Paisagem da Cultura da Vinha** - The unique nature of wine production which can be seen in Criação Velha and Santa Luzia led to recognition as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2004. The grapes of *verdelho* wine are planted by the coastline and are protected by walls of black stone laid out in *currais* and *curraletas* (rectangular plots), which are one of the biggest stone networks built by man. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the wine was exported to Europe to be housed in the wine cellars of royal courts.

## Regional Food



**Caldo de Peixe (Fish soup)**



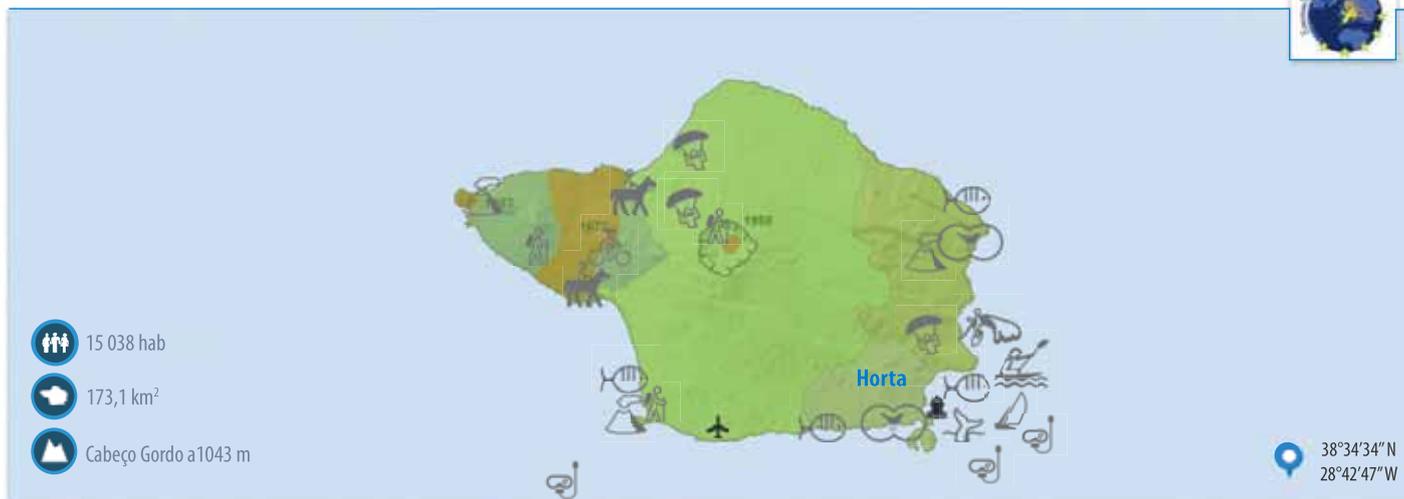
**Arroz Doce (Rice pudding)**

### Other Suggestions:

- Polvo guisado com vinho de cheiro (Stewed octopus with locally produced wine)
- Vinho Verdelho Lajido (Verdelho Wine)







- 15 038 hab
- 173,1 km<sup>2</sup>
- Cabeço Gordo a 1043 m

38°34'34" N  
28°42'47" W

## Suggested Activities

### Diving

- **Diving with blue sharks in the Condor Bank** - Considered to be one of the best places in the world to swim with blue sharks and shortfin mako sharks.
- **Boca das Caldeirinhas** - Bordering a protected area, it features a sandy and rocky seafloor with abundant sea life.
- **Banco Princesa Alice** - An underwater mountain that is one of the best dive sites in the whole of the Atlantic Ocean.

### Whale watching and swimming with dolphins

- **Departures from the Marina of Horta**

### Walking trails

- **Capelo - Capelinhos** - The main attractions of this trail are the lighthouse that was semi-buried by the last eruption of the Capelinhos Volcano, the lunar landscape of the area, and the tidal pools.
- **Caldeira** - Located in a nature reserve, this trail runs through the summits around the caldera, affording great views of the whole coast of the island.
- **Morro de Castelo Branco** - A coastal trail full of fauna and flora in an area that is dominated by white trachyte rock and resembles a coastal fortress.

### Geotourism / Geolocations

- **Vulcão dos Capelinhos** - A surtseyan cone made up of basaltic tuff and scoria.
- **Pedro Miguel Graben** - Tectonic depression formed by the fall of normal, parallel faults.
- **Morro do Castelo Branco** - A coastal trail full of fauna and flora in an area that is dominated by white trachyte rock and resembles a coastal fortress.

### Fishing

- **Departures from the Marina of Horta**
- **Coastal fishing** - Lajinhas, Ribeirinha, Varadouro.

### Sailing

- **Marina of Horta**

### Surfing and body boarding

- **Almoxarife** - Located near Horta, it is a beach with a mixed seafloor of sand and rock.

### Canoeing and kayaking

- **Baía da Horta**

### Cycling and mountain biking

- **Varadouro**

### Horse riding

- **Varadouro**
- **Praia do Norte**

### Paragliding

- **Praia do Norte**
- **Caldeira**
- **Espalamaca**

### Bird watching

- **Baía de Porto Pim** - A good place to spot sea and wader birds.
- **Lagoas Pedro Miguel** - These lakes are a good place to spot ducks and some passerines.

### Vulcão dos Capelinhos and Centro de Interpretação do vulcão dos Capelinhos

- Capelinhos volcano is one of the best documented eruptions worldwide, and started approximately one mile from the coast in September 1957 and lasted thirteen months. When it stopped, a peninsula had been formed adding 2.5 square km to the size of the island. It is a protected landscape and features one of the best interpretation centres in Europe.



**Monte da Guia** - Classified as a special protection area, this is a volcanic cone that affords a great view over the bay of Porto Pim and the city of Horta.



**Fábrica da Baleia de Porto Pim** - A museum that preserves all the machinery used in whaling, an active industry until the end of the twentieth century.



**Peter Café Sport** - World famous amongst sailors, it opened in 1918 and is a cosmopolitan meeting point for people from all walks of life, including whalers, telephone technicians, seamen and even secret agents.



**Museu da Arte de Scrimshaw** - Opened in 1986, this private museum exhibits scrimshaw pieces (elaborate engravings) carved in the ivory teeth of sperm whales, which bear witness to the island's whaling tradition.



**Caldeira** - Located in the middle of the island, it is a two km wide and 400 metre deep volcanic cone. It is classified as a nature reserve and showcases rare endemic flora species.



**Museu da Horta** - The museum is located at the old Jesuit College. The work of Euclides Rosa, a local artist, stands out amongst its collections. This includes seventy miniature pieces made from laminated fig tree pulp and glued with gum arabic.



**Espalamaca Lookout** - Guarded by a 30-metre high cross and by a statue *Nossa Sr.ª da Conceição*, from there you can see the other islands of the Central Group (Pico, São Jorge and Graciosa).



**Marina of Horta (1986)** - The main recreational harbour of the Azores, this marina is one of the most busy and famous in the world. It is a linking point for international regattas, and superstition tells sailors to paint a mural on the breakwater in order to attain divine protection during the rest of their trip.



**Sociedade Amor da Pátria (1934)** - This Building was where the official opening of the First Legislature of the Regional Government (1976) took place and where the Regional Assembly of the Azores operated for many years. With art deco lines, this building was erected where the building of the *Amor da Pátria* Freemason Society once stood. Several cultural, economic and social achievements were possible on the island thanks to this association established in 1859.



**Forte de Santa Cruz (16<sup>th</sup> century)** - This fort played an important role defending the island against pirates and also during the struggles against the armada of Philip II of Spain. It now operates as a hotel.



**Espalamaca Windmills (19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> centuries)** - These windmills have two floors, with the Portuguese influence being visible in the eight poles where the triangular sails are tied. The Flemish have also influenced their design, namely in the square grids of the sails. Some of these windmills have been classified for their architectural and

## Regional Food



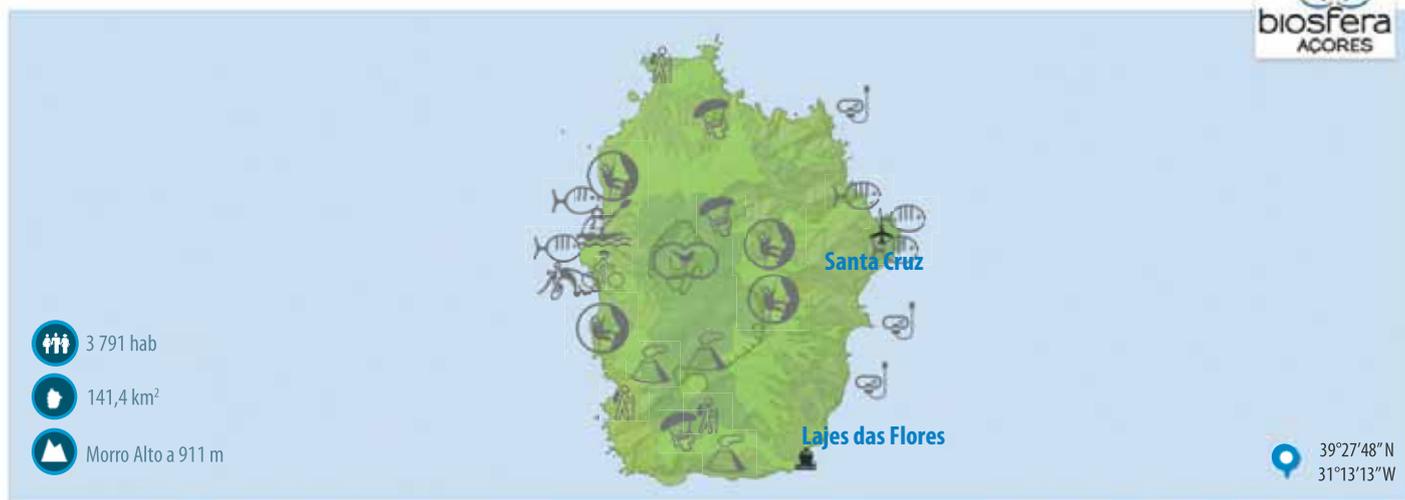
**Molha de carne (Beef stew)**

### Other Suggestions:

- Sopa azeda (Sour soup)
- Lapas com molho Afonso (Limpets with Afonso sauce)
- Torresmos de vinha d'alhos (Fried pork crackling marinated in garlic and wine)
- Bolo de milho (Corn cake)







3 791 hab

141,4 km<sup>2</sup>

Morro Alto a 911 m

## Suggested Activities

### Diving

- **Baixa do Amigo** - Dive from a boat into a sequence of large flat rocks at different heights that are like windows from where one watches different species.
- **Ilhéu do Garajau** - Two miles off the coast, you'll spot dusky groupers and some large pelagic fish at this islet.
- **Ponta da Caveira** - A promontory with several lava tubes and caves, some of which are quite large and rich in marine life.

### Walking trails

- **Ponta Delgada - Fajã Grande** - A trail that runs along the coastline affording a view over the Maria Vaz Islet and the island of Corvo.
- **Lajedo - Fajã Grande** - A trail that passes through the Seca and Branca Lakes, both sites of community interest.
- **Fajã de Lopo Vaz** - A circular trail where you'll often come across wild goats whilst walking.

### Geotourism / Geolocations

- **Rocha dos Bordões** - Columnar basalt formation that resulted from a thermal shock during the solidification of the lava.
- **Caldeiras Funda and Caldeira Rasa** - expulsion craters (maars) associated with hydro-magmatic eruptions.
- **Fajã de Lopo Vaz** - A detrital *fajã* formed by the accumulation of material from landslides from the overhanging cliffs.

### Fishing

- **Departures from Port of Santa Cruz and Port of Fajã Grande**

- **Coastal fishing** - Boqueirão (Santa Cruz), São Pedro (Santa Cruz), Port of Fajã Grande.

### Surfing and body boarding

- **Fajã Grande** - An isolated and uncrowded spot with a mixed seafloor of sand and rock.

### Canyoning

- **Ribeira dos Algares** - With a 350-metre drop, and 1.5-km in length, some experience is required to canyon here.
- **Ribeira do Cabo** - Seven descents requiring rappel, a 360-metre drop, two-km in length, with a land exit available.
- **Ribeira dos Mosteiros** - 245-metre drop, exit through the sea.
- **Ribeira do Monte Gordo** - Great verticals, 305-metre drop, exit through the sea.

### Canoeing and kayaking

- **Fajã Grande**

### Cycling and mountain biking

- **Fajã Grande**

### Paragliding

- **Outeiro da Madeira Seca** • **Pico do Meio Dia** • **Pico dos Sete Pés**

### Bird watching

- **Lagoa Branca** - Located in the central area of the island, this lake is a great place to spot Nearctic birds.

## Places to visit



**Ilhéu de Monchique** - The westernmost point of Europe, this islet used to be a reference point for the adjustment of navigation instruments and for checking the route.



**Fajã de Lopo Vaz** - Named after one of the first settlers, this was probably the first place to be inhabited on this island. There are some wild goats in this *fajã*.



**Fajãzinha** - A small *fajã* from where one can see about twenty waterfalls, the biggest of which drops for 300 metres.



**Poço do Bacalhau** - Located in Fajã Grande, this is a small pool at the bottom of a 90-metre high waterfall, where it is possible to swim.

**Sete Lagoas** - Located inside the caldera of Flores, the names of these seven lakes are connected to their features and to the landscape: Deep, White, Dry, Long, Shallow, Crest and Black Lake. The latter is 100 metres deep.

**Gruta dos Enxaréus** - This is a semi-submerged cave on the coastline only visible from the sea and measuring 50 metres in length and 25 metres in width. Relatively big ships can enter this cave which was a hideout for pirates and smugglers of contraband goods who loitered around the island.



**Centro de Interpretação Ambiental do Boqueirão** - This interpretation center was built from the tanks where the whale oil used to be stored. Here one can also learn about bird watching, marine environments, deep hydrothermal vents or whale watching.

## Heritage and culture



**Nossa Sr.<sup>a</sup> da Conceição Church (19<sup>th</sup> century)** - Given the size and the cost of the initial project, the construction of this church took over fifty years. The works were then simplified, but it still is one of the most imposing churches of the Archipelago.



**Museu das Flores** - There are three centres that make up the Flores Museum: the old São Boaventura Franciscan Convent (17<sup>th</sup> century), Pimentel de Mesquita's House-Museum (one of the oldest buildings of Santa Cruz), and the old Boqueirão Whaling Factory, which is an industrial complex which dates back to the 1940s and is one of the biggest of its kind.



**Festa do Emigrante** - One of the biggest festivities celebrated on this island, this festival takes place in Lajes during the month of July, paying homage to all emigrants.

## Regional Food



**Caldeirada de Peixe (Fish stew)**

### Other Suggestions:

- Sopa de Agrião (Watercress soup)
- "Conduto de Porco" (Cozido de Porco) (Boiled pork)
- Arroz de Lapas (Rice with limpets)







## Suggested Activities

### Diving

- **Gamela** - A cave with a sort of skylight opening that rises from the volcanic seafloor. This area is populated by moray eels, damselfish and Mediterranean parrotfish.
- **Baixa do Buraco** - A rocky outcrop with a hole that rises from the sandy seafloor. From its typical fauna, some pelagic species stand out.
- **Caneiro dos Meros** - A site that is inhabited by large dusky groupers that interact with divers whilst swimming amid the formations that resulted from different lava flows.

### Walking trails

- **Caldeirão - Cancela do Pico** - Incredible views over the caldera of the volcano, the small lakes and the island's cliffs.

### Geotourism / Geolocations

- **Fajã de Vila do Corvo** - A lava *fajã* that resulted from the last eruption on the island.
- **Caldeirão** - A collapse caldera with a lake and various small cones inside.

### Paragliding

- **Caminho para o Caldeirão** • **Cova Vermelha**

### Bird watching

- **The whole island** - Considered to be the best place in Europe to spot rare American birds.

## Places to visit



**Caldeirão Lookout** - A 300-metre deep crater with a diameter of 2,3 km. Some say that, inside, you can see the outline of the nine islands of the Azores.



**Windmills** - Influenced by Mediterranean designs, they are smaller than those influenced by Northern European models. In these black stone constructions, the domes and the triangular sails constantly rotate to face the direction of the wind.



**Nossa Sr.ª dos Milagres Church (1795)** - Dedicated to the patron saint of the island, whose feast is celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> August. Inside, the statue of the saint which dates back to the sixteenth century can be found.



**Centro de Interpretação do Corvo** - This interpretation centre is integrated in the classified area of the historic core of the town and it's where visitors can learn and better understand the environmental and cultural specificities of the island.

## Heritage and culture



**Legend of the Equestrian Statue** - Perhaps created by Renaissance historians as a strategy to generate curiosity for the land that lay to the west, the legend mentions a statue of a horseman pointing to the west, thus suggesting that there was human presence on the island before the arrival of the Portuguese. However neither archaeological evidence of this statue nor any other proof of a previous settlement has ever been found.



**Festival dos Moinhos** - Part of the feast in honour of Nossa Sr.ª dos Milagres, which is celebrated every year on 15<sup>th</sup> of August.



**Wooden locks** - Until recently many of the houses still used these simple and ingenious locks made of juniper wood. The fact that they were made of such fragile material, (although juniper wood lasts longer than metal in very humid areas), reflects the community character of the local population and a lifestyle based on mutual trust.

## Regional Food

### Other Suggestions:

- Caldeirada de Peixe (Fish stew)
- Tortas de "erva patinha" (Appetizer made with seaweed)
- Feijão com cabeça de porco (Pork with beans)



**Queijo do Corvo (Corvo Cheese)**

### 1<sup>st</sup> Edition - 2012

#### AZORES PHOTOGRAPHS:

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Clube Asas de São Miguel - [www.asassaomiguel.com](http://www.asassaomiguel.com)

Pedro Monteiro / Centro de Priolo - Associação Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves - [www.spea.pt](http://www.spea.pt)

Faial Terra Mar - Pesca Sustentável - Catch and Release - [www.faialterramar.net](http://www.faialterramar.net)

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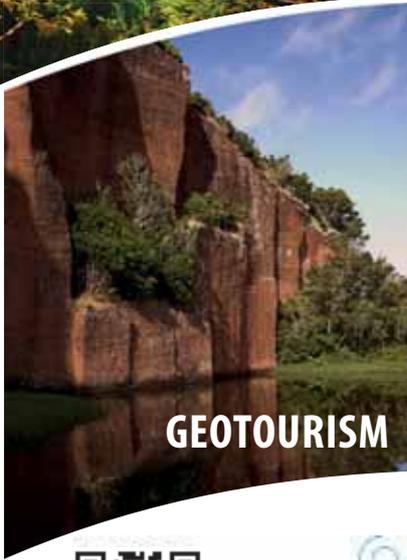
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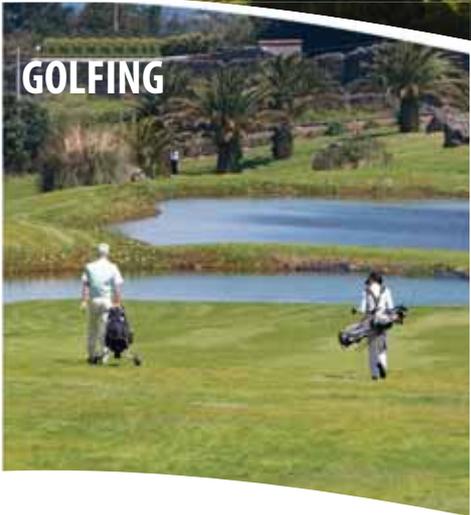
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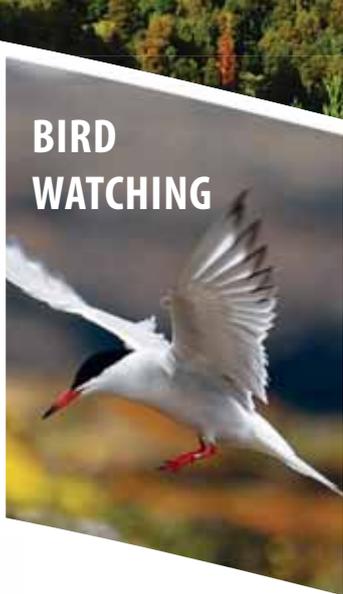




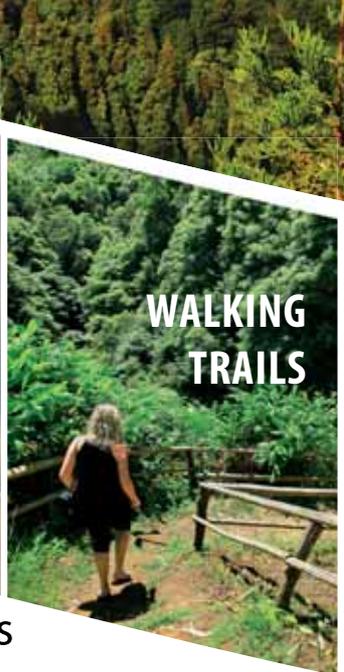
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**GOLFING**



**BIRD WATCHING**



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