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# The Azores

Jewels of Portugal

**12 DAYS** From ~~\$2,999~~ **\$2,849 pp\*** Save up to **\$150**

## About This Tour

Enter an untouched paradise on an adventure through the Azores, the archipelago gems of Portugal. Explore the rim of the Sete Cidades Caldera. Indulge in a traditional cozido das furnas meal, cooked by the heat of the volcanic earth. Descend into Algar do Carvao, the “Cavern of Coal” lava tube, with an expert guide. Enjoy a home-hosted meal during your stay in Sao Miguel Island. Spend 3 nights in a lava stone house. From thermal pools and lush craters to local farms and volcanic cuisine, delve into the culture of Portuguese island life.

## Your Tour Includes





- 5 Handpicked Accommodations

- 18 Meals
- 4 Choice on Tour Options

## Included Highlights

- Off-Road Sete Cidades Experience
- Terra Nostra Botanical Garden & Thermal Pool
- Furnas Valley
- Home-Hosted Dinner

### Your Tour at a Glance

<b>Stay</b> 	12 Days 11 Nights
<b>Meals</b> 	18 Meals 10 Breakfasts 2 Lunches 6 Dinners
<b>Activity</b> 	3 <a href="#">What's This?</a>
<b>Travel Style</b> 	Explorations <a href="#">What's This?</a>

### Customize Your Tour

<b>Post Tour 3 Night Lisbon</b>	<b>\$599.00 pp</b> <a href="#">View Post Tour</a>
<b>Optional Excursions</b>	<b>Starting at \$75.00</b> <a href="#">View Excursions</a>

# Itinerary

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## Day 1: Overnight Flight

From volcanic craters and thermal waters to lush vegetation and picturesque coasts, enjoy the natural splendor of this Portuguese archipelago and see why the Azores are commonly referred to as “the Hawaii of Europe.”

### Hotel

### Culinary

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## Day 2: São Miguel, Açores, Portugal - Tour Begins

This is the Azores. A set of islands virtually untouched by urban development. Your adventure begins on São Miguel, the largest of the nine volcanic islands. Relax and explore as you wish, perhaps sit along the seaside promenade and breathe in the mild air of the Atlantic.

### Hotel

Grand Hotel Acores  
Atlantico

### Culinary

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## Day 3: São Miguel

Get to know Ponta Delgada, the capital city of São Miguel, on a morning walking tour of the area. This afternoon, traverse the dirt paths to the Sete Cidades caldera’s highest point on an off-road adventure. On your way, gaze down upon the blue lake (reflecting the sky) and the adjacent green lake (reflecting the lush vegetation). As you take in the greenery around you, an Impact Moment introduces how our partnership with a local company is supporting reforestation efforts on the island. Celebrate the beginning of your journey with a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

### Hotel

### Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Grand Hotel Acores  
Atlantico

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## Day 4: São Miguel

Start the day with a visit to one of the few remaining basket weavers on the island. Learn how willow basket making has evolved and how this father-son enterprise has kept this traditional craft alive. Then, it's your choice! Enjoy the thermal waters at the Terra Nostra pool,\* built in the 18th century by the American consul to the Azores -OR- embark on a guided visit to the organic paradise that is the Terra Nostra Botanical Garden. For lunch, enjoy a traditional cozido das furnas meal, where your food is cooked in the earth's volcanic heat. Later, continue on to the green fields of a nearby tea plantation where we will learn about this unique crop before an evening of leisure in São Miguel.

### Hotel

Grand Hotel Acores  
Atlantico

### Culinary

Breakfast & Lunch

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## Day 5: São Miguel

Today enjoy a full free day to explore Sao Miguel at your own pace. Or you may choose to join a Flavors of Sao Miguel optional tour where you will taste your way through some of the unique products this island has to offer. At a local quinta, taste Azorean gin, blended with botanicals and seaweed and learn how a local foundation supports local marine conservation. End this optional excursion with a light lunch of locally-sourced ingredients. Regardless of how you choose to spend your day, gather tonight for a home-hosted dinner at a local village.

### Hotel

Grand Hotel Acores  
Atlantico

### Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

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## Day 6: São Miguel - Terceira

Say hello to the colorful island of Terceira. Stand along the edge of the crater at Serra do Cume viewpoint and take in the patchwork of infinite green. Learn about the Holy Ghost Chapels, known locally as Imperios, and customs surrounding this tradition. Get to know Angra do Heroísmo (UNESCO) with a local guide. Restored in traditional style, the city features white facades and vibrant trims. Tonight, get a taste of the culture at a local restaurant.

### Hotel

Zenite Boutique  
Hotel & Spa

### Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

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## Day 7: Terceira

The morning is yours. Perhaps you will join a morning optional tour to the western side of the Terceira Island visiting coffee and banana plantations along the way and ending at a family owned cheese factory for a light lunch made up of local products. Gather later and head underground with an expert guide to Algar do Carvão, the “Cavern of Coal.” Feel the quiet stillness as you descend into this ancient lava tube. End the day with a swim\* in the natural volcanic pools of Biscoitos. Enjoy a free evening or entice your taste buds on an optional wine and tapas home experience.

### Hotel

Zenite Boutique  
Hotel & Spa

### Culinary

Breakfast

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## Day 8: Terceira - Faial

Say bom dia (good morning) to Faial, the “Blue Island” of the Azores. Encounter the volcanic vitality of Faial when you take in the rocky landscapes and the ash hills of the Capelinhos Volcano Interpretation Center. Peek into the daily life of Azoreans as you mingle amongst the locals at a local market and sample another variety of locally produced cheese.

<b>Hotel</b>	<b>Culinary</b>
Hotel do Canal	Breakfast & Dinner

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## **Day 9: Faial**

Have some time for yourself before joining a walking tour of Horta. Its marina and painted murals are a testament to the island's importance to sailing crews that visit the island during their voyages across the Atlantic. Then, it's your choice! Visit the Horta Museum where ethnographic pieces and Sacred Art paint a picture of the history of the island -OR- visit the Scrimshaw Museum where the island's whaling past comes to life through a private whalebone carving collection at the famous Pete's Café.

<b>Hotel</b>	<b>Culinary</b>
Hotel do Canal	Breakfast

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## **Day 10: Faial - Pico**

Board a ferry to the nearby island of Pico. Enjoy a light lunch, sampling drinks paired with local cheeses and meats, snacking on different Azorean favorites. Make a stop at Lagoa do Capitaó and spy Sao Jorge Island in the distance. End the day at the rustic lava stone houses of Aldeia da Fonte, an eco-sustainable hotel and your home for the next 3 nights. Enjoy dinner at this cliff-side abode.

<b>Hotel</b>	<b>Culinary</b>
Aldeia da Fonte	Breakfast & Lunch
Nature Hotel	& Dinner

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## **Day 11: Pico**

The day is yours. Perhaps you will take to the waves on an optional\*\* ocean excursion, where you will watch for whales and dolphins before enjoying lunch back on land. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

**Hotel**

Aldeia da Fonte  
Nature Hotel

**Culinary**

Breakfast

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**Day 12: Pico**

Today visit the Pico Wine Museum before tasting these exclusive wines at a winery. Then, visit the whaling museum highlighting the historical ties of the industry to the culture of the islands. Learn about the importance of whaling to Pico through the 1980's and the transition from hunting to protecting these giants of the oceans!

**Hotel**

Aldeia da Fonte  
Nature Hotel

**Culinary**

Breakfast & Dinner

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**Day 13: Pico - Lisbon**

Say farewell to the Azores Islands when we depart Pico for Lisbon. Enjoy some time at leisure for some last minute shopping or perhaps to wander through the streets of the capital city on your own. Tonight, toast to the end of your trip with a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

**Hotel**

Iberostar Selection  
Lisboa

**Culinary**

Breakfast & Dinner

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**Day 14: Lisbon - Tour Ends**

Say adeus (goodbye) to Portugal and the Azores as you depart this coastal paradise.

**Hotel****Culinary**

Breakfast

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