



2015

See You in the Azores

SEE
YOU
in the Azores

 **AZORES**
www.visitazores.com



The nine islands of the Azores

The nine islands of the Azores are all volcanic in their origin and are located roughly between 37 ° and 40 ° north (latitude) and 25 ° and 31 ° west (longitude) and Flores island is the westernmost point in Europe. According to 2011 data, 246,102 people live in these islands territory that covers 2,325 sq.km, distancing 1,815 km from mainland Europe (Portugal) and 2,625 km from the North American continent (Canada). The archipelago is divided into three geographical groups: the Eastern Group composed of Santa Maria and São Miguel, the Central Group includes the islands of Terceira, Graciosa, São Jorge, Pico and Faial and the Western Group comprising Corvo and Flores islands.

Brought together in an archipelago, each Azorean island has its own identity. Even if they all share an extraordinary natural legacy, they also have their own unique landscape, traditions, cuisine and architecture. There are no words capable of describing and classifying the charm of these nine charismatic islands. They have been sculptured by ancient volcanoes and populated over the centuries by courageous and kind people. Thus the Azores are a place of varied experiences and emotions.

But each island has its own identity. The fossils of Santa Maria, the lakes of São Miguel, the caves of Terceira, the cones of Graciosa, the fajãs of São Jorge, the Mountain of Pico, the Capelinhos Volcano of Faial,

the volcanic chimneys of Flores, and the Caldeirão of Corvo are unmistakable features. To travel throughout the Azores is to get to know nine islands where the same genetic code generated profiles that are distinct from one another.

The long lists of natural parks, of areas of protected landscape, of protected fauna and flora species, of forest reserves, of geolandscape, and of sites with geological interest guarantee the preservation of a priceless natural legacy. As a form of compensation for all of this effort, the Azores are considered to be a sanctuary of biodiversity and geodiversity and one of the best locations for Nature Tourism.

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Azores



YOU CAN DO IT IN THE AZORES!



The colour scheme reveals the islands where you can experience the exciting activities available.



Walking Trails

In the Azores there is a network of 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) – trails. visitazores.com.

As you walk inland from the coast, you will enjoy a stunning landscape marked by dense coastal woods, in particular juniper trees and the remains of laurissilva 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 unique rock formations.

YOU CAN DO IT IN THE AZORES!

Corvo
Flores
Faial
Pico
São Jorge
Graciosa
Terceira
São Miguel
Santa Maria

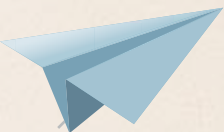
Caldeirão · Corvo Island



São Jorge Island

Pico Mountain · Pico Island





Formigas · Santa Maria Island



YOU CAN DO IT IN THE AZORES!

- Corvo
- Flores
- Faial
- Pico
- São Jorge
- Graciosa
- Terceira
- São Miguel
- Santa Maria



Diving

Dozens of sites have been described and listed, suiting all tastes and types of dive: **snorkelling, initiation to diving, evening dives, diving near the coastline, in caves or shipwrecks, coastal shoals or diving in deeper waters.**

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 and from which arches and lava tubes emerge. And if all that is not enough, there are also archaeological parks filled with the wrecks of merchant and war ships that have been buried here throughout history.





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.



Sea of the Azores

The sperm whale is among 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 whales can also be seen, such as the blue whale (*Balaenoptera 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.



Surfing and Bodyboarding

The mild climate, consistent winds and water temperatures make surfing in the Azores ideal year round, but winter offers the best time of year to surf.

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.

Besides its natural characteristics, the archipelago is also attractive to surfers because of its uncrowded surf spots and the short distances between them.

You can find good waves on all the 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.

Santa Maria
São Miguel
Terceira
São Jorge
Faial

YOU CAN DO IT IN THE AZORES!

Fajã Grande · Flores Island

Praia das Milícias · São Miguel Island

YOU CAN DO IT IN THE AZORES!

Faial
Pico
São Jorge
Terceira
São Miguel
Santa Maria



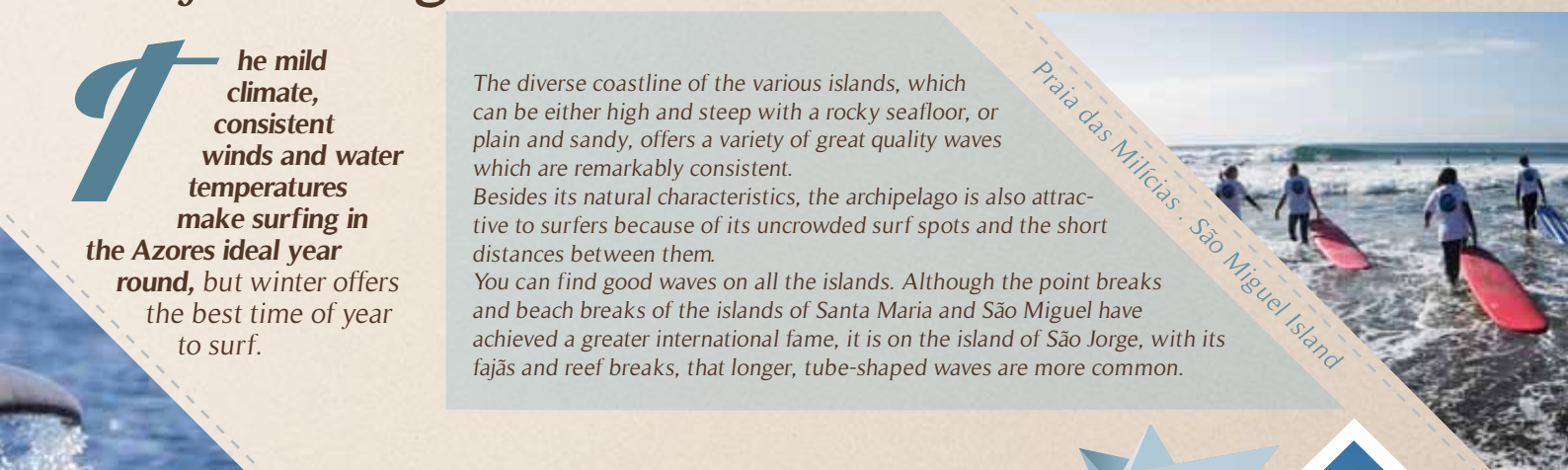
Sailing

Altogether, the marinas offer more than 1,000 mooring berths. All have been awarded the blue flag for quality.

Many international regattas start, pass or end here.

For centuries, sailors from all over the world have been attracted to the Azores mainly because of the international significance of the Marina of Horta. 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.

Faial Island





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**.

YOU CAN DO IT IN THE AZORES!

Terceira
São Miguel

Batalha Golf Course - São Miguel Island



Furnas Golf Course
São Miguel Island

Terceira Golf Club
Terceira Island



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.

Azores Bullfinch · São Miguel Island



Sete Cidades · São Miguel Island



Bird Watching

1 In the Azores you will find nesting **37 species 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 Palearctic ecozones.



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 sightings of many species of land and seabirds during one single outing. Some of these birds form worldwide-important colonies.

All the islands showcase many bird species in all sorts of habitats and landscapes, but wetlands, such as lakes, coastal marshes and islets, offer the best spots for bird watching. This is because so many species go there because 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, the Cory's shearwater, the Monteiro's storm petrel, the common buzzard, the roseate tern and the common tern (*Sterna hirundo* Linnaeus, 1758) amongst others.*



Geotourism

The volcanic origin of the archipelago, the small size of the islands, and the short distance between some of them, make it easy for you to explore the region's geodiversity at any time of the year, including its magnificent geolandscapes and geolocations.

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. These are just some of the best reasons to visit the Azores.

The region also has a number of interpretation centres giving visitors even further insight into its heritage – <http://siaram.azores.gov.pt/>.



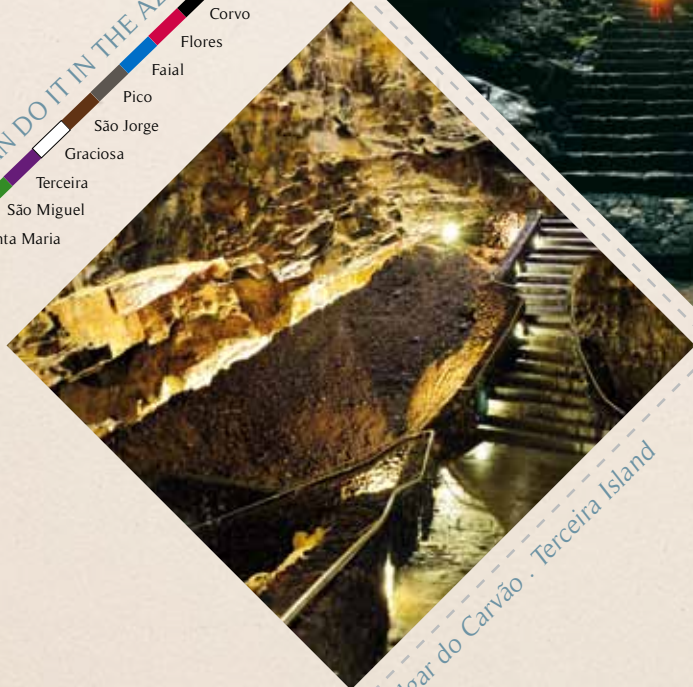
Furna do Enxofre · Graciosa Island

YOU CAN DO IT IN THE AZORES!

Corvo
Flores
Faial
Pico
São Jorge
Graciosa
Terceira
São Miguel
Santa Maria



Algar do Carvão · Terceira Island





Health and Well being

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.

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, water-falls and iron water pools which have been used since the sixteenth century.

São Miguel
Graciosa

YOU CAN DO IT IN THE AZORES!

Ferraria Thermal Water
São Miguel Island



Gruta das Torres
Pico Island



Cycling and Mountain Biking

There are various cycling and mountain bike trails suited to professionals and amateurs in the Azores. Throughout the whole year, with or without a guide, there are plenty of options for enthusiasts of this sport.

YOU CAN DO IT IN THE AZORES!

Flores
Faial
Pico
São Jorge
Graciosa
Terceira
São Miguel

Lagoa do Fogo
São Miguel Island
Pico Island





Lagoa das Furnas
São Miguel Island



Caloura · São Miguel Island



SUP, Canoeing and Kayaking

SUP, canoeing and kayaking give you a real physical and emotional involvement with the Azorean landscape.

These sports can be practised in the Azores both in inland waters and in the open sea. Whether you're enjoying the slopes and escarpments which surround the lakes at the bottom of volcanic calderas, or rowing around small islets to watch sea birds and visit caves, there are activities for travellers at all levels of ability.



Canyoning

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.

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

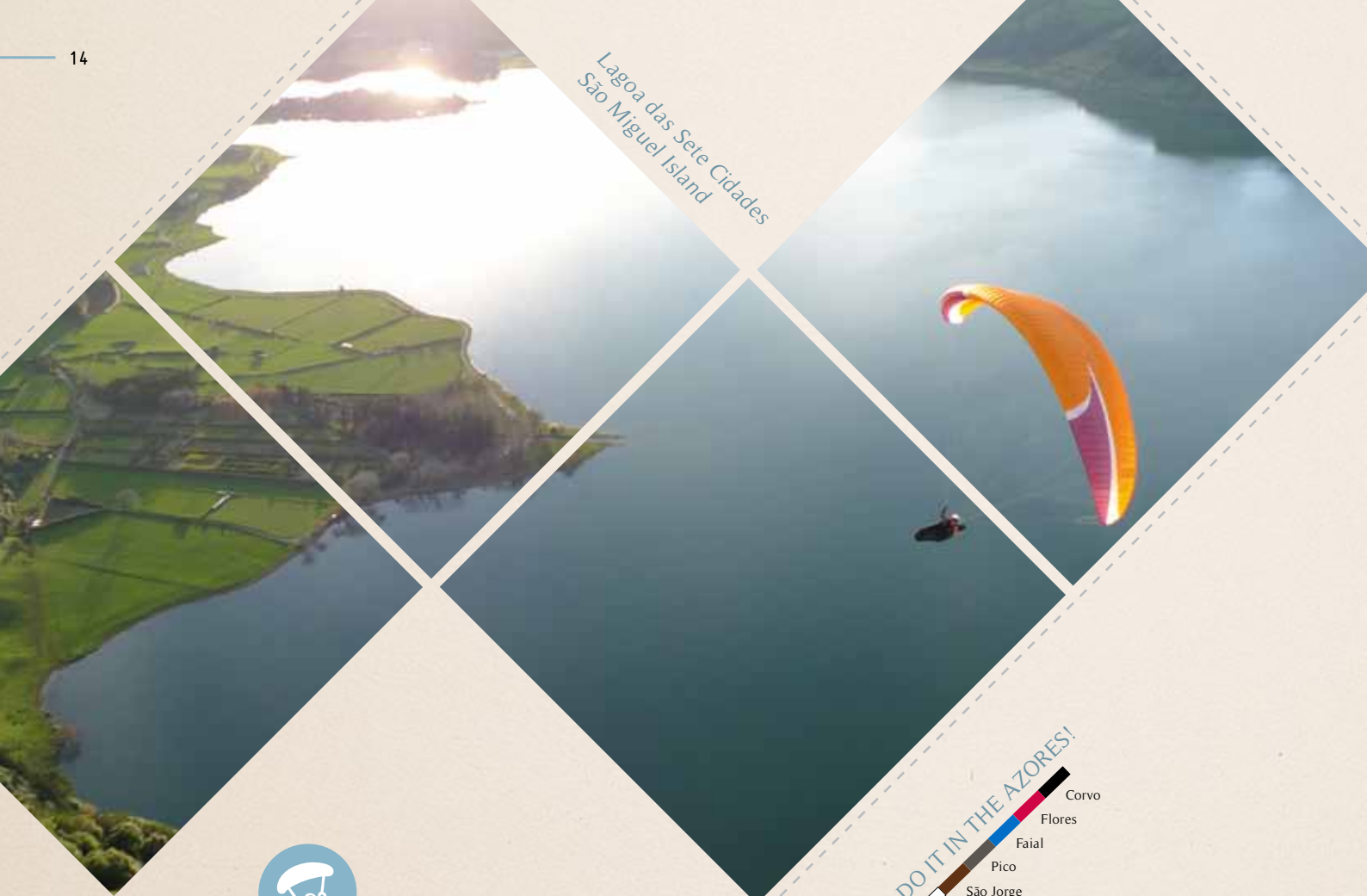
Flores
São Jorge
Terceira
São Miguel
Santa Maria

YOU CAN DO IT IN THE AZORES!

Salto do Cabrito, Ribeira Grande, São Miguel Island



Lagoa das Sete Cidades
São Miguel Island



Paragliding

Ply silently over the volcanic landscape, escorted by common buzzards searching for ascending air currents.

Paragliding is undoubtedly a once in a lifetime experience that will give you quite an adrenaline rush.



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.

This sport can be enjoyed solo or in groups and, because of the mild climate the sport takes place year round.

The Azores are the perfect place for those you can paraglide autonomously. At the moment there aren't companies providing this activity.

São Miguel Island



Horse Riding



Walking, riding or “cantering” a horse along trails and around lakes is an unforgettable experience.

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.

There are horse riding programmes available for first timers or experienced riders throughout the year.

YOU CAN DO IT IN THE AZORES!

Faial
Pico
São Jorge
Graciosa
Terceira
São Miguel



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.

YOU CAN DO IT IN THE AZORES!

Flores
Faial
Pico
São Jorge
Graciosa
Terceira
São Miguel
Santa Maria

São Miguel Island

The Azores is a paradise for fishing enthusiasts, especially those who love big game fishing.

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 desired species of all – the great Atlantic blue marlin.





REGIONAL FOOD

Suggestions

A Although there are some common flavours typical to Azorean cuisine, each island has its own recipe and take on local seafood, meat, cheeses, fruit pastries and drink.

Santa Maria

CANTALOUPE

Rockmelons grown on the island have attained fame and a gourmet status over time. Handmade sausages, particularly Alheira of Santa Maria, are popular. This is an island with a wine tradition and brandy and fruit liqueurs are also characteristic of this island.

Cantaloupe
Santa Maria Island



São Miguel

COZIDO DAS FURNAS

(Boiled meat and vegetables cooked underground by volcanic heat)

In Furnas, this local dish is made of meat and vegetables which are carefully placed in pots inside cloth, which is then buried in the geothermal soils of the volcano crater to cook. Before experiencing the dish for yourself, witness strong locals lifting your meal in heavy pots from the ground with ropes.

Cozido das Furnas · São Miguel Island



Terceira

ALCATRA (beef stew)

The cuisine of Terceira is marked by alcatra, generally made with fish or beef (on the bone). This is a typical dish that is cooked very slowly in a clay pot in order to thicken the sauce which is made with bacon, onions, garlic, bay leaf, pepper and wine, among other ingredients.



Alcatra · Terceira Island



Graciosa

QUEIJADAS DA GRACIOSA (pastry)

If there is a typical product of this island, it is the pastry that adopted the namesake of the island: Queijadas da Graciosa (Graciosa Custards) which are inspired by the centuries-old recipe of Portuguese custard tart.

Queijada da Graciosa · Graciosa Island



São Jorge

CLAMS / 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.

Pico

PICO WINES

As a land with wine tradition, the white and red wines that are produced in Pico were recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2004. Steadily, the Azores wines such as verdelho have achieved prestige because of improved production methods and innovative products such as “Magma”, “Basalto”, “Lajido” and “Terras de Lava” which are types of Pico wine.

Pico wines · Pico Island

São Jorge cheese
São Jorge Island

Faial

CALDO DE PEIXE

One of the most typical dishes of Faial is stewed octopus in wine, which is also common to the other islands of the archipelago. Fish is very important, especially stewed or served in a broth. Bread and corn cake are preferably included during meals.

Caldo de peixe . Faial Island



Flores

ALBACORA

Fish is part of the cuisine heritage of the island and is served in dishes such as roasted tuna and stewed conger eel. From the guava tree, yellow, red and purple fruits are picked to make a local dessert. The honey is absorbed with the aroma of the thousands of flowers that embellish this island.

Albacora . Flores Island



Corvo

CORVO CHEESE

The handmade cheese of Corvo, which cures for at least 60 days, is very much appreciated. It features a semi-hard paste and is yellow in colour, with a persistent and slightly hot taste.

Corvo Cheese





CULTURE

• Museums

The Azorean museums store various ethnographic collections that reflect a history that is deeply connected with the land, cattle breeding, handicrafts and fishing. Whale hunting was most intensive on the islands of Pico and Faial, reflected through the objects and tales of an era filled with strong men. Various museum rooms are dedicated to collections of religious artefacts, but most of the pieces are still kept in the churches.

The Carlos Machado Museum
São Miguel Island

Angra do Heroísmo Museum
Terceira Island

Sta. Maria Museum
Sta. Maria Island



São Miguel

The Carlos Machado Museum, located in the Convent of Santo André in Ponta Delgada, stores the best artifacts related to the Azorean culture, and it has important collections related to art, regional ethnography, toys, sacred art and natural history.

Terceira

Terceira breathes culture from every pore. There are several cultural institutions and associations, theatre groups and places of temporary or permanent exhibitions that contribute to the promotion of the culture in the island. This is the case of the Angra do Heroísmo Museum, installed at the São Francisco Convent, with its remarkable collections of military history and of transports of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Santa Maria

Set up in a former rural house from the 20th century, the museum is made up of a collection of furniture, and traditional housing utensils from the island as well as a section on everyday life.

Graciosa

The Graciosa Museum, divided into six different sections, stores much of the local ethnography. Once can discover the historic activities of times gone by, such as in agriculture, wine and wheat production, historic whaling and old trades, through the equipment, tools and historical documents kept at the Museum. In the central section, there is a typical home of Graciosa, fully furnished and decorated.

São Jorge

While Velas hosts the Sacred Art Museum, next to its Mother Church, the São Jorge Island Museum in Calheta exhibits ethnographical collections of pottery, weaving, agriculture, cattle-raising, furniture and photography.

Pico

The Whaling Association has various sites, such as the Museu da Indústria Baleeira (Whaling Industry Museum) in São Roque; it has on display furnaces, boilers and other equipment that was used to process sperm whales. Photographs, utensils and models of canoes complete the collection at the Museu dos Baleeiros (Whalemens Museum) in Lajes do Pico, where the exhibition was set up in the old storage facilities of wailing boats and includes a canoe, harpoons and other tools used for whale hunting and pieces of scrimshaw (engravings or sculptures on the teeth of whales).

The Sacred Art Museum
São Jorge Island



Graciosa Museum
Graciosa Island



The Corvo Environmental and
Cultural Interpretation Centre
Corvo Island





Flores Museum
Flores Island

Horta Museum
Faial Island

Whalemens' Museum
Pico Island

Faial

Part of the history of Faial can be witnessed at the Museu da Horta (Horta Museum), installed in the old Jesuit College, storing collections of documents, ethnography, photography and art. In the old site of the Fábrica da Baleia of Porto Pim (Porto Pim Whaling Factory), there is presently a museum section with exhibitions of machinery and other instruments that were used in whale hunting and processing.

Flores

Located in a section of the old São Francisco Convent in Santa Cruz, the Flores Museum documents the relations of the people with the land and the sea. There are collections on the exploitation of farms, scrimshaw and maritime tools, along with tools used in carpentry, steel works, cotton and wool textiles.

Corvo

The Corvo Environmental and Cultural Interpretation Centre, recently built taking advantage of some of the town's typical houses, is a must visit place. At this modern facility, in addition to a pleasant and relaxed conversation, you can appreciate and learn more about the island and about the local population and its experiences.

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)
January	14,1	16,1	125,7
February	13,6	15,5	118,4
March	14,3	15,4	94,4
April	14,9	15,8	77,0
May	16,6	16,7	61,9
June	18,7	18,3	50,2
July	21,0	20,4	38,8
August	22,1	21,9	55,5
September	21,1	21,7	88,3
October	18,9	20,3	106,8
November	16,9	18,5	132,1
December	15,1	17,0	133,1

Source: UA, CLIMAAT

Feel alive.



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