

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

THE AZORES

Below is a selection of Optional Activities available to add on to your package for your time at leisure. Please get in touch and we will be happy to amend your booking and revise your invoice accordingly.

Sao Miguel Island

WALK IN SETE CIDADES

Price: £29 per person • **Days of Operation:** Daily • **Duration:** 4 Hours

The adventure begins in Ponta Delgada, where we leave towards Pico do Carvão. This trail, with approximately 5 kms, starts at the entrance of Mata do Canário, joins two sections of pre-existing trails and allows you to discover the various lakes in the western part of the island of São Miguel. In the first part of the walking tour, it is possible to find ground vegetation, mainly grasses, and it is also possible to see the "Muro das Nove Janelas", an ancient aqueduct that carried water to Ponta Delgada. After an ascent through an area where the terrain is more irregular, we can observe a large part of the West side of the island, as well as the collapsed crater of Sete Cidades. From this location, in days of really good weather, one can see a large part of the island of São Miguel. On the return to Ponta Delgada, it is possible to stop at the Viewpoint of Vista do Rei, where you will find a magnificent landscape, of the Lagoa Azul and Verde. On the way back, we will find green fields along our drive until reaching Ponta Delgada.

TAPAS & WINE - AN EVENING TOUR IN PONTA DELGADA

Price: £67 per person • **Days of Operation:** Tuesdays & Fridays (17:00 to 20:00) • **Duration:** 3 Hours

Discover the Azores through delicious drinks, great bites, and stories! In this 3h evening walking tour participants will experience some of Ponta Delgada's best bars and eateries, sampling unique Azorean beverages, while learning about the local traditions and drinking culture. Through sips and tales, this tour will present the historical Pico wines, locally produced beer, liqueurs, and many delicious foods. It's a great experience for both serious drinks enthusiasts as well as beginners wishing to expand their knowledge. A relaxing stroll through the largest city of the Azores. Although the emphasis is on the wine and drinks, there will be plenty of flavourful tapas to eat during the tour!

PONTA DELGADA CITY TOUR

Price: £22 per person ▪ **Days of Operation:** Everyday except Monday (09:00 to 12:00 & 14:00 to 17:00)
Duration: 3 Hours

This tour allows us to go through the main streets of Ponta Delgada, through the main sites of this city with more than 450 years of history. We will get to know the secrets, the stories, and the history of a city by the sea, passing by the main monuments with a mixture of various architectural styles, as well as the typical features of the so called "Micaelense" architecture. The tour also includes a visit to Ponta Delgada's market, a vibrant place where you can find the main products that come from our land and our sea. During the tour, there will be time to enjoy a coffee, or a local drink (not included).

Faial Island

HALF DAY HORTA CITY TOUR

Horta has a genuine feel to it, located on an astonishing bay, with its famous and colourful Marina used as a stopover for many maritime adventures.

Price: £18 per person ▪ **Days of Operation:** Daily (Morning and Afternoon) ▪ **Duration:** 3 Hours

It is a city with a real strong connection to the sea, with its science and culture focused on it. These features make this a historic and cosmopolitan centre, with a wealthy heritage, surrounded by amazing landscapes – such as the view to the highest mountain of Portugal, Mount Pico. This city tour will allow you to get to know the city – several historic monuments and symbolic spaces, as well as the gardens and green parks.

GUIDED WALK TOURS:

Price: Walks are £35 per person ▪ **Difficulty Grade:** Both walks are a 3 (Moderate)

Walk Cabeço do Canto

Duration: 2 Hours (2.5 km)

This route starts near the access road to Cabeço Verde and is a part of the protected landscape of the Central Area. Along the trail we go through areas of great volcanic interest such as the volcanic ridge of "Península do Cabeço", a Geosite with approximately 20 volcanic cones that goes from Cabeço dos Trinta until Capelinhos Volcano. Several specimens of laurel forest can be spotted along the walk.

Walk Caldeira

Duration: 4 Hours (7 km)

This walk begins at the Caldeira Viewpoint and goes around its crater's perimeter. Located in the center of the island, the Natural Reserve of Caldeira is a protected landscape and a very important Geosite. With around 2 km in diameter, it was formed through several eruptions along the last 400 thousand years. The trail's altimetry varies between 840 and 1040 meters, being advisable doing it in days of good weather and clear visibility. As you go around Caldeira enjoy the views over the North and West coast, as well as its interior. Several specimens of endemic flora can be seen spotted along the way.

Pico Island

WHALE & DOLPHIN WATCHING

Price: £59 per person ▪ **Days of Operation:** On Request (Morning and Afternoon) ▪ **Duration:** 4 Hours

The whale & dolphin watching activity is done by a professional team of lookouts, skippers and biologists on rigid inflatable boats or fibre glass boats. Before you leave to the ocean, the whaling company makes a briefing including information about the species you may see, and the Azorean Whale Watching code of ethics. The company also provides the necessary equipment you should take to ensure your safety and comfort (life vest and rain jackets).

WALK CAMINHOS DE SANTA LUZIA

Price: £67 per person ▪ **Days of Operation:** Daily ▪ **Duration:** 3 Hours (10.5 km) ▪ **Difficulty Grade:** 2 (Easy/Medium)

The route starts on the regional road on the border between the places of Santana and São Vicente. We start with a descent towards Baía do Gasparal, between orchards and vineyards, an old place where wine was produced and where there are warehouses and an old ramp, "rola-pipas" where barrels used to be loaded into boats. The route continues along the coast, through the vineyards, to the place of Cabrito. We then follow the path along the basaltic rock to the Ermida de São Mateus. In place of Arcos, we continue until we find an old ox cart trail, "relheiras" that takes us to the center of Lajido, site of the UNESCO Vineyard Interpretation Center, on the island of Pico.

Terceira Island

HALF-DAY Angra City Tour

Price: £18 per person ▪ **Days of Operation:** Every day except Sunday (09:00 to 12:00 & 14:00 to 17:00) ▪ **Duration:** 3 Hours

You will walk on the city that was the centre of the world in the XV and XVI centuries. Find out the origins of its name, discover the plan of the city and learn why there are so many fortresses and singularities on the churches that are related with the Portuguese Empire going back to the discovery of the Sea Route to India, to the discovery of Brazil, passing by Angra!

FULL-DAY WALKING TOURS

Price: Both walks are £40 per person ▪ **Difficulty Grade:** Both walks are a 3 (Moderate)

Rocha Do Chambre

Duration: Total Tour 8 hours, Walk Tour 3 Hours

Have the opportunity to see the fields where the wild cattle live, as well as how rich the interior of the island is, preserved and maintained by the locals over the centuries, until today. Examine the endemic flora of the Azores, such as cryptomeria forests, large pastures and even observe some of the island's fauna. The attraction of this route is the "Rocha de Chambre", a vertical wall located at an altitude of 708 m where the view over the Azinhal Valley and the caldera of the Pico Alto Volcano stands out. After this climb, admire the view of Pico das Caldeirinhas and Pico Vermelho. The final part of the trail runs along a dry-stone wall, in an area dominated by Heather. After lunch, marvel at the Algar do Carvão Cave, a volcanic chimney that is undoubtedly the most famous volcanic cavity in the Azores. On the way back to Angra do Heroísmo, stop at Caldeira do Guilherme Moniz, and visit Quinta dos Açores, one of the best places to buy local products.

Serrata

Duration: Total Tour 8 hours, Walk Tour 3 Hours

This adventure discovers the geological origin of Terceira Island. Learn how volcanoes shaped the island's landscape and the way of life of its people. Go to the village of Serreta, beginning with a visit to the Church Miracles, known for its pilgrimages and processions. During the trail pass through various natural settings, such as a forest rich in endemic flora, the wonderful views of the Southwest coast, reaching at the highest point the fabulous lagoon, all surrounded by the Laurissilva forest. The return route is made next to the Ribeira do Além, filled during the summer by hydrangeas that embellish the view over Pico Negrão. Recover energy with a picnic in the Parque Natural de Recreio da Serreta shopping park. After lunch make a stop at the Ponta do Queimado lighthouse and enjoy the panoramic view of the other islands of the central group (Pico, Faial, São Jorge, and Graciosa). The adventure also includes a visit to the interpretation centre of the Sierra de Santa Barbara, and a traditional cheese factory to discover wonderful flavours of the island.

Price: £36 per person • **Difficulty Grade: 4** (Hard)

Mistérios Negros

Duration: Total Tour 8 hours, Walk Tour 2.5 Hours

Pass through the middle of a volcano, Pico da Bagacina, arriving at the place of the trail where you will be amazed by the beautiful Black Lagoon. The trail develops in the area of one of the most recent eruptions of Terceira Island, surrounded forests of Japanese cedar among other species that coexist with the dazzling endemic vegetation. Lastly, you have the opportunity to observe the crater of the volcano Pico Gaspar, rich in endemic flora. Our lunch picnic will be in the Patas Lagoon with its natural evolution, where you can breathe the fresh air of the forest and interact with the wild ducks. Visit the Natal cavern, originated from lava tubes and stalactites. On the way to Angra do Heroísmo, stop at Quinta do Açores, one of the best places to buy local delicacies.

(The above tours require a minimum of 2 people to operate.)

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