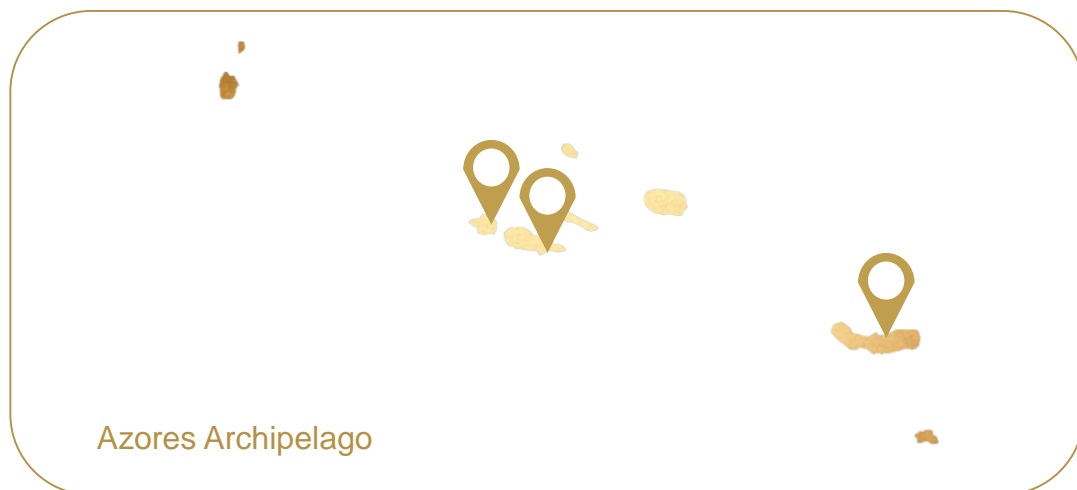




Experience an active holiday and try hiking on the volcanic crater of Sete Cidades, bathing in a thermal natural pool in the midst of pure nature and visiting the landscape of the Pico Island vineyard culture, classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Go on a whale watching tour and encounter a variety of marine wildlife, such as our resident sperm whales, common dolphins and bottlenose dolphins. This is a package for a complete active experience!

Itinerary

- Day 1 | Arrival
- Day 2 | Hiking in Sete Cidades (FD)
- Day 3 | Jeep safari to Lagoa do Fogo (HD)
- Day 4 | Thematic tour to Furnas (FD)
- Day 5 | Whale and dolphin watching (HD)
- Day 6 | Hiking in Faial da Terra (FD)
- Day 7 | Van tour or jeep safari to Nordeste (FD)
- Day 8 | Departure to Faial Island. Free day
- Day 9 | Van tour or jeep safari on Faial Island (FD)
- Day 10 | Van tour or jeep safari on Pico Island (FD)
- Day 11 | Departure to São Miguel Island. Free day
- Day 12 | Departure



Azores Archipelago

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DAY 1 – Arrival and transfer to the hotel. Free day.

DAY 2 – Pick up at the hotel. Hiking in Sete Cidades. Picnic lunch included. Return to the hotel.

HIKING IN SETE CIDADES – FULL DAY

EXTENSION: 11 KM | DURATION: 4H00 | DIFICULTY: EASY

Let's explore the West side of São Miguel. Sete Cidades lake is one of the most famous and legendary lakes of the island. During the 11 km long hike you will have the opportunity to learn about the fauna, flora, history, volcanic formation of the island, and of course, you will hear the legendary love story behind the formation of the lake. After the walk we will drive along the south coast and stop in Ferraria, a delightful ocean bathing area, where the salt water is heated inside a volcanic fissure.

DAY 3 – Free morning and lunch. Pick up at the hotel. Jeep safari to Lagoa de Fogo. Return to the hotel.

JEEP SAFARI TO LAGOA DO FOGO & CALDEIRA VELHA WARM WATERFALL – HALF DAY

This wonderful tour combines some off the road routes in both the highlands and flatlands, taking you to the amazing natural reserve of Lagoa do Fogo to enjoy nature at its best. Astonishing views from the top of the crater's border are a must to photograph! We then drive you to Caldeira Velha, a warm iron-rich waterfall where you can go for a dip to experience its warm waters.

DAY 4 – Pick up at the hotel. Thematic tour to Furnas (van + soft walking tour). "Cozido" lunch included. Return to the hotel.

THEMATIC TOUR TO FURNAS (VAN + SOFT WALKING TOUR) – FULL DAY

On this tour we feel and experience the volcanic origins of the Island in Furnas, a magical place. We start by visiting the Caldeiras da Lagoa das Furnas (Furnas Lake Calderas), a place where we cook the famous "Cozido das Furnas" (a very special meal cooked only with the steam of the Earth) and continue with a soft walk that crosses a stream and circles the lakeside. During this walk we have the opportunity to appreciate a variety of endemic flora species. Next we visit the town of Furnas, with its fumaroles and hot springs that contain water with different tastes. The Cozido meal is served in a local restaurant. After lunch we visit the centenary Terra Nostra botanical garden that is famous for its extraordinary collection of native plants on the Azores, as well as others from all over the world that have adapted to the local garden conditions. At the end of the visit you are invited to bathe in an iron-rich hot water swimming pool that has a temperature of 35-40°C, an exquisite experience! On the way back to Ponta Delgada we stop at several beautiful viewpoints on the North Coast and also at the only tea plantation in Europe where we will be able to visit the working tea factory and have a lovely break to taste the tea.

DAY 5 – Pick up at the hotel. Whale and dolphin watching (3 hour trip). Free afternoon.

WHALE AND DOLPHIN WATCHING – HALF DAY

During this activity you will have the opportunity to watch some of more than 25 cetacean species that can be found in the Azores. Although nature offers no guarantees, whales and dolphins are regularly seen during our half day tours, along with turtles, seabirds and other marine life.

Before the boat trip our biologists give you a briefing to explain which cetacean species can be observed, safety measures aboard, how we respect the animals and rules of observation at sea as well as some historical facts. During the tour each passenger is required to wear a life vest (except on our catamaran). Futurismo also provides rain coats and trousers if necessary.

DAY 6 – Pick up at the hotel. Hiking in Faial da Terra. Picnic lunch included. Return to the hotel.

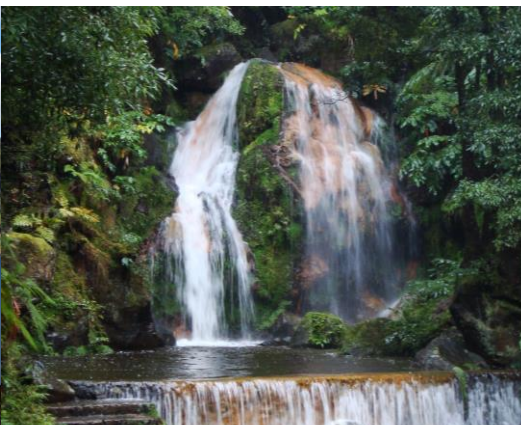
HIKING IN FAIAL DA TERRA – SALTO DO PREGO – FULL DAY EXTENSION: 6 KM | DURATION: 3H00 | DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM / TECHNICAL

Faial da Terra is a small village belonging to Povoação, located in the South East of São Miguel Island. Our walk starts on a steep narrow road that leads us to Sanguinho – a village that has been abandoned since the early 70's and is now being restored. The rest of the trail is in the woods, with a lot of short up and down hill stretches between very dense and beautiful vegetation. This is really a walk in which you can “smell” all the green around you! Upon reaching Salto do Prego's waterfall, we have the opportunity for a dip before our picnic lunch. On the way back we follow a different trail but with the same characteristics. When we finish the trail we have time for a snack in town and to mingle with the local people. This trail is not recommended for people with knee or ankle problems.

DAY 7 – Pick up at the hotel. Van tour or jeep safari to Nordeste. Lunch included. Return to the hotel.

VAN TOUR OR JEEP SAFARI TO NORDESTE – FULL DAY

Located in the eastern-most part of the island, Nordeste is considered to be the most beautiful region in the island and it has already been considered to be the most flower-rich region in Europe. Our first stop is well worth it as we stop at the viewpoint of Salto do Cavalo's peak. This viewpoint is marked by astonishing and wide views over Povoação, the first place to be settled on the island, and the coast that extends beyond Povoação. We continue our trip to the Priolo (Azores Bullfinch) Environmental Centre to visit the interactive exposition that fills the visitor with interesting knowledge about the area of Serra da Tronqueira, its fauna and flora, and more specifically about the Priolo bird (*Pyrrhula murina*) which is endemic to São Miguel Island in the Azores. Next to the centre we can also visit the Endemic Species Garden. Finally we go down to the town of Nordeste where we have lunch in a local restaurant. On the way back to Ponta Delgada we will stop at wonderful viewpoints over the coast and Povoação.



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DAY 8 – Faial Island – Arrival and transfer to the hotel. Free day.

DAY 9 – Faial Island – Pick up at the hotel. Van tour or jeep safari on Faial Island and Horta city tour. Lunch included. Return to the hotel.

VAN TOUR OR JEEP SAFARI ON FAIAL ISLAND AND HORTA CITY TOUR – FULL DAY

Drive by jeep or van towards Caldeira, a big volcanic crater with beautiful views over the sea and Pico Island too. Short drive to Capelinhos Volcano and its surrounding area. The endemic vegetation is amazingly well preserved and it's a constant during the trip. Once we reach the area affected by the eruption, we will visit the volcano's interpretation centre and go up to the lighthouse, from where we will have a very wide view over all the new part of the island which was added by the last eruption of 1957. The views over the black volcanic rocks and sand are extremely beautiful, contrasting with the deep blue of the ocean. After the visit we will have our lunch. In the afternoon we continue our tour in Horta city and visit the famous Marina and Peter's Café.

DAY 10 – Pico Island – Pick up at the hotel, transfer to the harbour and boat trip to Pico Island (20 minutes). Van tour or jeep safari on Pico Island. Lunch included. Boat trip to Faial Island and transfer to the hotel.

VAN TOUR OR JEEP SAFARI ON PICO ISLAND – FULL DAY

We start our tour in Vinhas (vineyards) da Criação Velha (classified as World Heritage Site by UNESCO) and visit a typical wine house with local wine production "Verdelho do Pico". The visit around the island continues with particular interest on the volcanic formations, lakes, endemic fauna and flora, fishing ports (old whale ports) and typical small villages.

DAY 11 – Transfer from the hotel to the airport and departure to São Miguel Island. Arrival and transfer to the hotel. Free day.

DAY 12 – Transfer from the hotel to the airport and departure.



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Highlights:

1. Hiking around the crater of Sete Cidades;
2. Tasting the famous Furnas “Cozido”, cooked only with steam of the earth;
3. Watching some of the 25 cetacean species that can be found in the Azores;
4. Visiting the vineyard culture landscape of Pico island, classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.



Departures

Year round with a minimum of 2 persons.

Included

- Transfers hotel | airport / harbour | hotel;
- Transfers to the activities;
- Boat trip Faial | Pico | Faial
- English speaking guide;
- Lunch on the full day activities.

Not Included

- Accommodation;
- International flight to Ponta Delgada;
- Inter island flights;
- Lunch on days 1, 3, 5, 8, 11 y 12;
- Dinners;
- Optional activities.

Guides

Our guides speak a variety of languages so that we can offer our guests a more personalized service. Languages spoken include English, Portuguese, German, Dutch, French, Spanish, Catalan, Basque, Scandinavian languages, Bulgarian and Estonian.

Note

The weather or sea conditions may restrict the activities therefore the order of the itinerary may be switched so that guests can take the most enjoyment of their trip.

Meals*

- Picnic lunch on days 2 and 6 – baguette sandwich or salad, cupcake or energy bar, fruit, water and juice.
 - Cozido lunch on day 4 – starter, Cozido, dessert and drinks included. Cozido contains: beef, chicken, pork, spicy sausage, blood sausage, potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrot, cabbage, green kale. All cooked during 6 hours with natural steam only.
 - Lunch in local restaurant on days 7, 9 and 10 – starter, fish or beef, dessert and drinks included.
- *Vegetarian options on request (24h before the trip)

Recommendations

Bring comfortable light clothes, sweater, raincoat, walking boots or shoes, swimming suit and towel, hat, sunblock, backpack and bottle of water to refill.