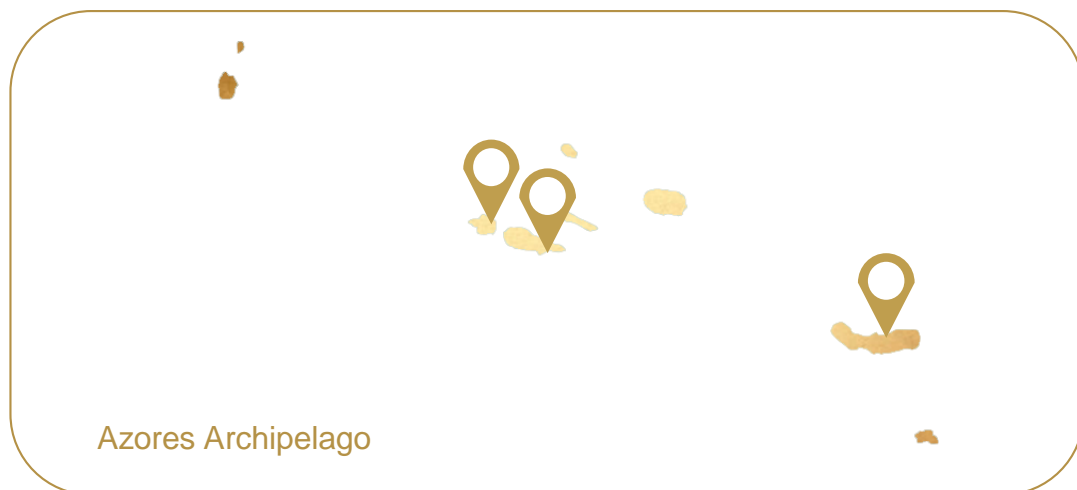


Explore the ancient world of volcanoes on foot. Track the origins of São Miguel, Pico and Faial Islands and experience some of the thermal springs and nature at its finest. This is a package that lets you explore some of the best trails in the Azores, such as the rim of Sete Cidades volcanic complex or the Pico Island vineyards, classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This is a package for hikers!

Itinerary

- Day 1 | Arrival
- Day 2 | Hiking in Sete Cidades (FD)
- Day 3 | Thematic tour to Furnas (FD)
- Day 4 | Whale and dolphin watching and hiking in Lagoa do Fogo (FD)
- Day 5 | Hiking in Capelinhos and Horta city tour (FD)
- Day 6 | Hiking in Caminhos de Santa Luzia (FD)
- Day 7 | Free day
- Day 8 | Hiking in Caminho dos Burros (FD)
- Day 9 | Hiking in Faial da Terra (FD)
- Day 10 | 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 – Pick up at the hotel. Thematic tour to Furnas. “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. This trail is not recommended for people with knee or ankle problems.

DAY 4 – Pick up at the hotel. Whale and dolphin watching (3 hour trip) and hiking in Lagoa do Fogo. Lunch included. Return to the hotel.

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.

Hiking in São Miguel, Pico & Faial | 9 nights

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. After the activity pick up at the marina and lunch in a local restaurant. Transfer to Lagoa do Fogo viewpoint where we will start our afternoon hike. We invite you to enjoy nature at its best in Lagoa do Fogo's natural reserve. After the hike we will drive you to Caldeira Velha (hot waterfall with bath possibility).

HIKING IN LAGOA DO FOGO – HALF DAY

EXTENSION: 3,5 KM | DURATION: 2H00 | DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM/TECHNICAL

Fogo lake is one of the most beautiful lakes of São Miguel island and one of the best naturally preserved throughout the years. From one of its viewpoints it is possible to descend to the margin of the lake, following a dirt path. Once we are at the bottom we can walk along the peculiar white sand of pumice stone and even swim in this lake of volcanic origin. On the way back up, we take the same trail. This trail is not recommended for people with knee or ankle problems.

DAY 5 – Faial Island – Transfer from the hotel to Ponta Delgada airport and departure to Faial island. Pick up at the airport and hiking in Capelinhos and Horta city tour. Lunch included. Boat trip to Pico island (20 minutes) and transfer to the hotel.

HIKING IN CAPELINHOS & HORTA CITY TOUR – FULL DAY

EXTENSION: 7 KM | DURATION: 3H00 | DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM

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 6 – Pick up at the hotel. Hiking in Caminhos de Santa Luzia. Picnic lunch included. Return to the hotel.



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Hiking in São Miguel, Pico & Faial | 9 nights

HIKING IN CAMINHOS DE SANTA LUZIA – FULL DAY

EXTENSION: 10,5 KM | DURATION: 3H30 | DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM

This hike takes place in Santa Luzia and goes through some of the Pico Island vineyards which are classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Along the hike, you will notice some marks of the old horse wagons that were used to transport the wine that was produced there, as well as some interesting geological phenomena. The visit to a local alembic and to the Wine Museum complete the day.

DAY 7 – Free day in Pico island. We suggest climbing Pico Mountain, visiting Lajes village and the Whalers Museum or a day trip to São Jorge island.

DAY 8 – Pick up at the hotel. Hiking in Caminho dos Burros. Picnic lunch included. Return to the hotel.

HIKING IN CAMINHO DOS BURROS – FULL DAY

EXTENSION: 11.2 KM | DURATION: 4H30 | DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM

This trail starts in Pico's "Planalto Central" area (Pico's Central Plateau) and goes slightly downhill as we go from the south to the north of the island. The endemic vegetation is present throughout most of the walk featuring impressively sized specimens. Reaching Praínha's Forest Park we will have a break for our picnic lunch and also some free time to visit the park. Continuing the hike, we go down a bit more until we reach "Baía das Canas" in the coast where the trail ends. Possibility of swimming in a natural bay.

DAY 9 – Transfer from the hotel to the airport and flight to São Miguel Island. Pick up at the airport and 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 10 – Transfer from the hotel to the airport and departure.



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Hiking in São Miguel, Pico & Faial | 9 nights

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. Hiking in 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
- English speaking guide;
- Lunch on the full day activities.

Not Included

- Accommodation;
- International flight to Ponta Delgada;
- Inter island flights;
- Lunch on days 1, 7 and 10;
- 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, 6, 8 and 9 – baguette sandwich or salad, cupcake or energy bar, fruit, water and juice.
 - Cozido lunch on day 3 – 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 4 and 5 – 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.