

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

THE AZORES

The Island of Sao Miguel

8 DAYS: Saturday, May 11-Saturday, May 18, 2024



BREATH TAKING VOLCANIC CRATERS, lush gardens, hot springs and stunning coastal views—the Azores are exquisite. A non-stop flight from Boston brings us to beautiful Sao Miguel—the Green Island—in just four-and-a-half hours. From our downtown accommodations in colorful Ponta Delgada, we're close to museums, monuments and historic landmarks as well as lively markets, lovely parks and plenty of cafés, restaurants and shops. Visit the famous crater lakes at Sete Cidades—and perhaps discover why one lagoon is blue and the other green—the mystical Fire Lake, and the hot springs in the Valley of Furnas. We'll be entertained at a tea plantation and passion fruit liqueur factory, enjoy a traditional Azorean feast cooked underground by the hot springs and stroll the winding paths at Terra Nostra Botanical Park. Add in quaint villages, tropical waterfalls, ocean views and a full day to explore on our own and we'll understand why *National Geographic* rates the Azores as one of the top ten vacation spots in the world!

Includes

- Round-trip, non-stop, regularly scheduled Azores Airlines flights from Boston to Sao Miguel
- Six nights' four-star accommodations: Vila Gale, Ponta Delgada (or similar)
- Early check-in at hotel on morning of arrival
- Thirteen meals: six breakfasts, three lunches, four dinners

- Escorted, private, round-trip, airport/hotel transfers
- Services of professional local Tour Manager

Rates: \$3,839 per person double occupancy
Single supplement is \$775

A hotel occupancy tax must be paid directly to hotel at time of departure.

*Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change.
Passport required. Per person deposit is \$300.*

Vila Gale

Campo de São Francisco
9500-153 Ponta Delgada

With 92 cozy rooms, Vila Galé Collection S. Miguel - Ponta Delgada is a hotel in the center of City, on the island of São Miguel, Azores. Located in an historical building, this boutique hotel has a high-quality restaurant, devoted to regional gastronomy, a bar, an outdoor pool and free WIFI. , Satsanga Spa & Wellness, with an indoor pool and a range of massages and beauty treatments. With its privileged location in Praça de São Francisco, it allows guests to quickly get around to discover the main tourist attractions of Ponta Delgada, but also to get to know other parts of São Miguel, from its stunning landscapes and many lakes to its inviting beaches and natural pools.

Features

Ponta Delgada tour, excursion to Sete Cidades twin lakes, pineapple plantation, ceramic factory, passion fruit liqueur factory, Caldeira Velha waterfall, Lagoa de Fogo (Fire Lake), excursion to Valley of Furnas, traditional cozido feast, Terra Nostra Botanical Park, visit tea plantation, excursion to Ribeira Grande, Ribeira dos Calderoes, Nordeste, day at leisure, excursion to Quinta da Terca, Lusitano horses.





Day 1: This evening, enjoy the short overnight flight from Boston to Sao Miguel. Often called “the Green Island,” Sao Miguel is filled with lush green foliage amid beautiful flowers that grow right down to where the land meets the sea.

Day 2: You’ll arrive early this morning and make the short transfer to the beautiful capital city of Sao Miguel ... Ponta Delgada. Our local guide will take you on a history and food tour of the town including the picturesque waterfront area. You’ll see churches built in traditional Azorean architectural style, colorful markets, beautiful parks, plenty of cafes, restaurants and museums. You’ll enjoy exploring this historic city full of exotic flowers and elegant squares elaborately designed with grey and white mosaics. Your four-star accommodations are provided at the **Hotel Vila Gale**. This evening a special welcome dinner is included at your hotel. **(D)**



Day 3: Today, travel the mountain road to the famed **twin lakes of Sete Cidades (Seven Cities)**, where in the middle of an extinct volcanic crater lie the legendary twin lagoons. One is green and the other is blue. This magnificent natural effect is perhaps the most photographed site in the Azores. Later, marvel at the incredible ocean vistas via the north coast through the quaint villages of **Mosteiros and Bretanha**. Visit a pineapple plantation where you can observe the fruit's different growing stages. This evening you'll dine at a popular local restaurant in the marina area. **(B, D)**





Mosteiros



Bretanha

Day 4: Today's full-day tour takes in the eastern side of the island to the **Valley of Furnas and Terra Nostra Garden**. Visit the famed lake surrounded by cauldrons (hot springs) and boiling sulfur pools where delicious meals are cooked in underground silos. At midday, a traditional cozido feast is elegantly served at Terra Nostra Garden Hotel. Afterwards, stroll the winding paths at Terra Nostra Botanical Park to view one of the world's most impressive collections of exotic flowers and trees. Your fabulous day ends as you tour the factory at Europe's only tea plantation in Gorreana. **(B, L)**



Katie Wanders

Furnas



Botanical Park

Day 5: This morning, journey to a ceramic factory and witness a time-honored handmade process. Later, sample incredible liqueurs made from passion fruit at a Liqueur Factory. Head to the center of the island to **waterfall at Caldeira Velha** before visiting the **Lagoa de Fogo (Fire Lake)**. This huge blue lake fills the crater of an extinct volcano. Surrounded by high mountains, luxuriant vegetation and white sand beaches, this mystical lake area possesses an ambiance of tranquility and beauty. Dinner is at an outstanding local restaurant. **(B, D)**



Caldeira Velha



Lagoa de Fogo

Day 6: Another day of spectacular sightseeing awaits you as you explore the northeast coast. Stop in the beautiful village of **Nordeste** and enjoy breathtaking ocean views, famous Arnel lighthouse and **Povoacao**, the island's first settlement. Incredible high cliffs plunging from high flowered plateaus, tropical waterfalls and amazing coastal vistas abound. You'll discover the beautiful city of Ribeira Grande to view its outstanding 17th and 18th century Baroque architecture. Witness the enchanting waterfall and water mill at **Ribeira dos Calderoes**. Dinner is included at one of Sao Miguel's most enchanting restaurants close to your hotel. **(B, D)**





Day 7: Your day is free to explore the capital city on your own. Special options for today will be offered by our local guide. Enjoy a festive evening of fun and entertainment at your hotel complete with a memorable farewell dinner. **(B, D)**



Day 8: Today you'll travel to **Quinta da Terca estate**, originally constructed in the 17th century and featuring a manor house and stables for its famous Lusitano horses. Here, savor a light lunch and an impressive dressage demonstration. This afternoon you'll be transferred to Ponta Delgada airport for the return flight home. May you share with others the beautiful sights of this island paradise. **(B, L)**



Proof of Citizenship is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require a valid Passport for travel with at least 6 months' validity. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.

PLEASE NOTE: This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

PLEASE NOTE: This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.