



The Azores – Lava Lands Short Break



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: The Azores

BROCHURE CODE: 5071
DURATION: 4 nights

In Brief

Experience the best of Sao Miguel Island in this three-night short break. Cycle through the gloriously green landscape, kayak across ancient lagoons and go dolphin and whale spotting on the Atlantic. During your time here, you'll experience how the Azores offer a perfect combination of slow island life with plenty to see and do for all ages.



What's included?

- **Transfers:** all transfers included
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights' in Hotel São Miguel Park with the option to upgrade to the Marina Atlantico.
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** whale and dolphin watching, tour to Furnas, Sete Cidades adventure tour with optional cycling (easy or difficult levels) and kayaking (the order of activities is subject to change)
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities

Trip Overview

Experience the best of Sao Miguel Island in this three-night short break. Cycle through the gloriously green landscape, kayak across ancient lagoons and go dolphin and whale spotting on the Atlantic. During your time here, you'll experience how the Azores offer a perfect combination of slow island life with plenty to see and do for all ages.

First up, you'll set sail for an exciting whale and dolphin watching tour, where you have the opportunity to spot more than 25 cetacean species, as well as sea birds and turtles!

The thrilling family adventure continues inland, where you can witness the evidence of the volcanic activity in your rugged surroundings. During a trip to Furnas, you'll delve into the fascinating history of the volcanic action that shaped the islands as they stand today.

For even more adventure, an escapade to the stunning surroundings of Sete Cidades via jeep is also included. Here, you'll have the opportunity to cycle around and kayak across impressive crater lakes, to enjoy the varied terrain from a different point of view.

With its picturesque landscape and seascapes, abundance of wildlife and a wealth of family-friendly activities on offer, the Azores promise to leave the whole family in awe, with something for everyone. Discover The Azores natural wonders and take the time to relax in this peaceful paradise.

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

Upon arrival at João Paulo II Airport, the driver of your transfer vehicle will be waiting to take you and your family to your hotel which is approximately 10 minutes away, ready for check in.

Tonight is kept free to allow you free time to settle into Ponta Delgada and to charge up for the adventures ahead.

Included Meals: None

DAY
2

WHALE AND DOLPHIN WATCHING

Today, after breakfast, you will have the opportunity to see the fascinating marine life of the Azores as you set sail on a catamaran!

During the whale and dolphin watching tour, be sure to keep your eyes peeled for some of the 25 cetacean species found in the Azores. Though there are no guarantees, whales and dolphins are regularly seen during these half-day tours.

As well majestic cetaceans, you'll be in with a chance of spotting turtles, seabirds and other marine life. Before you head out on your Atlantic adventure, a marine biologist will provide a family-friendly briefing, making the experience educational and entertaining.

You'll all get to learn about the different cetacean species, safety measures aboard, how to respect the animals as well as some historical facts.

It's a brilliant trip for the whole family. Once you're back on land, your afternoon is free to spend as you wish.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
3

THEMATIC TOUR TO FURNAS

Today is all about exploring the captivating volcanic landscapes of the Azores.

First, you will visit Gorreana Tea Estates, one of Europe's oldest remaining tea plantations.

Visit the growing areas and see the machinery in operation with your informative and

friendly guide. It's fascinating to learn about the process of this much-loved refreshment, which you will, of course, get to sample here.

Second stop is Caldeiras das Furnas where you can see the earth's volcanic activity at work. Here, you'll witness fumaroles and mineral springs and can even try the water from each spring to see how taste varies because of the different minerals present.

At lunch, you have the chance to try the local dish of Cozido das Furnas. This is the classic Portuguese 'cozido' which is a stew of slow-cooked meats and vegetables but with an Azorean twist. Here, the locals really make use of the geothermal activity and cook this delicious meal using the natural steam from the ground!

Following lunch, it's time to explore the remarkable Terra Nostra Botanical Gardens. Filled with a variety of plant life, this is an interesting visit which includes the fantastic opportunity for the family to soak in the iron-rich waters of a geothermal pool. The waters have a soothing temperature of around 35°C to 40°C and the minerals present will leave you feeling deeply relaxed. (Please take old swimming costumes as the mineral water can stain them a light brown colour).

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
4

SETE CIDADES ADVENTURE TOUR

After fuelling up on breakfast, the whole family have an adventurous day ahead exploring the west side of São Miguel in a jeep.

On the way, you will all stop at spectacular viewpoints to enjoy this beautiful landscape. One of the stops will be at the Vista do Rei where you can enjoy the views of the 'Lagoon of Seven Cities' that consists of a twin lake formed in the crater of a dormant volcano, one is coloured blue and the other is green!

After arriving at the lake, you can explore the surroundings on an exciting 10km bike ride. The trail is largely flat, with only 10 minutes of uphill peddling which means it can be enjoyed by the whole family. There is an option to do a tougher route if you're feeling up to the challenge!

There's also the chance to try kayaking across the lake (family race is optional!)

A picnic lunch is included today.

Back at the hotel, you'll have a free evening to spend your final night in Ponta Delgada. You could head out and sample more of the local cuisine. We'd strongly recommend trying Azorean tapas... black pudding with pineapple might surprise a few people. Especially the kids!

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
5

DEPARTURE

Following breakfast, it's time for your family exploration to come to an end. If you have an early flight, we'll box up breakfast for you before your transfer to the airport.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Hotel São Miguel Park (Nights: 1-4)



Not far from the centre of Ponta Delgada, this four-star hotel is close to the city's pretty Botanical Gardens and only ten minutes from the airport. Its fully-furnished rooms are perfect for families, with warm colours and splendid vistas of the surroundings. Parents will love the excellent on-site health club, and everyone will enjoy the exquisite Azorean buffets on offer at the hotel restaurant.

Hotel facilities

- Enjoy a mix of swimming locations with the hotel's indoor and outdoor pools
- Lounge about in the Jacuzzi, replenish your energy in the spa or book a calming massage
- Gym-lovers won't have to worry about missing workouts while away thanks to the Fitness Centre
- Why not sample tasty Azorean specialities in the restaurant, or try a colourful cocktail from the bar?

Room options

TRIPLE ROOM

Each triple room contains a twin or double bed with an extra bed. The bathroom comes with a shower, toilet, and hairdryer. Keep cool with air-conditioning and chilled drinks from the minibar. Other facilities include internet access, a cable television, a telephone, and a safe-box.

TWIN/DOUBLE ROOM

These rooms contain a twin or double bed, as well as a bathroom with a shower, toilet, and hairdryer. There is a telephone, cable television, and internet access. The rooms are air-conditioned and come with a minibar and safe box.

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Marina Atlântico



The 4-star Marina Atlântico sits right on the waterfront for exceptional views over the marina and out to sea.

With easy access to the airport and within walking distance of shopping, restaurants and bars, this hotel is the perfect combination of convenience and style. The spacious en-suite rooms are great for families and some come with spectacular sea views. Make sure you keep an eye on the water for the marine wildlife that could be playing in it!

Sample the local food, stroll along the streets and admire the architecture. The painted basaltic rock can, at first, feel imposing but it gives the town an almost colonial feel. Even the pavements are painted! The central location makes it easy to explore São Miguel but there's also plenty to enjoy within the family-friendly hotel. Relax in the Escuna restaurant or Palhobote bar area and make use of the onsite pool and gym facilities.

Hotel facilities

- Enjoy the indoor pool as well as the fitness and spa area
- Dine in the excellent on-site restaurant
- Explore the nearby marina and outdoor pool by crossing the impressive white steel suspension bridge

Room options

DOUBLE ROOM/TWIN ROOM

These rooms come with either a double or twin bed and many are sea-facing and you can enjoy the views from the balcony. All rooms come equipped with a private bathroom, air conditioning, telephone, cable TV, WiFi, radio, minibar, safe box and hairdryer.

TRIPLE ROOM

There are also triple rooms available. This will either be a double bed with an extra single bed or three single beds, depending on availability. The triple rooms all have views over the town.

Please contact our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Image credits: Hotel Marina Atlantico

The Specifics

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum numbers required for a holiday to

operate

Some of our holidays require a minimum number of participants to operate (as listed in the 'Group Size' section). If your holiday departure has not yet reached the minimum number, you will be told at the time of booking. In the unlikely event that your chosen date is not guaranteed by nine weeks before your scheduled departure date, we will contact you to discuss the available options as per our booking conditions.

Minimum and maximum age

The minimum age for this holiday can be found in the 'Key Facts' section of the holiday overview.

Younger family members may be able to participate but may not be able to take part in all activities. Please contact one of our Travel Experts if you have any questions.

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.activitiesabroad.com/booking-conditions>

Please note: our payment and cancellation terms will be unique to each booking - they will be confirmed with you at the time of quotation. The terms listed above are noted as a guide only