



The Azores and Sao Miguel
8 Days, 7 Nights in Sao Miguel
May 16 - May 24, 2021

ITINERARY

Day 1 – May 16: Boston to Ponta Delgada

Depart the US on an overnight nonstop flight from Boston to Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel, the largest and most diverse of the nine islands that form the Azores archipelago.

Day 2 – May 17: Ponta Delgada

Welcome to Sao Miguel Island, treasured as the vibrant Garden of the Atlantic. Check in to your hotel and take time to relax before your island adventure begins. In the afternoon, meet your fellow travelers for a short walking tour of the city of Ponta Delgada, with a stop at a local market for insight on Azorean foods and delicacies and lunch at a local restaurant. At night live like a local as you dine at an old farmhouse. Tonight, you'll be entertained by an Azorean folkloric dancing and singing group.

Meals - (B,L,D)

Day 3 – May 18: Ponta Delgada – Sete Cidades – Winery Visit

The day begins with a trip to the western side of the island. Our first stop will be Vista do Rei “King’s View” at Sete Cidades (Seven Cities). This viewpoint is one of the most beautiful on the island with amazing views over the Caldeira das Sete Cidades, and specifically, over its natural lakes with clear blue and green waters. Here, you will learn all about the village of Sete Cidades through the lens of an expert tour guide. Next stop will be a winery, where we will meet a local winemaker passionate about wine making, family, and history. This evening discover the secrets of Azorean cuisine during an interactive cooking demonstration at a local quinta. Have fun preparing your dinner then enjoy the fruits of your labor.

Meals – (B,L,D)

Day 4 – May 19: Ponta Delgada – Lagoa do Fogo - Pico da Barrosa - Ribeira Grande

Set out on a tour of a pineapple plantation near the city of Ponta Delgada. See how the pineapple is grown and cultivated, followed by a sampling of pineapple liqueur. Next head out to mystical Lagoa do Fogo (Fire Lake) to take in the magnificent vistas. Travel down the north coast, stopping in Ribeira Grande to explore the natural monument of Caldeira Velha. Your next stop will include lunch at a local restaurant, before a visit to a pottery factory where you will see all stages of the traditional art of making ceramics from molding to baking to painting. In the evening, return to Ribeira Grande for a sunset dinner.

Meals – (B,L,D)

Day 5 – May 20: Ponta Delgada Leisure Day

Your day is at leisure to relax or independently explore Ponta Delgada. Take an optional tour – whale watching, kayaking, hiking – there are many to choose from. The day is yours to write your own script.

Meal – (B)

Day 6 – May 21: Ponta Delgada - Furnas

After breakfast, head to the Furnas Valley where you will check in to the Terra Nostra Garden Hotel. Stop at the Vila Franca do Campo along the way, to see and taste the sweet treat Queijadas da Vila, a traditional pastry refined by nuns in convents during the 1600s. After lunch there will be free time to enjoy the botanical gardens and geothermal pool of the famous Terra Nostra Park.

Meals – (B,L,D)

Day 7 – May 22: Furnas

Start the day with a beautiful sunrise at the scenic view point of Ponta da Madrugada in the Nordeste region. Mother Nature will be at work as you snack on a light picnic breakfast of coffee and local pastries. In the early afternoon drive to the fishing village of Ribeira Quente to explore on your own and at your own pace. After lunch at a local restaurant, head back to the hotel where you can leisurely enjoy the rest of the day before meeting for dinner.

Meals – (B,L,D)

Day 8 – May 23: Furnas

Start the day with breakfast and then a presentation on how a traditional Portuguese dinner will be prepared and cooked. The Cozido das Furnas is famous for its unique cooking method, where it is steamed for several hours in the heat of the volcanic earth. You'll experience it firsthand from start to finish. While your dinner is cooking for 5-7 hours, you'll visit the oldest and currently only tea plantation in Europe, Cha Gorreana. Here, you will learn how the tea is cultivated, prepared and packaged. After, head to Cha Porto Formoso, for a sampling of teas and cookies. We then head to the village of Porto Formoso for lunch. After lunch, return to Furnas to watch the preparation of tonight's dinner. Tonight, celebrate a memorable trip as you enjoy the Cozido das Furnas.

Meals – (B,L,D)

Day 9 – May 24: Return to Boston

Your Azorean adventure ends with breakfast and an early afternoon transfer back to the airport for your flight home.

Meal – (B)