

The Azores



- walking & discovery on one or more islands
- whale-watching excursion included
- unique and volcanic landscapes

The Azores are a revelation, a little-known and quite extraordinary archipelago. The fusion of vivid green landscapes (the result of the humid climate) and haunting volcanic scenery lends them a unique feel,

and culturally, too, the mix is fascinating - striking Baroque churches, bustling ports, great religious festivals... Choose to explore São Miguel on a week-long holiday, or visit São Miguel, São Jorge, Faial and Pico as part of a 14-night itinerary. Walking is the best way to discover their volcanic landscapes and lush vegetation, which includes pockets of ancient laurisilva forest, tropical plants, hydrangeas and cedars. To fully show you the great scenic variety, we suggest walks in different corners of the islands, all accessed using your hire car in the case of São Miguel, or taxis on the other islands.

SÃO MIGUEL, THE 'GREEN ISLAND'

Whether you opt for seven or 14 nights, you spend an entire week on the largest island, magnificent São Miguel. Your base is the Solar do Lalém, a beautifully renovated manor house, where helpful hosts Gerd and Gabriele reserve the larger rooms for you and make you feel like welcome house guests. Gerd arranges occasional dinners at the hotel (which boasts a lounge-cum-library and outdoor pool), or you can stroll to the friendly restaurant in the village (pay locally in both cases). We suggest five walks, three of which are within a 30-minute drive of your hotel. You can walk through a wooded valley to a waterfall, skirt a volcanic lake, enjoy sweeping coastal views on the ascent to 'Fire Lake', cross deep gullies as you follow a path along the rugged southern coastline, and admire the panorama of volcanic cones on a walk around the famous crater lakes in the west. Another highlight of the week is the half-day whale and dolphin-watching excursion (included), a chance to spot sperm whales, pilot whales, dolphins and turtles in the company of experts.

EXPLORE OTHER ISLANDS

For a longer holiday, fly on to profoundly rural São Jorge. With four nights here, you can walk along the island's spine for fabulous views, follow a path through tree ferns to a lighthouse, and enjoy a truly splendid walk along a cobbled trail above the coast. You stay in the capital, Velas, at the friendly Casa do Antonio, just 50m from the sea. Upgrade to Tower Room for views across to the island of Pico (£6pp/n). Your taxi driver will collect you each morning and meet you at the end of your walk if necessary (transfers included). To reach the third island, Faial, take the ferry (pay locally). You spend three nights in the lively capital, Horta, at the elegant Pousada Santa Cruz, again with a pool, where we include sea view rooms. We highly recommend a route across the lunar landscapes of the volcanic badlands in the west, and a walk on the neighbouring island of Pico (pay locally for the ferry) to see up close the conical peak which serves as a backdrop to many of our walks on this glorious archipelago.



All prices per person based on 2 people in a double room

	Walk Price*	Single Room
7 nights: 3 May-20 September		
3 May-13 Jun	595	198
14-27 Jun	618	207
28 Jun-20 Sep	658	245
3rd+ person saving	105	
14 nights: 3 May-20 September add per person:		
3-23 May	1098	438
24 May-13 Jun	1148	472
14-27 Jun	1168	479
28 Jun-18 Jul; 21 Aug-20 Sep	1198	508
19 Jul-20 Aug	1245	554
3rd+ person saving	155	

Extra nights (per person per night): **São Jorge** £26-£32; **São Miguel** £36-£41

***Included travel:** 7 days' category C car hire, domestic flights São Miguel to São Jorge, transfer from airport & to port on São Jorge

GRADE 2 DISCOVERY (1 OR 3 CENTRES)



HOLIDAY INFORMATION

GRADE 2 Some long days & ascents
TERRAIN Coast, meadows, mountains
CLIMATE Temperate & changeable
MEALS São Miguel 7 breakfasts and 4 picnics; São Jorge 4 breakfasts and 3 picnics; Faial 3 breakfasts

NIGHTS: 7 or 14
1st NIGHT: São Miguel (manor house, B&B)
DAYS 1-6: Walks of 5 to 16km, plus whale-watching trip, on São Miguel (manor house, B&B)

14 night option
DAY 7: Flight to São Jorge (2★, B&B)
DAYS 8-10: Walks of 8 to 15km on São Jorge (2★, B&B)
DAY 11: Ferry to Faial (4★, B&B)
DAY 12: Optional walk of 15km to Faial (4★ B&B)
DAY 13: Optional trip to Pico from Faial (4★ B&B)
START: Any day

Recommended destination airports: arrival São Miguel; departure São Miguel for 7-night holiday, departure Horta for 14-night holiday

Latest flight arrival time: flexible (drive to hotel is 1h)

Earliest flight departure time: flexible (drive to airport on São Miguel is 1h; on Faial 0h15)

Book your flights through us and we'll find the best route, times and price to suit you.

FOR PRICING DETAILS SEE PAGES 232-243