



# 10-Day Four Island Azores Tour

*with Quest Travel Adventures*

 9700 Angra do Heroísmo, Portugal

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# Trip Overview


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Your host

Quest Travel Adventures 

 Jul 19 – Jul 28, 2024

 Group size: 20–30

 9700 Angra do Heroísmo, Portugal

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## About this trip

On this 10-day itinerary, visit the islands of Terceira, Faial, and Sao Miguel, plus enjoy a day trip to Pico. Explore the natural beauty of the Azores with active excursions including hiking, kayaking, and biking, plus sightseeing tours and a cheese and wine experience.

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## What's included

✓ Terceira hotel	3 nights accommodation in Angra do Heroismo, Terceira – 4-star Hotel Terceira Mar (classic ocean view rooms), including early check-in
✓ Terceira full-day tour	Full-day Terceira Island sightseeing tour, including lunch
✓ Terceira half-day tour	Half-day whale and dolphin watching excursion or half-day Lagoinha guided hike (medium difficulty, ~7km)
✓ Inter-island flight	Terceira to Faial
✓ Faial hotel	3 nights accommodation in Horta, Faial – 4-star Hotel do Canal (standard rooms)
✓ Faial half-day tour	Half-day Faial Island sightseeing tour or half-day Caldeira crater rim guided hike (medium difficulty, ~7km)
✓ Pico full-day tour	Full-day Pico Island excursion, including ferry transfers and lunch
✓ Inter-island flight	Faial to Sao Miguel
✓ Sao Miguel hotel	3 nights accommodation in Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel – 4-star Azoris Royal Garden (classic rooms)
✓ Sao Miguel food tasting	Evening Azorean cheese and wine experience
✓ Sao Miguel tour	Half-day canyoning excursion or full-day Sete Cidades tour (including biking, lunch, and Ferraria hot springs)
✓ Sao Miguel tour	Full-day Furnas tour (including kayaking, cozido lunch, and Terra Nostra hot springs and gardens)
✓ Breakfast daily	
✓ Airport transfers	

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# Itinerary

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## Day 1 Welcome to Terceira

After an overnight flight from the US (not included), you will arrive in Terceira and a driver will meet you at the airport to take you to your hotel in town. Your room will be ready for check-in. Once you have settled-in, the rest of the day is yours to explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Angra do Heroísmo. Walk the streets of town and feel transported back in time. Angra's snug harbor is protected by a volcanic cone which made it a major staging point for European ships bringing back the wealth of their New World colonies during the 16th-18th centuries.

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## Day 2 Tour of Terceira

Today you will enjoy a full-day tour of the island. The tour starts with an ascent of Monte Brasil for a wonderful view of Angra and the bays. Heading north, you will see lava fields that have been cultivated into vineyards before continuing to Biscoitos and its natural swimming pools (where you will be able to take a quick swim if there is time). After lunch in a traditional restaurant, you will visit the Algar do Cavão lava tube. This unique geologic feature can only be found in a few places in the world, including on Sao Miguel and Terceira.

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# Itinerary

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## Day 3 Whale and dolphin watching OR hiking

Today, you'll set out for a group whale watch to spot bottle nose dolphins, pilot whales, and as many as 21 other marine species that call these waters home. Visitors are practically guaranteed to spot marine life every day of the year! The night is yours to relax back in town.

OR

Head out on a guided hike, where you will learn about the geological origin of Terceira Island and how the volcanoes shaped the landscape and the way of life of its people. Following the trail from the parish of Serreta to Lagoinha - a lagoon in a volcanic crater - you will pass through rich forests and enjoy a wonderful view over the southwest coast before reaching the lake at the highest point of the route (900m).

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## Day 4 Welcome to Faial

After a quick inter-island flight, you will arrive to Horta Airport on Faial Island. Your driver will transfer you into town, where you will spend the next 3 nights. Many conflicts between colonizing nations (Portugal, Spain, and England) took place near Horta. Today, Horta is famous for its yacht harbor, a haven for trans-Atlantic yachts and sailboats and the starting point of most of the island's regatta races. Visiting crews paint the harbor walls with names and pictures of their vessels, so be sure to walk down to the marina and explore this art.

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# Itinerary

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## Day 5 Tour of Faial OR hiking

Today, enjoy a half-day tour of Faial. Driving northwest from Horta, you will come to the Caldeira, the remains of a massive stratovolcano. The volcanic cone is covered by laurel forest and the inside of the crater is a truly unique ecosystem. Next, visit Capelinhos volcano on the western side of the island, the site of the Azores' most recent volcanic eruption. As the tour continues, you will visit the Espalamaca viewpoint, the Vale dos Flamengos, and the island's south side.



OR

Enjoy a guided hike around the rim of Faial's Caldeira. The Caldeira Volcano is a massive stratovolcano that formed the island of Faial. The floor of the crater is two kilometers wide and is 400 m (1,300 ft) in depth below the rim. Your hike will feature spectacular views, both of the inside of the Caldeira and of Faial.

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## Day 6 Pico Excursion

Dominating the view out to sea from Horta, the island of Pico is just a short, 30-minute ferry ride away. Home to Mt. Pico, the highest peak in Portugal, Pico offers breathtaking landscapes, dark black basalt cliffs, lava flows, and historic vineyards. On this full-day tour, you will learn how grapes are grown in ancient lava flows, stop at viewpoints along the dramatic coastline, and see the endemic flora in the laurel forest. After lunch in one of the island's small towns, the tour continues in Lajes, visiting the Museu dos Baleeiros (the whaling museum). At the day's end, return to Faial by ferry, enjoying the late





# Itinerary

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afternoon sun on the ocean.

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## Day 7 Welcome to Sao Miguel

After another quick inter-island flight, you will arrive to Ponta Delgada Airport on São Miguel Island. Your driver will transfer you into town, where you will spend the next 3 nights. São Miguel, the largest and most geographically-diverse of the islands is a perfect last stop in exploring the archipelago. Ponta Delgada is the largest town, as well as one of the three capital cities of the Azores.

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## Day 8 Canyoning OR biking

Get your adrenaline pumping! Canyoning is the perfect way to experience one of the beautiful, untouched areas of the island. Head out to the natural reserve of Ribeira dos Caldeirões on the north side of the island and get geared-up in a wetsuit, helmet, and harness. You will then hike in the riverbed, surrounded by canyon walls covered in lush vegetation. From time to time, you will encounter pools to swim across, large rocks to slide down, and waterfalls! At each waterfall, you will rappel down under the supervision of your knowledgeable and skilled guides. This is truly a unique experience that you will always remember!



OR

Discover the western part of São Miguel, exploring Sete Cidades and Ferraria. The day begins with an easy bike ride in Sete Cidades, a

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# Itinerary

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landscape dominated by the blue and green lake and considered to be one of the seven natural wonders of Portugal. After a picnic lunch, you'll stop in Ferraria to see a unique coastal geological formation. In the spa area of Termas da Ferraria, you will have the opportunity to experience different types of thermal baths, including a sauna, a Turkish bath, and an indoor pool and jacuzzi. After this relaxing experience, you will have time for a swim in the outdoor pool, or even a dip in the sea. You will follow the scenic coastal southwest road of São Miguel to return to Ponta Delgada at the day's end.

In the evening, enjoy the cozy atmosphere of a fine location, while you are introduced to six delicious cheeses, produced in different islands and representative of the variety and quality of Azorean cheese-making. Through the guidance of an experienced and knowledgeable culinary guide, the cheeses will be paired with Azorean wines and other local delicacies such as breads, homemade jam, nuts, and fruit.

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## Day 9 Kayaking on Lagoa das Furnas

Today you will head to the eastern side of Sao Miguel for a day of peace and tranquility. Take in the beautiful natural landscape as you spend the morning paddling on Lagoa das Furnas. While you are on the water, your traditional cozido lunch will be cooking in the ground on the banks of the lake. After lunch, you will head to Terra Nostra Park to visit the award-winning botanical gardens and also relax in the natural geothermal hot springs. A truly relaxing day spent in a beautiful place!

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# Itinerary

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## Day 10 Until Next Time

Today, transfer back to the airport for your flight home.

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