

THE **TRAVEL CLUB**

Pre-Departure Itinerary

The Azores

The Island of Sao Miguel

*Tuesday, May 22 – Tuesday, May 29, 2012 - \$1799**

*Tuesday, October 9 – Tuesday October 16, 2012 - \$1749**

**price are per person double occupancy*

For the first time, The Travel Club heads to the exotic Azores. With breathtaking volcanic craters, lush gardens, hot springs and stunning coastal views, the Azores are reminiscent of both Hawaii and Ireland. A non-stop flight from Boston brings you to the beautiful island of Sao Miguel—the Green Island—in just four-and-a-half hours. From your downtown accommodations in colorful Ponta Delgada you're close to museums, monuments and historic landmarks and also, 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—and Fire Lake, and the hot springs in the Valley of Furnas. You'll be entertained at a tea plantation and passion fruit liqueur factory, enjoy a traditional Azorean feast cooked underground by the hot springs and be treated to a demonstration by the amazing Lusitano horses. Add in quaint villages, tropical waterfalls, botanic gardens and a full day to explore on your own and you'll surely see why National Geographic Magazine rates the Azores as one of the top ten vacation spots in the world!

Includes:

- Round-trip, direct, non-stop, regularly scheduled SATA Airlines flights from Boston to Sao Miguel
- Six nights' four-star accommodations: Acores Atlantico, Ponta Delgada (or similar)
- Thirteen meals: six breakfasts, two lunches, five dinners
- Escorted round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers
- Sightseeing and touring
- Services of professional local Tour Manager

Rates:

*May: \$2,079/Oct: \$1,999 for single reservations.
Add \$309 for current air taxes, fees and fuel surcharges.*

Highlights

- Ponta Delgada orientation tour
- Visit the famed crater lake areas of Sete Cidades, Valley of Furnas and Lagoa do Fogo
- Visit a ceramic factory and enjoy a tasting at a liqueur factory
- See the Caldeira Velha waterfall
- Visit Terra Nostra Botanic Gardens and see a demonstration of the Lusitano Horses
- Tour the fields and factory of Europe's only tea plantation

Cancellation waiver and travel insurance is \$110. Although not required, we recommend purchasing the waiver. Purchase must be made at the time of booking. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$400.

DAILY ITINERARY

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 and 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 short orientation tour. See the picturesque waterfront area, ancient churches and palaces dating back 400 years. There are colorful markets, beautiful parks, plenty of cafes, restaurants and museums. You’ll enjoy exploring the historic city full of exotic flower and elegant squares elaborately designed with grey and white mosaics. Your four star accommodations are provided at the Acores Atlantico or Marina Atlantico Hotel located on the popular Avenida in the downtown area. 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) here in the middle of an extinct volcanic crater lie the legendary twin lagoons. One is green and the other is blue. The 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 fruits’ different growing stages. This evening you’ll dine at a popular local restaurant **(B,D)**

Day 4

This morning journey to a ceramic factory and witness a time-honored handmade process. Later sample incredible liqueurs made from passion fruit at Mulher de Capote Liqueur Factory. You’ll witness the 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 again enjoyed at an outstanding local restaurant. **(B,D)**

Day 5

Visit the picturesque marine area at Villa Franca do Campo this morning. Here you may want to purchase Queijades (the famed Azorean pastry). Later discover the Valley of Furnas and visit its 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. This afternoon you’ll view the island’s spectacular northern coast from the Pico de Ferro overlook. Your fabulous day ends as you walk the fields and tour the factory at Europe’s only tea plantation in Gorreana. **(B,L)**

Day 6

Another day of spectacular sightseeing awaits you as you explore the northeast coast. Incredible high cliffs plunging from high flowered plateaus, tropical waterfalls and amazing coastal vistas abound. You’ll first discover the beautiful city of Ribera Grande to view its outstanding 17th and 18th century baroque architecture. Witness the enchanting waterfall and water mill at Ribeira dos Calderoes. Stop in the beautiful village of Nordeste and enjoy breathtaking ocean views at Ponta do Sossego to Povoacao (the island’s first settlement). Dinner is included at one of Sao Miguel’s most enchanting restaurants close to our 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 dinner along with folkloric dancers. **(B,D)**

Day 8

Your morning is free to relax or perhaps visit the colorful nearby farmer's market. At midday you'll travel to Quinta Pico da Cruz, a spectacular 75-acre privately owned farm, located just outside of Ponta Delgada. Here savor a wonderful farewell lunch followed by an impressive dressage demonstration of the amazing Lusitano horses. Later this afternoon you'll be transferred to Ponta Delgada airport for the return flight home. **(B,L)**

***Proof of Citizenship** is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require valid Passport. Passports are the responsibility of each client.*

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.*