# GEEO ITINERARY

Hiking the Azores 7/15/2027

## Day 1: Ponta Delgada Arrive in Ponta Delgada at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrive in Ponta Delgada at any time. There are no planned activities until the Welcome Meeting in the evening. The international airport for Ponta Delgada is **Aeroporto João Paulo II (PDL)**.

Consider arriving 1-2 days early to explore the city, adjust to the time zone, and buffer against flight delays. We can book extra hotel nights for you before the trip.

**Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting**
Hotel check-in is normally between 2-3pm. Check with reception for the exact time and location of the group welcome meeting, typically between 6-7pm. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you're running late, send a message in the group WhatsApp or call the emergency number on your trip voucher so your tour leader can let you know where and when to meet the group.

> **Joining Instructions**
> Taxi: (~10min | €15 EUR) Taxi is the quickest and most comfortable way to get to and from Ponta Delgada Airport.
> Shuttle Bus: (~20min | €4.50 one-way) Take the Aerobus shuttle to stop 8 (Avenida Infante Dom Henrique) which is a central location in Ponta Delgada, within walking distance of hotels and Igreja de São Sebastião. The shuttle departs every 40 minutes. Tickets are available from the ANC Aerobus desk at the airport, or on the bus.

## Day 2: Ponta Delgada Hike from Ribeira Funda to Maia, with a stop for lunch in a quaint village along the way. Then travel to the town of Furnas to visit the hot springs and botanical garden.

Hike from Ribeira Funda to Maia along the dramatic and beautiful north coast of the island of São Miguel. Stop to eat lunch at Praia da Viola, a secluded beach that can only be reached by foot. Along the hike, there are multiple viewpoints overlooking the island's coastline.

After arriving in Maia, head into the town of Furnas for a visit to the Terra Nostra Gardens and geothermal hot springs. While there, the group will have a chance to take a dip in the natural hot waters or wander around the 24-acre botanical garden.

Afterward, return to Ponta Delgada.

**Approximate travel time**: 2 hrs via private vehicle
**Hiking details:** 8 km, 4 hrs
**Elevation:** Approx 180-200m
**Meals included**: Breakfast | Lunch

## Day 3: Ponta Delgada Hike to the shores of Lagoa do Fogo. Then travel to the Sete Cidades Parish and hike the trails for stunning views of the lakes within the caldera.

This morning we will travel to the highest body of water in the Azores, Lagoa do Fogo, a lake that formed at the bottom of the caldera. Hike through a forest of Eucalyptus, Japanese Cedars, and along a levada waterway on your way down to the shores of Lagoa do Fogo.

Later, walk the rolling hills along groomed trails in the Sete Cidades parish. Hike about 3 hours around the caldera for spectacular views of the crater lakes formed within the former volcano. Marvel at the blue-green lake reflecting two different colors due to sunlight and algae growth.

**Approximate travel time**: 2-2.5 hrs by private vehicle
**Hiking details**: 7 km, 2.5 hrs + 10 km, 3 hrs
**Meals included**: Breakfast

## Day 4: Ponta Delgada/Angra do Heroísmo Today we depart São Miguel island on a short flight to Terceira Island. We will hike the Rocha de Chambre trail. In the evening, enjoy a walking tour of Angra do Heroísmo, the capital city, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Board a plane with your group for a quick flight to Terceira Island, considered the capital of Azorean culture.

After checking into the hotel your group will hit the Rocha do Chambre trail. This 6-mile circular route takes place in the middle of the island, exploring the rich agriculture of Azorean heather, laurel, and juniper plants. The Rocha do Chambre trail is considered rolling terrain. It has some flat sections through the forest which provide very dramatic scenery and a few steep inclines. It crosses a forest and meanders along a small stream up to the top of the Pico Alto crater at just over 2,300 feet. Enjoy beautiful views of the Azinhal Valley and Biscoitos village with its rocky lava formations that meet the sea. The total elevation of the hike is about 1,180 feet.

In the evening, enjoy a 30-45 minute walking tour of the capital city, Angra do Heroísmo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city maintains its stunning Renaissance architecture, housing fortresses, churches, and manor houses. Walk through this beautiful city and discover the hidden history of the main streets, squares, and monuments.

**Approximate travel time**: 1 hr by plane, 1 hr by private vehicle
**Hiking details**: 9.5 km, 4 hrs
**Meals included**: Breakfast

## Day 5: Angra do Heroísmo Head to the middle of the island with stunning views of the agricultural patchwork fields contrasted by the centuries-old lava flow (often called the Black Lagoon). Hike the Mistérios Negros trail and visit the Algar do Carvão lava caves.

Hike about 7 kilometers (4.35 miles) on the Mistérios Negros trail, which starts near the site of the last volcanic eruption on Terceira in 1761. Learn about this incredible landscape while traversing uneven trails, over hardened lava flows, and volcanic rock. The highlight of the day is a visit to the Algar do Carvão lava caves, which are a naturally formed tunnel of air developed under the warm lava.

**Approximate travel time**: 1 hr by private vehicle
**Hiking details**: 7 km, 5-6 hrs
**Meals included**: Breakfast | Lunch

## Day 6: Angra do Heroísmo Depart Angra do Heroísmo at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Angra do Heroísmo at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in Angra do Heroísmo, consider requesting post-trip accommodation with us.

Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are

available at the reception desk.

The nearest airport to Angra do Heroísmo is **Lajes International Airport (TER)**. If you prefer to fly out of João Paulo II Airport (PDL) in Ponta Delgada, you can travel back from Terceira to São Miguel by a short domestic flight.

**Meals included**: Breakfast

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## Where you'll stay

*The hotels listed below reflect the properties expected to be used for this program. Final accommodations are subject to change based on group size, availability, or seasonality. The confirmed start and end hotels are listed on your trip voucher:*

Day 1 Ponta Delgada (Jul 15): NEAT Hotel Avenida Ponta Delgada

Day 2 Ponta Delgada (Jul 16): NEAT Hotel Avenida Ponta Delgada

Day 3 Ponta Delgada (Jul 17): NEAT Hotel Avenida Ponta Delgada

Day 4 Angra do Heroísmo (Jul 18): Hotel Cruzeiro

Day 5 Angra do Heroísmo (Jul 19): Hotel Cruzeiro

****Itinerary Disclaimer****: While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*