
GEEO ITINERARY

HIKING THE AZORES 4/9/2022- Spring

Day 1: Ponta Delgada Arrive at any time.

Arrive at any time. There are no planned activities until an evening welcome meeting. Check the notice boards or ask at reception for the exact time and location of the group meeting, typically 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. After the meeting, you might consider heading out for a meal in a nearby local restaurant to further get to know your tour leader and travel companions. Please make every effort to arrive on time for this welcome meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up.

Day 2: Ponta Delgada (B, L) Starting at the "Lost Village" of Sanguinho hike through blackwood and acacia trees and orchards to the Salto do Prego waterfall. This evening, opt for a visit to the geothermal hot springs with a typical "cozido" dinner.

Starting at the "Lost Village" of Sanguinho, hike 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) through blackwood and acacia trees and small family orchards to the breathtaking Salto do Prego waterfall, famed for its cool, crystal clear water. Enjoy a picnic lunch at the falls and, if we're lucky with the weather, take a swim. Later, enjoy a relaxing soak at the geothermal hot springs, then enjoy a typical "cozido" dinner, a traditional Portuguese boiled stew. Approximate travel time: 2 hrs via private vehicle; 4 hrs hiking

Day 3: Ponta Delgada (B) Enjoy a free morning to explore on your own. Later, travel to the Sete Cidades Parish and hike the trails for stunning views of the lakes within the caldera.

Take some time to explore on your own, with the option to join a foodie tour or explore the museum, Forte de São Brás (fort), or the Jardim António Borges (botanical gardens) on your own. Later, drive about 30 minutes out of town to 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: 1 hr by private vehicle; 3 hrs hiking

Day 4: Ponta Delgada/Angra do Heroísmo (B) Today we depart São Miguel island on a short flight to Terceira Island. This afternoon, 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. Later, enjoy a walking tour of the capital city (2.5 hrs, 2 miles), 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

Day 5: Angra do Heroísmo (B, L) 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; 5-6 hours hiking

Day 6: Angra do Heroísmo (B) Depart at any time.

Our trip concludes today, and you may depart Angra do Heroísmo at any time. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO trips in the same year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs). If you don't see a program that interests you that pairs with this trip, but still would like to extend your time abroad, let us know. We will work with you to find a non-teacher trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Even better, if you are an educator, we can still offer you a discounted price on the trip you choose!