



Natural Landscapes & Gardens of Madeira & the Azores 2021

29 MAY – 16 JUN 2021

Code: 22117

Tour Leaders **John Patrick, Dr Gerald Luckhurst**

Physical Ratings 

Explore the natural landscapes and gardens of Madeira and the Azores including São Miguel, Flores, Terceira, Pico and Faial islands.

Overview

Led by [John Patrick](#), horticulturalist, garden designer and former presenter on ABC TV's *Gardening Australia*, explore the natural flora and fauna of Madeira and Azores.

- In Madeira John will be joined by landscape architect, [Gerald Luckhurst](#), who has designed and built many gardens on the island. He is an expert plantsman with an unrivalled knowledge of sub-tropical flora an author of the book *The Gardens of Madeira*.
- The program includes six moderate nature walks ranging in length from 1.3 to 7.7kms.
- Visit subtropical Madeira and five volcanic islands from the three geographical groups of the Azores: São Miguel (Eastern Group), Terceira, Faial & Pico (Central Group) & Flores (Western Group).
- Spend 6 nights based in Funchal, the capital of Madeira; overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, the city is framed by a dramatic backdrop of cloud-tipped mountains and features a wealth of historic monuments.
- Explore Madeira's abundance of colourful and exotic flora in its parks and gardens including the Quinta do Palheiro and Monte Palace Tropical Gardens; walk some of Madeira's scenic levada (man-made irrigation channels); and view the Laurisilva of Madeira, the largest surviving area of laurel forest containing a unique suite of flora and fauna including many endemic species.
- Meet Raimundo Quintal, Madeira's leading environmentalist and author of numerous books including the *Levadas and Footpaths of Madeira*; we visit the Santo da Serra Environmental Education Camp where to learn about the conservation and recovery of the native Laurisilva forest.
- On São Miguel view the spectacular volcanic caldera: Lagoa das Sete Cidades which consists of two lagoons - the Green Lagoon and the Blue Lagoon, and at the historically active volcanic complex of Furnas view the verdant Parque Terra Nostra and the bubbling fumaroles.
- On Terceira, visit the UNESCO World Heritage port town of Angra do Heroísmo featuring a formidable 16th-century fortress and a pristine Renaissance old town. We also descend to the island's core at Algar do Carvão, a 90m-deep volcanic lava tube.
- Flores, well known for its abundance of flowers, is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. View the Poça da Ribeira do Ferreiro - a lagoon formed by a dozen waterfalls streaming down lush cliffs.
- Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture: a remarkable man-made landscape of volcanic walls dating to the 15th century, built to protect the thousands of small, contiguous, rectangular plots from wind and seawater.
- On Faial view the beautiful ashen landscape of Capelinhos, the last volcano to erupt in the Azores in 1958; visit the lighthouse, now the Volcano Interpretation Centre, which covers the events of this eruption as well as the tectonic forces shaping the Azores' extraordinary landscape.
- Join a marine biologist for a 3-hour whale-watching expedition; sperm whales are resident species and live in the waters all year round.

19-day tour of Madeira & the Azores

Overnight Madeira: Funchal (6 nights); Azores: Furnas, São Miguel (2 nights) • Ponta Delgada, São Miguel (2 nights) • Faja Grande, Flores (2 nights) • Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira (2 nights) • Horta, Faial (4 nights)

Leaders



John Patrick

Garden designer, prolific author, radio and former TV presenter for ABC's 'Gardening Australia'. John founded the Australian Open Garden Scheme. He initiated ASA's garden tours and has led over 50 tours to Europe, Asia & the USA since 2003.

John Patrick will be familiar to many for his work on radio and television presenting programs relating to gardens, their plants and their history. Until recently, he was a presenter on ABC's television series *Gardening Australia*. John has also written extensively on gardens throughout the world, including articles in *Vogue Living* and *The Australian Garden Journal*. He has written thirteen books as diverse as *Trees for Town and City Gardens* and *A Brief Biography of Robert Sweet*. John has lectured widely in Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand and has worked as a judge and consultant to garden shows and events. In 1985 he organised the opening of gardens for Victoria's Sesquicentenary which led to his involvement in the founding of what is now Australia's Open Garden Scheme. His knowledge of European history allows him to place garden history in a special context, one that reflects the social milieu in which gardens were created. His encyclopaedic knowledge of plants will give garden visits a special appeal and permit a greater appreciation of the particular environment and conditions of the garden. John has led ASA tours to New Zealand, the USA, South Africa, China, Japan, Bhutan, Spain, Portugal, Italy, France and Britain. He is an enthusiastic traveller with a special interest in the food and culture of countries he visits.

Gardening Australia John Patrick, Bickleigh Vale, 6th September 2008:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mS4dPGRCT5Q>



Dr Gerald Luckhurst

Landscape architect, expert plantsman and garden historian with an unrivalled knowledge of sub-tropical and Mediterranean flora. Author of "The Gardens of Madeira", Dr Gerald Luckhurst leads the ASA landscape and garden tour on the island of Madeira, where he has designed and built many gardens.

Horticulturalist and landscape architect Dr Gerald Luckhurst was trained in England and the United States. He has spent the last thirty odd years making gardens in Portugal and elsewhere in the world, especially in

Africa while maintaining an interest in historic landscapes, in particular those to be found in Sintra, Portugal. His book *Sintra: a landscape with villas* book, first published in 1988, is still in print (6th edition). *The Gardens of Madeira* was published in 2010 and his latest book, *Monserate: an English Landscape Garden in Portugal*, is due to be released soon.

His redevelopment of the historic gardens of Monserate was awarded the European Garden Award in 2013 and his outline proposals for the Botanic Garden of Queluz received a Europa Nostra Conservation Award in 2018. He was lead consultant for the proposed National Botanic Garden, for Luanda, Angola.

Gerald runs a successful practice in Sintra and in Madeira where he has designed and built many gardens. A regular public speaker, he brings his extensive knowledge of sub-tropical and Mediterranean garden flora to ASA landscape and garden tour in Madeira.

Combine this tour with

Landscapes, Art & Gardens of the Côte d'Azur, Provence & the Cévennes 2021

2 MAY – 22 MAY 2021

Exploring More Literary Landscapes of England 2021

7 MAY – 27 MAY 2021

Bulgaria & the Black Sea: Painted Towns, Byzantine Monasteries & Thracian Treasures 2021

12 MAY – 26 MAY 2021

Villas, Art & Gardens of Northern Italy: the Veneto, Lakes District & Piedmont 2021

12 MAY – 27 MAY 2021

Iceland, Land of Ice and Fire: Myths, Legends & Landscapes 2021

19 JUN – 6 JUL 2021

Between Sea and Sky: Homer's Greek Islands 2021

7 MAY – 27 MAY 2021



Itinerary

This draft itinerary provides an outline of the proposed daily program. The daily activities described in this itinerary may be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate changes in opening hours, flight schedules and weather conditions. The tour includes breakfast daily, lunches and evening meals indicated in the detailed itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=dinner. The program includes six moderate nature walks ranging in length from 1.3 to 7.7kms.

Funchal, Madeira - 6 nights

Day 1: Saturday 29 May, Arrive Madeira

- Airport transfer for participants arriving on the ASA 'designated' flight
- Welcome Meeting in the gardens of Hotel Porto Mare
- Light Dinner at the hotel

After clearing passport and customs, tour participants arriving on the ASA 'designated flight' will transfer to the [Hotel Porto Mare](#) in Funchal. If you are not taking the ASA designated flight, please make your own way to our hotel. ASA can assist you with a transfer if necessary. Upon arrival, we shall be joined by landscape architect, Dr Gerald Luckhurst, who has designed many gardens on the island. He is an expert plantsman with an unrivalled knowledge of sub-tropical flora and author of "The Gardens of Madeira".

After time to freshen up, there will be a welcome meeting in the hotel's gardens which were designed by Gerald, followed by a light dinner served in the hotel's restaurant. (Overnight Funchal, Madeira) D

Day 2: Sunday 30 May, Madeira: Funchal

- [Levada dos Tornos to Quinta do Palheiro Ferreiro](#) (c. 4.7kms, c 2hrs, rated: easy)
- Light lunch at the Tea House, Casa Velha do Palheiro
- Gardens of Quinta do Palheiro Ferreiro

- Design Center Nini Andrade Silva
- Welcome Dinner at Restaurant DC Atelier

This morning we shall walk the 4.7km *levada* trail to Quinta do Palheiro Ferreiro. *Levadas*, channels carrying water that is essential for growing sugar cane, were probably an innovation brought about by Iberian Muslims before their expulsion from Iberia in 1609. Along the way we can view several species of endemic flora and enjoy some fantastic views over the Bay of Funchal.

The gardens of Quinta do Palheiro Ferreiro, situated at 500m above sea level, boast some of the most valuable and rare exotic plants on the island. The original owner, Conde do Carvalhal, planted many trees on his estate and laid the foundation of its camellia collection; some of his early plantings survive today. The Blandy family, who acquired the Quinta in 1885, have continued with the garden's development. We shall enjoy a light lunch at the Quinta's Tea House before exploring the garden's rich flora, including its collection of hibiscus and bougainvillea.

In the late afternoon, we visit the Design Center Nini Andrade Silva. This design centre is located in the city of Funchal at the emblematic building known locally as *Molhe* (Fortaleza da Nossa Senhora da Conceição), which was once the island home of Gonçalves Zarco, an early Portuguese navigator and coloniser of the Archipelago of Madeira. Its permanent exhibition is part of the private collection of Madeiran Nini Andrade Silva, world renowned painter and designer. Following our tour of the centre we enjoy a welcome dinner in the Design Center Restaurant overlooking Funchal's harbour. (Overnight Funchal, Madeira) BLD

Day 3: Monday 31 May, Madeira: Funchal

- Quinta da Boa Vista Orchid Gardens
- Quinta Bom Sucesso (Madeira Botanical Garden)
- Botanical Garden Cable Car to Monte Parish
- Monte Palace Tropical Gardens
- Municipal Garden of Funchal & Wine-tasting at Blandy's Wine Lodge

We begin today by visiting the Quinta da Boa Vista Orchid Gardens. The gardens, with Madeira's best orchid collection, were formerly a 19th-century working estate (*quinta*), a market garden growing produce to sell to visiting ships. They include one of the last and oldest remaining systems of walled terracing and remains such as a wine press, original storage house and thatched cow house.

We next visit Madeira's Botanical Garden which is divided into six sections: Madeiran indigenous and endemic species; the arboretum (collection of trees and shrubs); succulents; agro-industrial plants; medicinal and aromatic plants and palm trees and cycads.

After exploring the garden, we shall take the Botanical Garden Cable Car to Monte Parish. The Monte Parish (1565) was devoted to Our Lady of Monte, a devotion originating in the 15th century. After a flood of 1803, the Our Lady of Monte became the patron saint of Madeira and, in 1818, the present church was inaugurated in her honour. Located at the very top of a grand staircase, the church has a twin-towered façade and a large churchyard with a splendid view over Funchal. Monte also has some of Madeira's most beautiful palaces.

We shall explore the Monte Palace Tropical Gardens located in Quinta Monte Palace which forms part of the José Berardo Foundation. The gardens contain over 100,000 plant species including azaleas, heathers, different trees, a wide variety of ferns and a valuable collection of cycads. There is also an area devoted to Madeiran flora, displaying several species of the Macaronesian *Laurisilva*, in addition to other endangered

species. Placed along the garden's walkways are panels of *azulejos*, which represent one of the most important tile collections in Portugal.

We end the day with a short walk through the Municipal Garden of Funchal to Blandy's Wine Lodge for a traditional wine-tasting. ('Have some Madeira, m'dear'!) (Overnight Funchal, Madeira) BL

Day 4: Tuesday 1 June, Madeira: Funchal – Ponta do São Lourenço – Funchal

- Optional walking tour of Ponta do São Lourenço (c.6kms, c. 3hrs, rated: moderate)
- Mercado do Lavadores, Funchal
- Orientation walking tour of Funchal incl. the Igreja do Colégio, Casa-Museu Frederico de Freitas and the Convent Santa Clara

This morning there will be an optional 3-hour walk along the dramatic Ponta de São Lourenço ('Point of Saint Lawrence'), the easternmost point of Madeira. Its rocky terrain is covered with herbaceous vegetation. Since 1982, the headland has been a nature reserve, dedicated to the conservation of its endemic plants including *Matthiola maderensis*, *Echium nervosum* and *Andryala glandulosa* and fauna – birds, insects and molluscs. One animal seen here is the *Monachus monachus*, a particular seal.

Funchal (pop. 111,892) has been the capital of Madeira for more than five centuries. Its name derives from the Portuguese word *funcho* ('fennel'); the suffix '-al', denotes 'a plantation of fennel'. Those who discovered the island remarked upon the proliferation of wild fennel there. Funchal was first settled around 1424 by João Gonçalves Zarco. Its strategic location made it an important port. Its productive soils attracted more settlers. During the second half of the 15th century, the sugar industry expanded significantly along Madeira's south coast, and Funchal became its main centre. During the 16th century, Funchal became an important stop-over for caravels travelling to the Americas. Around 1500, the settlement gained churches, a cathedral, a hospital and customs house. In 1508, it was elevated to the status of city by King Manuel I of Portugal, and in 1514 Madeira's bishopric was headquartered in Funchal. In the 17th century, the city suffered from corsair and privateer attacks; the military architect Mateus Fernandes III consequently strengthened its defences. The wine industry appeared during the early settlement period and took the place of sugar exports when Europe began to import cheaper sugar from the New World and Africa. In the 17th century viticulture benefitted from English investment. It produced a new urban class which lived in newly created districts. Three-storey homes developed, with an intermediary service floor, a floor for storage and wine-cellars, and sometimes a tower to monitor shipping in the harbour. Monasteries also became key players in the wine industry. During the 19th century diseases attacked the vines, forcing some growers to find hardier strains.

On our return to Funchal there will be time at leisure for lunch and to explore the Art Deco Mercado dos Lavadores (farmers' market), serving the island's best fresh food. We then take an orientation walk of the city of Funchal visiting the 17th-century Igreja do Colégio. Dedicated to St John the Evangelist, this Jesuit church features a spectacular interior decorated with tiles and some of Portugal's finest examples of gilded carving. We also visit the house museum of Frederico de Freitas and the 15th-century Convent Santa Clara which features floor-to-ceiling *azulejos* tiles and a courtyard garden. (Overnight Funchal, Madeira) B

Day 5: Wednesday 2 June, Madeira: Funchal – Ribeiro Frio – Santana – Arco de São Jorge – Funchal

- Ribeiro Frio Levada trail to the Vereda dos Balcões (c. 3kms, c. 1hr, rated: easy)
- Jardim do Tojal, the private garden of Raimundo Quintal (to be confirmed)
- Thatched Houses of Santana
- Lunch at Quinta do Furão

- Quinta do Arco Rose Garden

This morning we visit the UNESCO biosphere site of Ribeiro Frio known for its botanical garden and trout farm. This is the starting point for our short *levada* walk to the Vereda dos Balcões (lookout) which offers superb views over the deep valley of Ribeira da Metade and the dense Laurisilva forest. On days when visibility is good, you can see the island's central mountain chain with its highest peaks: Pico do Areeiro (1817m), Pico do Gato, Pico das Torres (1,851m), Pico Ruivo (1861m) as well as the Penha d'Águia rock formation. The path we take is surrounded by Madeira mahogany (*Persea indica*), Madeira blueberry (*Vaccinium padifolium*), and Madeira orchids (*Dactylorhiza foliosa*), as well as exotic deciduous trees like English oaks (*Quercus robur*) and London plane trees (*Platanus x acerifolia*). We may also view chaffinches (*Frigilla coelebs maderensis*), the smallest bird of the Madeira forest.

Next, we visit Jardim do Trojal, the private garden of Dr Raimundo Quintal. Author of numerous books including *Levadas and Footpaths of Madeira*, Raimundo, holds a PhD in physical geography and is the island's leading consultant in the areas of ecology, biogeography and environmental education. He has also made numerous TV documentaries on Madeira's natural and cultural heritage.

Next, we drive to north eastern Madeira to Santana (pop. 8,800) whose name derives from the small 16th-century Chapel of Santa Ana. The *casas de Santana* are thatched multi-coloured houses found only in this town. The people of Santana produce *bordado da Madeira*, the island's best embroidery.

After lunch at the Quinta do Furão, occupying a stunning location on cliffs above the sea, we visit the Quinta do Arco Rose Garden. This has one of Portugal's largest (1,000) rose collections, with some rare and endangered rose species. This rose garden has been awarded the 'Garden of Excellence Award' by the World Federation of Rose Societies. (Overnight Funchal, Madeira) BL

Day 6: Thursday 3 June, Madeira: Funchal – Curral das Freiras – Câmara de Lobos – Funchal

- Eira do Serrado viewpoint
- Curral das Freiras (Valley of Nuns)
- Lunch in Câmara de Lobos
- Gardens of The Suites at Cliff Bay

Today we drive to the centre of the island to the Eira do Serrado viewpoint at an elevation of 1,095 metres. It offers a stunning panoramic view over the picturesque parish of Curral das Freiras which is surrounded by majestic mountains. We then visit the Curral das Freiras ('Valley of Nuns'). Originally it was called Curral da Serra ('corral of the mountains') because of its extensive pastures. Its name was altered when the lands became the property of the nuns of the Convent of Santa Clara (1492 – 1497). It has a rich architectural heritage, including the lovely Igreja do Curral das Freiras (church). We sample some of the chestnuts harvested in this remote parish.

We shall enjoy lunch at the picturesque port town of Câmara de Lobos before visiting the gardens of The Suites at Cliff Bay, laid out around two 100-year-old manor houses. Recently completed by Gerald Luckhurst, these rich gardens offer magnificent views of the Atlantic. (Overnight Funchal, Madeira) BL

Furnas, São Miguel Island, Azores - 2 nights

Day 7: Friday 4 June, Madeira – Ponta Delgada – Furnas (São Miguel)

- Santa da Serra Environmental Education Camp with Raimundo Quintal

- Fly Madeira to São Miguel (1250-1355)
- Convent de São Francisco, Vila Franca do Campo

We spend the morning at the Santa da Serra Environmental Education Camp with Raimundo Quintal, author, documentary film maker, researcher at the University of Lisbon's Centre for Geographic Studies (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning) and leader of the team that created the Funchal Ecological Park. Raimundo founded the Friends of Funchal Ecological Park Association and has been chairman of its board since 2002. He has also been scientific coordinator of the refurbishment project of the José do Canto Botanical Garden, in Ponta Delgada, since 2013.

After spending the morning with Raimundo, we transfer to Madeira airport to fly to São Miguel, the largest and most populous island in the Azores archipelago. On arrival we take a short drive along the south coast to the 16th-century Convento de São Francisco which has been converted into a small boutique hotel. Here, we enjoy some light refreshments before resuming our journey to the Terra Nostra Garden Hotel which sits right on the edge of the famous garden of the same name. Dating back to 1775, the hotel is located in the perfect spot to explore Lake Furnas and its geothermal pools. Tonight we dine together at the hotel. (Overnight Furnas, São Miguel) BD

The Azores

The Azores archipelago is composed of nine volcanic islands in the middle of the North Atlantic. The archipelago is orientated in a west-northwest to east-southeast direction. The nine major Azorean islands cluster in three main groups. These are Flores and Corvo to the west; Graciosa, Terceira, São Jorge, Pico, and Faial in the centre; and São Miguel, Santa Maria, and the Formigas Reef to the east. They extend for more than 600km. The islands, of volcanic origins, emerged from what is called the Azores Plateau, a 5.8 million km² area that bridges the Mid-Atlantic Ridge as well as the Terceira Rift, the Azores Fracture Zone and the Glória Fault. They lie above the triple junction of the North American plate, the Eurasian plate and the African plate. Mount Pico, on the island of Pico, is the highest point in Portugal, at 2,351m. The islands' climate is mild due to the presence of the Gulf Stream. The main city of the Azores is Ponta Delgada. Islands cultures, dialects, cuisine, and traditions vary considerably, because they were settled sporadically over a span of two centuries. The archipelago's main industries are agriculture, dairy farming, livestock, fishing and tourism.

The islands were known in the 14th century; parts of them appear in the *Catalan Atlas* (1375). In 1427, they were rediscovered by either a Fleming or Portuguese captain. Portugal claimed the islands. Gonçalo Velho Cabral established colonies on Santa Maria and then on São Miguel (1433-1436). In 1443 São Jorge was already inhabited but active settlement only began with the arrival of the noble Flemish native *Wilhelm Van der Haegen*. By 1490, some 2,000 Flemings lived on the islands of Terceira, Pico, Faial, São Jorge and Flores. They were refugees from the Flemish struggle against Spain. The remainder of the unoccupied islands were settled from 1439. Settlers planted grain, grape vines, sugar cane, and grew domesticated animals, such as chickens, rabbits, cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs. They built houses and established villages. Many early settlers were Portuguese Sephardic Jews fleeing the inquisition. In 1522 Vila Franca do Campo, then the capital of São Miguel, was devastated by an earthquake and landslide that killed about 5,000 people, and the capital was moved to Ponta Delgada, which received the status of city in 1546. In 1943 António de Oliveira Salazar leased air and naval bases in the Azores to Great Britain, a key turning point in the Battle of the Atlantic, enabling the Royal Air Force, the U.S. Army Air Forces, and the U.S. Navy to provide aerial coverage in the Mid-Atlantic gap. This helped them to protect convoys and to hunt hostile German U-boats.

Day 8: Saturday 5 June, São Miguel: Furnas

- Terra Nostra Gardens & Thermal Water Pool with Head Gardener Carina Costa
- Picnic lunch on the banks of Lagoa das Furnas
- Parque da Grená
- José do Canto Woodland Garden
- Furnas Monitoring and Research Centre (CMIF)

Terra Nostra Park is nestled within a volcanic crater, dormant since 1630, with its own particular climatic conditions. The air temperature varies between 10 and 16° C in the winter, and between 20 and 25° C in the summer. Relative air humidity throughout the year is high, sometimes reaching a maximum of 80 to 92%. This is mainly due to the fact that Furnas is located at a considerable altitude and is rich in vegetation. There are numerous hot springs, fumaroles (vents in the earth that emit gas and steam) and natural warm swimming pools throughout the small town including the Ochre mineral rich thermal lake next to the hotel.

We begin this morning with a tour of the Terra Nostra Gardens led by Carina Costa, who works with her father Fernando Costa to manage the gardens. Highlights of the oldest botanical garden in the Azores archipelago include well-tended camellias, a fine collection of cycads, palms, native flora; bromeliads, orchids, the bluest of hydrangeas and over 300 different species of ferns including an abundance of luxuriating tree ferns.

We drive down to Lagoa das Furnas, where gurgling thermal pools line the path to a cooking area. Here, large pots of *cozidos* – local vegetable and meat stew – are lowered underground for six hours of low, slow heat cooking in the volcanic soil.

Then we visit the recently opened Parque da Grená which consists of 18 hectares of forest. A boarded walkway through the forest takes us past a waterfall and the ruins of an 1858 manor house.

Following a picnic lunch on the banks of the Lagoa das Furnas, we take a walk around the José do Canto Woodland garden. José do Canto (1820-1898) also founded the botanical garden in Ponta Delgada. Established in the mid-19th century, the garden features a camellia walkway, Fern Glade and the charming Chapel of Nossa Senhora das Vitóras. Dedicated to Our Lady of the Victories, the chapel was erected by José do Canto following the terminal illness of his beloved wife. We also visit the award-winning Furnas Monitoring and Research Centre (CMIF) which is dedicated to disseminating the history and evolution of the Furnas Volcano and the protection of the lagoon's ecosystems.

We end the day with some free time to explore Furnas village which features thirty springs, each of differing temperatures and mineral compositions. You may also wish to swim in the hotel's thermal waters. Tonight, we sample the *cozidos* at Terra Nostra Restaurant. (Overnight Furnas, São Miguel) BLD

Ponta Delgada, São Miguel Island, Azores - 2 nights

Day 9: Sunday 6 June, São Miguel: Furnas – Caldeira das Sete Cidades – Ponta Delgada

- Miradouro do Pico do Ferro
- Gorreana Tea Plantation
- Vegetable garden and lunch at Quinta dos Sabores
- **Vista do Rei – Caldeira das Sete Cidades Trail (c7.7kms, c. 2hrs, rated: easy)**
- Scenic drive stopping at the *miradouro* of Cerrado das Freira, Vista do Rei, Carvão & Lagoa do Canário

This morning we depart Furnas and travel to the north coast, making a brief stop at the Miradouro do Pico

do Ferro for fine views over Lagoa das Furnas. Our destination is the Gorreana Tea Plantation, the oldest, and currently only, tea plantation in Europe. The family has cultivated tea here since 1883, preserving 'oriental' traditions over five generations. The 50-hectare estate manufactures different varieties including green tea, black tea, orange pekoe tea.

Following a short visit to the terraces and factory we enjoy lunch at one of the island's best restaurants. Quinta dos Sabores, is an intimate 'farm-to-table' restaurant serving a variety of dishes made from their own organic produce.

The Sete Cidades Massif consists of a central volcanic caldera and lake-filled cones which surround the crater in the extreme western part of the island. This volcanic zone is defined by several spatter cones and lava flows, now predominantly covered by dense vegetation and pastures. The caldera is almost circular and evolved from 36,000 years ago. With a perimeter of 12km and a diameter of 7km, the caldera formed from a crater that collapsed during a gigantic prehistoric eruption, its present shape having been created during a tremendous eruption in 1445. Within the crater lies three small lakes and two large lakes: the Lagoa Verde with crystalline green water and Lagoa Azul with striking blue water, that are separated only by a narrow land bridge.

This afternoon we enjoy a 2-hour walk along the awesome Vista do Rei – Caldeira das Sete Cidades Trail. The trail starts at Vista do Rei viewpoint and ends in the parish of Sete Cidades. Along the way we pass the Cumeeira da Caldeira das Sete Cidades (Caldeira's highest point), the Caldeira Seca, the beautiful Sete Cidades lakes and the grand western coast of São Miguel. The trail runs through a zone classified as Protected Landscape, ensuring its biodiversity through the conservation of the natural habitat.

Following our walk, we take a scenic drive to Ponta Delgada stopping at the *miradouro* (viewpoints) of Cerrado das Freira, Visa do Rei, Carvão & Lagoa do Canário. The evening is at leisure in Ponte Delgada. (Overnight Ponta Delgada, São Miguel) BL

Day 10: Monday 7 June, São Miguel: Ponta Delgada

- José do Canto Botanical Garden, UNESCO World Heritage garden
- Sant'Ana Garden
- Convento e Capela de Nossa Senhora da Esperança
- Ponta Delgada Walking tour incl. harbour, Igreja São Sebastião & Mercado da Craça
- Special lecture with local volcanologist Adriano Henrique Gonçalves Pimentel

We spend today exploring Ponta Delgada which lies on a volcanic area composed of the Picos Region and Sete Cidades Massif. The Picos Region extends from the shadow of the ancient volcano of the Água de Pau Massif to the area around the Sete Cidades caldera. Ponta Delgada ('Thin Cape') is the largest municipality (pop. 68,809) and economic capital of the Autonomous Region of the Azores. It was not always the capital. In c. 1450, Villa Franca had for many years been the centre of the island's economic and social life and seat of the local government. Then, in 1522, an earthquake and landslide devastated the provincial capital, destroying many of the buildings and killing several people. Ponta Delgada became the only centre with the infrastructure to support the Azorean bureaucracy and assume Villa Franca's important economic links. Eventually, it was elevated to status of city, during the reign of King D. João III by a decree of 2 April 1546. In the 19th century Ponta Delgada prospered through citrus exports to United Kingdom and the growth of foreign-owned businesses in the historic centre, many of its merchants were Jewish. Ponta Delgada experienced a 'greening' with the creation of the gardens of António Borges, José do Canto, Jácome Correia and the Viscount of Porto Formoso and the construction of many of the ornate homes/estates. With the growth of the mercantile class Ponta Delgada became the third largest town in Portugal.

This morning we first stroll through the José do Canto Botanical Garden, occupying some six hectares in the centre of Ponta Delgada. The UNESCO World Heritage designated garden was developed by José do Canto (1820-1898), a member of the Azorean landed gentry. The trees planted in this garden developed into huge specimens due to the richness of soil and clement climate. Among them are remarkable specimens of *metrosideros*, *ficus elasticas*, *araucarias*. Among the park's buildings are the Chapel of Saint Anne (17th Century), the Manor (18th Century), the Victorian green house, and the Neo-Classical Palace (20th Century).

We also make a short visit to the 19th-century Sant'Ana Garden which includes a lake, rose garden and several subtropical and exotic species including *metrosiderus excelsa* (New Zealand Christmas tree). Within the park lies the palace now owned by the Presidency of the Regional Government.

We next visit the Convent of Nossa Senhora da Esperança (1535) that holds the Sanctuary of Senhor Santo Cristo dos Miracles, a shrine that elicits the highest devotion from Azoreans. The sanctuary has a fine corpus of sacred art, including a rich gold carved Baroque altarpiece and a fine choir decorated with a set of multi-coloured glazed tiles by the Portuguese 18th-century master António de Oliveira Bernardes.

Following some time at leisure for lunch, we take a walking tour of Ponta Delgada visiting the port's harbour and the Mercado da Craça. Within the market can be found a range of exotic produce including *Annonas* (similar to pawpaw or custard apples), *araçal* (somewhat like guava), yam, peppers and the ever-present sweet pineapple. We also visit Ponta Delgada's main church, the Igreja São Sebastião (Church of Saint Sebastian). Constructed between 1531 and 1547, the church combines Gothic, Manueline (Portuguese Renaissance) and Baroque elements.

We end the day with a special lecture by volcanologist Adriano Henrique Gonçalves Pimentel, Senior Technician in charge of monitoring the volcanic and seismic activities at CIVISA – Azorean Seismovolcanic Surveillance and Information Centre. Adriano Pimentel introduces us to the unique geology and volcanic activities in the Azores islands. (Overnight Ponta Delgada, São Miguel) B

Flores Island, Azores - 2 nights

Day 11: Tuesday 8 June, Ponta Delgada, São Miguel Island – Flores Island

- Fly São Miguel to Flores (0900-1110)
- Lunch at Aldeia da Cuada
- [Poça da Ribeira do Ferreiro Waterfall Trail \(c. 1.3km, rated: easy\)](#)

This morning we fly from São Miguel Island to Flores Island. On arrival, we transfer to our farmstay, Aldeia da Cuada, for a light lunch.

Isolated Flores Island (pop. 3,907), located in the Azores Western group, is 143 km² in area and, together with its neighbour Corvo, lies within the North American Plate. Flores was discovered in 1452 and first named São Tomás (St Thomas Becket). The Flemish nobleman, Willem van der Haegen, explored and began to develop Flores and Corvo (1480-1490) and the island became permanently populated during Manuel I's reign (1510); settlers cultivated grain and vegetables. For centuries, inhabitants lived in isolated parts of the island, visited by vessels trading whale oil, butter and honey as well as by caravels on their way from the Americas to Europe. Flores was frequently raided by pirates and privateers, including Sir Walter Raleigh. From the 1760s to the early 20th century, American whalers hunted sperm whales in the waters of the Azores, and many of the islands' inhabitants were recruited as whalers.

During the summer, the island is covered with thousands of hydrangeas with large blue or pink flowers. The name *Flores* ('flowers'), is thought to derive from the many yellow flowers of *Cubres* that adorned the sea cliffs at the time of Portuguese discovery. Geomorphologically, the island is composed of two parts: The Central Massif, a central plain with seven *maar* structures (a low-relief volcanic crater that forms when magma contacts groundwater to produce a steam explosion), and the Coastal Periphery, including the coastal zones, cliffs, ancient beaches, and the coastal shelf. Flores has deep valleys and high peaks, the highest being Morro Alto (914m). Pico da Burrinha, Pico dos Sete Pés and Marcela are other high mountains. Flores has several inactive volcanoes; Caldeira Funda last erupted in 1200 BC and Caldeira Comprida in 950 BC. Its Águas Quentes are hot springs of boiling sulphurous water. There are also some 20 waterfalls where the Ribeira Grande (river) drops from a height of 300 metres, some waterfalls plummet directly into the Atlantic Ocean.

This afternoon we take the trail to the Poça da Ribeira do Ferreiro (also known as Poça da Alagoinha or Lagoa das Patas). Along the way we pass rich vegetation between high cliffs, down which, descend a dozen waterfalls to form the lagoon. (Overnight Farmstay: Aldeia da Cuada, Flores) BLD

Day 12: Wednesday 9 June, Flores Island

- Coach tour of Flores including Lagoa Rasa, Funda, Negra and Comprida

Today we take a coach tour of the island, past magnificent lakes: Lagoa Rasa, Funda, Negra and Comprida. These lakes occupy the aforementioned volcanic craters. (Overnight Farmstay: Aldeia da Cuada, Flores) BLD

[Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira Island, Azores - 2 nights](#)

Day 13: Thursday 10 June, Flores – Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira

- Fly Flores to Terceira (1130-1235)
- Orientation walk of Angra do Heroísmo UNESCO World Heritage town
- Palácio dos Capitães-Generais: Guided tour of Palace & Gardens

This morning we fly to the island of Terceira. Terceira (pop. 56,000) is one of the larger islands (396.75 km²) of the Azores Archipelago. It has the Azores' oldest city and past capital, Angra do Heroísmo which, after 1536, became a key-port of call by ships bound for south America; it remains the seat of the Azores' Supreme Court. A small number of *hypogea* (caverns) suggest that settlement on Terceira that may date back 2,000 years. A document of 1439 attributed its 'discovery' to the Portuguese Gonçalo Velho Cabral; the name 'Terceira' alludes to the fact that it was the third island to be discovered. Its first settlers were from northern Portugal and Flanders; they settled in the island's north.

Other 15th-century colonists were from Madeira, or were slaves from Africa, new (converted) Christians and (converted) Jews. They exported wheat, sugar-cane, wood (for the dye industry) and wood (for naval construction). By the 19th century, new products, including tea, tobacco and pineapple, were exported. Today, the island's economy relies on livestock and dairy-based products. Its two main ports are at Angra do Heroísmo and at Praia da Vitória.

Terceira is crossed by fissures and faults. It is composed of several extinct volcanoes. Dormant Santa Barbara volcano, known as the Serra de Santa Bárbara, is its highest peak (1,012 metres). The island consists of four overlapping stratovolcanoes, tall, conical volcanoes composed of one layer of hardened lava, tephra, and volcanic ash. These cover a deeper geologic structure called the Terceira Rift, which is a triple

junction between the Eurasian, African and North American tectonic plates. The volcanic structures rise from a depth of over 1,500 metres from the floor of the Atlantic Ocean. Eruptions date from about 370-380,000 years ago. The collapse of the earliest volcano over time has created a fertile plain. Other early eruptions date to 270,000 years ago and to 111,000 years ago. Later eruptions date from 9000 to 1000 years ago; there are still active volcanoes at the island's centre, and explains why most settlements are on the coast.

The western part of Terceira is more heavily forested than the eastern part, due to the prevailing westerly winds bringing increased precipitation to that side, resulting in forests of *Cryptomeria japonica*. Other geomorphological areas include the plains of Achada, the mounts near Santa Bárbara, the small lakes of Lagoa das Patas and Lagoa da Falca. Most of the island is ringed by coastal cliffs about 20 metres high. Away from the coast, Terceira has a wild and hilly landscape, and much of the interior of the island is a nature reserve.

After lunch, we begin with a walk through Angra do Heroísmo (pop. 35,402), arguably the most important of the Azores' three capitals; founded in 1479, it is the seat of the bishop of the Azores. Its port is made up of two natural basins protected by a series of hills. Its gridded plan, typical of colonial cities, was skewed to account for prevailing winds. The city's 400-year-old São Sebastião and São João Baptista fortifications are particularly notable. Its status as the seat of the bishop contributed to the monumental character of the city's central zone, where the cathedral of Santíssimo Salvador da Sé, the churches of the Misericórdia and Espírito Santo, and the convents of the Franciscans and the Jesuits were all constructed in the Baroque style. Despite a devastating earthquake on 1 January 1980, the town's central zone has preserved the better part of its monumental heritage and its original vernacular architecture, and remains a homogenous urban ensemble.

We shall then enjoy a guided tour of the impressive Palácio dos Capitães-Generais (Palace of the Captains General). The palace location was originally occupied by a Jesuit seminary, but for four centuries served as the seat of the first unified government of the archipelago, as the Royal Palace of Pedro IV and Carlos I of Portugal, and as headquarters of the Military Government. It is now the president of the Azores' headquarters and the meeting place of the Governing Council of Terceira Island. It has a fine interior and lovely gardens. (Overnight Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira) BL

Day 14: Friday 11 June, Terceira: Angra do Heroísmo – Relheiras de São Brás – Algar do Carvão – Angra do Heroísmo

- Relheiras de São Brás trail (c. 4kms, c. 2hr, rated: easy)
- Scenic route to Boscoitos
- Algar de Carvão Reserve (Volcanic cone incl. 300 steps, duration: 60 min)
- Caldeira da Ilha Graciosa & the Furna do Enxofre (184 steps)

This morning we drive to centre of the island and take a walk in the forest area located in the oldest volcanic complex of Terceira (easy level, 4km). Along the path, we see a large number of endemic vegetation and native species including the very rare *Platanthera micrantha* from the family of the *Orchidaceae*.

Then we drive to the north coast enjoying spectacular scenery passing natural swimming pools and lands compartmentalised by plots, small parcels delimited by stone walls protecting vineyards. We reach the restaurant where we enjoy an *Alcatra*, a local beef stew full of spices and cooked in a wood burning stove, served with local wines.

This afternoon we visit the Algar do Carvão (*Cavern of Coal*). This ancient lava tube or volcanic vent is

directly associated with the four large volcanoes (Pico Alto, Santa Bárbara, Guilherme Moniz, and Cinco Picos) grouped along a basaltic fissure zone that transects the island from northwest to southeast. The cavern is situated 583 metres above sea level and is 40.5 hectares in extent. The cavern's mouth consists of a 45-metre vertical passage to the interior. From a ramp of debris and gravel another decline leads down to the clear waters of the interior rainwater pool, approximately 90 metres from ground level and as deep as 15 metres. The cave itself is remarkable for its silicate stalactites. The Algar is populated by a rich plant tapestry, that covers the mouth of the cone structure, including various endemic species.

Then we visit the Caldeira da Ilha Graciosa, from the tunnel, made in 1953, a dramatic landscape awaits with small meadows surrounded by steep slopes covered with cryptomeria forest. Within the caldera is the Furna do Enxofre, a lava cave which features a perfect dome-shaped roof, accessed by a spiral staircase with 183 steps. (Overnight Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira) B

Horta, Faial Island, Azores - 4 nights

Day 15: Saturday 12 June, Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira – Fontinhas – Praia da Vitória – Horta, Faial Island

- Miradouro da Serra do Cume
- Organic Farm, Fontinhas
- Birdwatching at Paul da Praia da Vitória
- Fly Terceira to Faial (1645-1720)

This morning we drive to Miradouro da Serra do Cume, a lookout from which you can enjoy a panorama of the bay of Praia da Vitória and the interior of the island, with fields separated by walls constructed of volcanic stone known as 'patchwork'.

Then we visit an organic farm in Fontinhas village and meet the producer who shows us more than 30 different types of leaves for salads.

We drive to nearby Praia da Vitória where we shall enjoy birdwatching at the Paul da Praia da Vitória. These are some of Portugal's most important wetlands, with a great variety of birdlife including Cory's Shearwater, Great Blue Heron and the Azorean Chaffinch.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we drive to Terceira airport to take our flight to Faial Island.

Faial lies close to the tectonic divide between the Eurasian and North American Plates. The island is approximately 173 km² and formed along a transform fault with significant volcanic activity extending from the mid-Atlantic Ridge to the Hirondele faults. This same fault bisects the remainder of the Central Group of Azores islands along a west-northwest to east-southeast orientation. The island's current landmass is dominated by the crater of its central stratovolcano with relatively gently sloping flanks, showing little signs of major erosion. This *caldeira* (caldera) is almost circular, 2000 metres perimeter, with a 400-metre depth below the summit of Cabeço Gordo (almost 570 m above sea level). Its centre has water marshes, thickets, and minor cinder cones, and is surrounded by almost vertical cliffs carrying diverse vegetation, both endemic or invasive. (Overnight Horta, Faial) B

Day 16: Sunday 13 June, Full Day excursion to Pico Island

- Return Ferry from Horta (Faial Island) to Madalena (Pico Island)
- Full day excursion visiting the South Coast and Pico's UNESCO Vineyards
- Cella Bar

- Museo do Vinho incl. boardwalk over the vineyards

Today we take the ferry to nearby Pico Island. This, the second largest of the Azores Archipelago (447 km²), is dominated in its north-west by the 2,341-metre-high Pico Volcano. Further south and to the east are the remnant of earlier cones. At the centre of the island is the Achada Plain, an axial zone comprising spatter and lava cones along a mountainous ridge filled with lake-filled craters, dense scrub and forests. Pico is particularly famous for its lovely vineyards, so much so that the 'Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture' has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Viticulture here dates back to the 15th century. Each vineyard is divided into plots (*currais*) protected by walls (*paredes, murinhos*). These walls are built with basalt blocks that have been weathered and broken up and stacked without mortar.

We shall eat lunch at Pico's best restaurant, Cella Bar. Its highly innovative architecture, created by Portuguese firm FCC Arquitectura and interior designer Paulo Lobo, comprises two buildings, a remodelled barn with volcanic stone walls, and a bulbous timber extension conceived as a cross between a whale and a wine barrel. The design team aimed to create a building that refers to the history of the island but that also demonstrates contemporary forms of construction. After lunch, we shall visit the Museo do Vinho and follow a boardwalk over the vineyards. In the late afternoon, we return to Faial. (Overnight Horta, Faial) BL

Day 17: Monday 14 June, Faial: Caldeira & the Capelinhos

- Monte da Guia (photostop)
- Faial Caldera
- Miradouro da Ribeiro das Cabras
- Praia do Norte
- Calderas at Capelinhos & the Volcano Interpretation Centre
- Cory's Shearwater night visit

Today we take a coach tour of Faial. We begin with a short stop at the Monte da Guia lookout which provides a spectacular view over Horta city and the surrounding coastline. We shall then visit the awesome Faial Caldera. The Nature Reserve of the Caldera of Faial occupies the rim of the grand central caldera of Faial, its steep cliffs, and interior. We shall visit another lookout, the Miradouro da Ribeiro das Cabras, which allows magnificent panoramic views of the island's coast.

After lunch, we shall view the calderas at Capelinhos and visit the Volcano Interpretation Centre that has an educational and scientific mission. It has a set of displays focused on the Capelinhos Volcano eruption (1957-8) and the formation of the archipelago, and also the various kinds of volcanic activity in the world; there is also a display showing the history of Azorean lighthouses. This building was constructed underground, so it wouldn't interfere with the pre-existing landscape that was formed by the 1950s eruption.

Located at the most northern limit for some bird species, the Azores are an important resting and nesting place for many migratory bird species. One of the most characteristic is the Cory's shearwater, *Calonectris borealis*; 80% of the world's population nests within the archipelago. This evening, accompanied by a local biologist, we visit one of their nesting grounds. (Overnight Horta, Faial) BL

Day 18: Tuesday 15 June, Faial Island: Horta

- Whale & Dolphin Watching expedition by zodiac (3hrs)
- Afternoon at leisure
- Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant

We spend this morning on a 3-hour whale watching expedition. Travelling by high-speed zodiacs, and led by a marine biologist, we hope to view a number of species of whales and dolphins. Altogether there are about 80 species of whales worldwide of which 25 species have been sighted off the Azores. The mid-Atlantic location of the volcanic islands of the Azores causes great upwellings of cold water currents from the ocean depths which meet the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, producing nutrient-rich waters. Sperm whales are the resident species and most frequently sighted. They live in the waters around the islands all year round. The main 'season' runs from April all the way through the summer to October and during these months different species pass by the Azores on their migratory paths. The most frequently sighted species of dolphin include bottlenose, Atlantic spotted and common dolphins.

Lunchtime and the afternoon will be at leisure, allowing you to explore Horta before we convene for a farewell group dinner at a local restaurant. **(Overnight Horta, Faial) BD**

Day 19: Wednesday 16 June, Faial Island: Depart Horta

- Airport transfer for participants departing on the ASA 'designated' flight

Our tour ends in Horta. If you are travelling on the ASA 'designated' flight you will be transferred to the airport. If not, you may take a taxi or arrange a transfer with ASA, or stay on to see more of this fascinating island. Please contact ASA if you require further assistance. **B**

Accommodation

19-day Tour of Madeira & the Azores

Accommodation is in 4-star hotels, in twin-share rooms with en suite bathroom, except on Flores Island where we will be based in a farmstay for 2 nights.

Madeira

- Funchal, Madeira (6 nights): 4-star Vila Porto Mare – a resort hotel surrounded by tropical gardens and overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. The hotel is located 2.6km from the old town of Funchal. www.portobay.com

The Azores

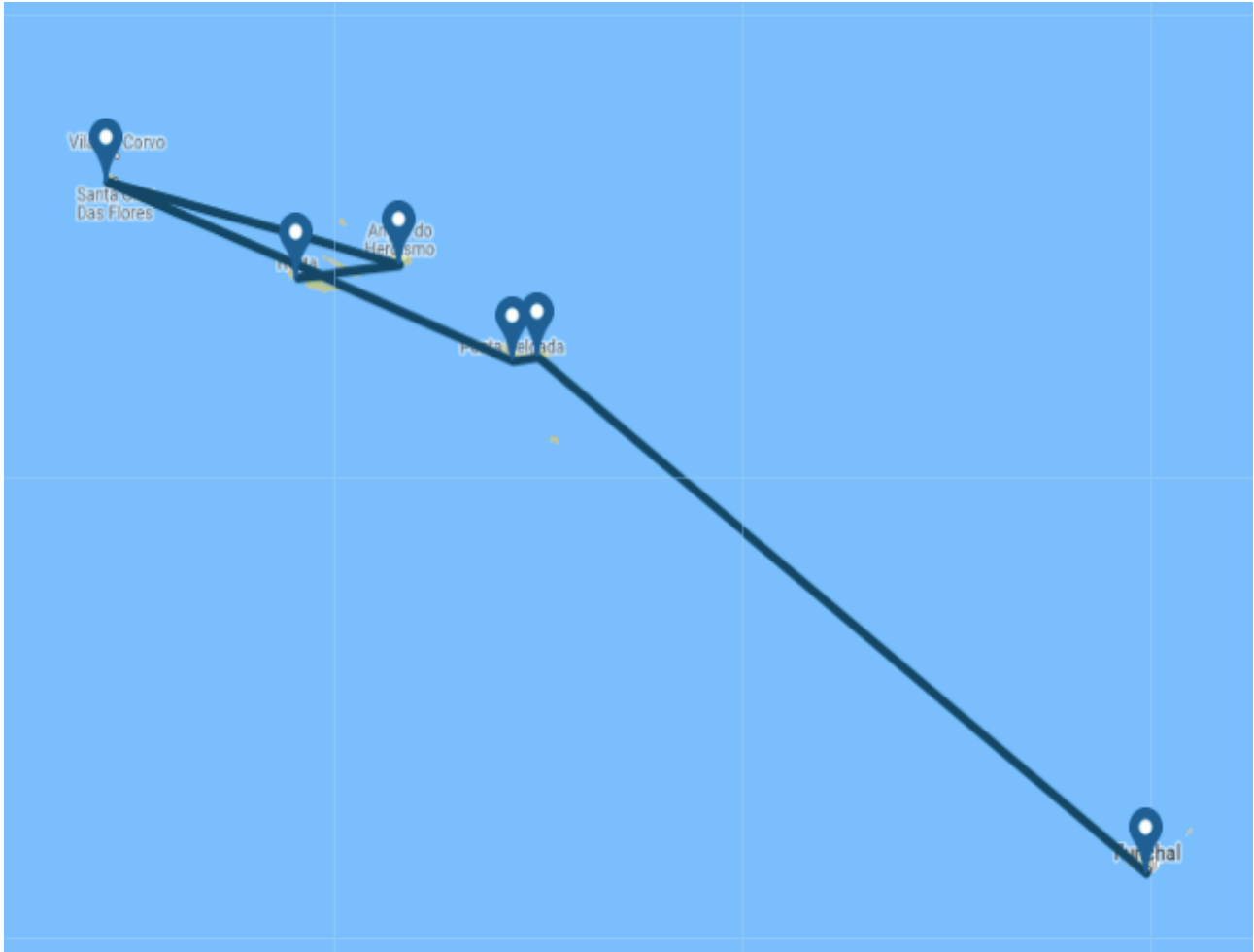
- Furnas, São Miguel (2 nights): 4-star Terra Nostra Garden Hotel – decorated in the Art Deco style, the hotel is located next to the Terra Nostra Botanical Park, surrounded by calderas, mineral and thermal springs. terranostra-gardenhotel.com
- Ponta Delgada, São Miguel (2 nights): 4-star Hotel Marina Atlântico – a modern hotel located in the town centre, overlooking the marina. www.bensaudehotels.com
- Faja Grande, Flores (2 nights): FARMSTAY Aldeia da Cueda – the abandoned 17th-century village of Cueda has been renovated and now offers accommodation in a range of small 1 - 3 bedroom stone houses. There is usually 1 or 2 bathrooms per house. aldeiadacuada.com
- Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira (2 nights): 4-star Azoris Angra Garden-Plaza Hotel – housed in a historic building, and located on the main square of the UNESCO world heritage town of Angra. www.azorishotels.com
- Horta, Faial (4 nights): 4-star Pousada Forte da Horta – housed in a 16th-century fortress overlooking Horta Bay and Pico Island and located 650m from the town centre. www.pousadas.pt

Note: *hotels are subject to change, in which case a hotel of similar standard will be provided.*

Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a single-occupancy room throughout the tour. In most hotels, this will be a double/twin room for single occupancy. The number of rooms available for single occupancy is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

Tour Map



Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$TBA Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 31 July 2020

AUD \$TBA Land Content Only

AUD \$TBA Single Supplement

For competitive Economy, Business or First Class airfares please contact ASA for further information.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with en suite bathroom in 4-star hotels, except in Flores where we are based in a farmstay.
- Lunches and evening meals indicated in the tour itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=dinner
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals include bottled water only.
- Airport-hotel transfers if travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach
- 4 internal flights: Madeira-São Miguel, São Miguel-Flores, Flores-Terceira, Terceira-Faial
- Return ferry excursion from Faial to Pico.
- 3-hour zodiac whale watching tour
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels. No porterage is available at the farmstay.
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Tour handbook
- Local guides
- Entrance fees
- Use of audio headsets during site visits
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia-Funchal, Horta-Australia
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers if not travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Visas (if applicable)



Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings 

The number of flags is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One flag is given to the least taxing tours, seven to the most. Flags are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. Nevertheless, all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion. Many sites are accessed by climbing slopes or steps and have uneven terrain.

This 19-day tour of Madeira and the Azores Archipelago involves:

Travel to Madeira in the month of June, when the weather is sunny and warm and the average temperature is in the mid-20s with only a few rainy days. Influenced by the Gulf Stream, the Azores islands enjoy a mild, breezy climate, with daytime temperatures rarely dipping below 14°C in winter or rising above 25°C. The sea temperature averages 17°C in spring and reaches 22°C in summer. Weather is particularly unpredictable in the Azores. Weather conditions depend on the part of the island where you are, as well as altitude and landscapes.

- The majority of sites visited are over rough or uneven ground and require reasonable fitness levels.
- The program includes six moderate nature walks ranging in length from 1.3 to 7.7kms. Refer to the itinerary for further details.
- 4-star hotels with five accommodation changes in all towns, except in Flores where we spend 2 nights at the Aldeia da Cueda farmstay.
- 4 internal flights: Madeira-São Miguel, São Miguel-Flores, Flores-Terceira, Terceira-Faial
- Return ferry excursion from Faial to Pico.
- 3-hour zodiac whale watching tour
- You must be able to carry your own hand luggage. Hotel portorage includes 1 piece of luggage per person.

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether this is a suitable tour for you.

Please note: it is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. For further information please refer to the ASA Reservation Application Form.

Practical Information

Bring a rain jacket no matter the forecast, a jumper/windcheater, proper waterproof walking shoes and hiking poles to help manage ascents/descents on trails, which can be slippery after heavy rain.

Bring binoculars for whale watching and birdwatching. Madeira and the Azores offer great birdwatching of rare endemic, American vagrant and Nearctic species. Near the islands of Faial and Pico, whales and dolphins can be seen at any time of year but in June we may also see migrations of baleen whales.

In Furnas, on the island of Saõ Miguel, enjoy the thermal pools with water temperature ranging between 35 to 40 degrees Celsius. Bring swimwear; it is highly recommended that you bring old or dark-coloured swimsuits, as they may be stained permanently by the iron-rich orange water.

Prior to departure, tour members will receive practical notes which include information on visa requirements, health, photography, weather, clothing and what to pack, custom regulations, bank hours, currency regulations, electrical appliances and food. The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website has advice for travellers: www.smartraveller.gov.au

Booking Conditions

Making a Tentative Reservation before the tour price has been published

ASA INTENTION TO TRAVEL APPLICATION FORM

Some ASA tours fill almost immediately. Don't miss out! You can register your 'Intention to Travel' by completing this application and returning this to ASA with a AUD \$100.00 per person deposit. Once the tour price has been published, the itinerary and ASA Reservation Application Form will be sent to you. From the time you receive the itinerary you will have two weeks to either:

- Send us a completed ASA Reservation Application Form together with an additional deposit of AUD \$400.00 per person. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation. At this time your deposit of AUD \$500.00 is subject to the tour's Booking Conditions.

Or

- CANCEL your Intention to Travel in writing. ASA will refund your AUD \$100.00 per person deposit,

less a \$33.00 service fee (including GST).

Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. ASA's ability to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs, your health and safety and the health and safety of other tour members, is of paramount importance to us. For this reason the ASA Reservation Application includes a Medical Information section. As a general guideline, you must be able to accomplish each of these activities without assistance or support:

- walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions
- walk confidently on and over uneven surfaces
- climb at least 3 flights of stairs
- embark and disembark from ferries, buses and trains
- walk up and down steep slopes
- walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15-20 minutes
- organise, manage and carry your own luggage
- follow and remember tour instructions
- meet punctually at designated times and places
- administer your own medication

Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation is for sole occupancy throughout the tour. The number of spaces available for single occupancy is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.



Intention to Travel Application

TOUR NAME _____

TOUR DATES _____

Booking before the tour price is available

Some ASA tours fill almost immediately. Don't miss out! You can register your 'Intention to Travel' by completing this application and returning this to ASA with a AUD\$100.00 per person deposit. Once the tour price has been published, the itinerary and ASA Reservation Application Form will be sent to you. From the time you receive the itinerary you will have two weeks to either:

- Send us a completed ASA Reservation Application Form together with an additional deposit of AUD\$400.00 per person. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation. At this time your deposit of \$500.00 AUD is subject to the tour's Booking Conditions.

OR

- Cancel your Intention to Travel in writing. ASA will refund your AUD\$100.00 per person deposit, less a \$33.00 service fee (including GST).

Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr Other _____

FIRST NAME _____ Preferred FIRST NAME _____

MIDDLE NAME _____ SURNAME _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ COUNTRY _____ POSTCODE _____

TEL. (AH) () _____ TEL. (BH) () _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

Date of birth ____ / ____ / ____ GENDER Male Female

Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like: a twin-bedded room a double-bedded room a room for sole occupancy

I am travelling: on my own with a friend/family member Travel Companion _____

Meals

I do not have any specific dietary requests

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

fish poultry red meat dairy products

eggs pork nuts

Other _____

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence Postal Mail Email Address _____

Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour.

ASA's ability to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs, your health and safety and the health and safety of other tour members, is of paramount importance to us. For this reason the ASA Reservation Application includes a Medical Information section.

As a general guideline, you must be able to accomplish each of these activities *without assistance or support*:-

- walk & stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions
- walk confidently on and over uneven surfaces
- climb at least 3 flights of stairs
- embark and disembark from ferries, buses and trains
- walk up and down steep slopes
- walk at a steady pace and no less than 1 km every 15 - 20 minutes
- organise, manage and carry your own luggage
- follow and remember tour instructions
- meet punctually at designated times and places
- administer your own medication.

Applicant's Signature _____

Dated _____

Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1 _____

Name of Traveller 2 _____

I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$ _____ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

Payment by (please indicate): Cheque Direct Debit (see below) Credit Card (see below)

International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate
- via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg. Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

Australians Studying Abroad bank details

Bank ANZ
 Branch 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic
 Swift Code ANZBAU3M
 BSB 013-423
 Account No 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. _____

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

Date Money Transferred

Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard & Visa 2%
 American Express 2%

Please debit my: Mastercard Visa American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number

Expiry Date _____ Security Code (CVC) _____

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ)

Cardholders Name

Cardholders Billing Address

Postcode

State _____ Country _____

Phone

Email

Cardholders Signature
