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Natural Landscapes and Gardens of Madeira and the Azores 2026

16 MAY – 3 JUN 2026 *Code: 22615*

Tour Leaders Stephen Ryan, Craig Lidgerwood

Fitness Level

Level 3 - Challenging
Among our most physically demanding

Explore Madeira and the volcanic archipelago of the Azores which are a geological hotspot supporting a wealth of flora and fauna including over 25 species of whales and dolphins.

Overview

Accompanied by Stephen Ryan, horticulturalist, nursery man, collector, prolific garden writer and award-winning broadcaster, explore the natural flora and fauna of Madeira and Azores, both archipelagos of Portugal. Stephen will be assisted by botanical artist Craig Lidgerwood.

- Visit subtropical Madeira and five volcanic islands from the three geographical groups of the Azores: São Miguel (Eastern), Terceira, Faial & Pico (Central) & Flores (Western).
- Spend 6 nights in Funchal, 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 *Levadas and Footpaths of Madeira*, to learn about the conservation and recovery of the Laurisilva forest.
- On São Miguel view the volcanic caldera, Lagoa das Sete Cidades, consisting of the Green and Blue lagoons; and the volcanic complex of Furnas including the verdant Parque Terra Nostra with bubbling *fumaroles*. By special appointment, visit the spectacular contemporary clifftop garden, designed by Belgian landscape architect Erik Dhont.
- On Terceira visit the UNESCO World Heritage port town of Angra do Heroísmo featuring a formidable 16th-century fortress and the 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.
- 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.
- The program includes four moderate nature walks ranging in length from 1.3 to 7.7kms.

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

The Island of Madeira & The Azores – presented by Stephen Ryan who led this ASA tour in 2024

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4Im_TTfcNI

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itoCpMoxBQA

Testimonials

This tour is a must for anyone interested in the flora of Australia. The trip was well organised, and we were well looked after by our guides. We had wonderful meals, saw amazing sights, and enjoyed every minute. My only advice? Go soon because climate change is going to affect the flora and fauna of this area. Joan and Peter, NZ

Leaders

Stephen Ryan

Horticulturalist, nurseryman, collector, prolific writer and award-winning broadcaster. Stephen brings his profound knowledge to ASA garden tours in France, Morocco, Madagascar, Spain, Chile, New Zealand and Western Australia.

Stephen Ryan runs his own nationally recognised nursery Dicksonia Rare Plants. He has a regular radio slot with Melbourne's 3CR station. In 2002 he was awarded a Radio Laurel by the Horticultural Media Association for his segments on ABC Radio 774 3LO. Stephen is well known for his role for three years as host on ABC Television's *Gardening Australia*. As a plant hunter and traveller he has travelled to many places in the world such as Namibia, India, Oregon, England, Ireland, South Africa, Peru, New Guinea, France and Argentina. He has also led tours to Madagascar, Morocco and France. He has published three books on rare plants that have received rave reviews and his manual contains over 2000 plant entries of rare plants available in temperate Australia. He also contributed to the two large tomes produced in Australia *Botanica* and more recently *Flora*. In 2001 the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria recognised Stephen with a John Pascoe Fawkner Gold Medal for "Distinguished Service to Horticulture". Stephen is now writing for a New Zealand magazine *Weekend Gardener*, and has started writing another book, which will be on the development of his own garden, 'Tugurium'. Stephen first joined ASA as a lecturer in 2009.

Craig Lidgerwood

Accomplished Botanical artist who exhibits widely, Craig leads garden tours with Stephen Ryan, whose 'Dicksonia Rare Plants Manual' he illustrated. Craig joined ASA in 2009 and co-leads tours to France, Spain, Madeira & the Azores and New Zealand.

Craig has travelled extensively recording, photographing and drawing plants in their natural habitat. In 2008 he illustrated Stephen Ryan's book, the *Dicksonia Rare Plants Manual* and in 2010 Craig and his artwork were featured on ABC television's Sunday arts program, *Art Nation*. Exhibitions include *The Art of Botanical Illustration* 2010 & 2012, Melbourne Botanic Gardens, *Botanica* 2012 & 2013, Sydney Botanic Gardens, *Capturing Flora: 300 years of Australian botanical art*, a major retrospective at the Ballarat Art Gallery (2012), and also in 2012 Craig's first solo exhibition, *An Inquisitive Eye: the Botanical Art of Craig Lidgerwood* was held in Melbourne. In 2020 he was invited to exhibit his work at the 16th International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration at the Hunt Institute for Botanical Illustration, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

Combine this tour with

Türkiye: The Ages of Anatolia 2026
24 APR – 14 MAY 2026

Iceland, Land of Ice and Fire: Myths, Legends & Landscapes 2026
13 JUN – 30 JUN 2026

Itinerary

This 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. Internal flight schedules are subject to change.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 four moderate nature walks ranging in length from 1.3 to 7.7kms.

Funchal, Madeira - 6 nights

Day 1: Saturday 16 May, Arrive Madeira

- Tour commences at 6.00pm in the foyer of the Hotel Turim Santa Maria
- Welcome Meeting in the gardens bar
- Dinner at the hotel

The tour commences at 6.00pm in the foyer of the Hotel Turim Santa Maria in Funchal. We begin with a short welcome meeting in the garden bar. We will then enjoy a dinner served in the hotel's restaurant. (Overnight Funchal, Madeira) D

Day 2: Sunday 17 May, Madeira: Funchal

- *Levada do Caniçao* (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 from the village of Camacha to Caniçao. *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 valley.

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 18 May, Madeira: Funchal

- Quinta da Boa Vista Orchid Gardens
- Quinta Bom do Sucesso (Madeira Botanical Garden)
- Botanical Garden Cable Car to Monte Parish
- Monte Palace Tropical Gardens

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. (Overnight Funchal, Madeira) BL

Day 4: Tuesday 19 May, 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
- Municipal Garden of Funchal & Wine-tasting at Blandy's Wine Lodge

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. 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) B

Day 5: Wednesday 20 May, Madeira: Funchal – Ribeiro Frio – Santana – Funchal

- Santa da Serra Environmental Education Camp with Raimundo Quintal
- Ribeiro Frio Levada trail to the Vereda dos Balcões (c. 3kms, c. 1hr, rated: easy)
- Thatched Houses of Santana
- Lunch at Quinta do Furão

We start the day with a visit to 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 studying the Laurisilva reforestation program with Raimundo, 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 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 take a scenic drive along the Northern Coast and return to Funchal. (Overnight Funchal, Madeira) BL

Day 6: Thursday 21 May, Madeira: Funchal – Curral das Freiras – Câmara de Lobos – Funchal

- Eira do Serrado viewpoint
- Curral das Freiras (Valley of Nuns)
- Lunch in Câmara de Lobos

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. (Overnight Funchal, Madeira) BL

Ponta Delgada, São Miguel Island, Azores - 2 nights

Day 7: Friday 22 May, Madeira – Ponta Delgada (São Miguel)

- Fly Madeira to São Miguel
- Ponta Delgada Walking tour incl. harbour, Igreja São Sebastião

This morning we transfer to Madeira airport to fly to São Miguel, the largest and most populous island in the Azores archipelago.

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 km^2 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.

On arrival in São Miguel, we explore 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 afternoon we take a walking tour of Ponta Delgada visiting the port's harbour. We also visit Ponta Delgada's main church, the Igreja São Sebastião (Church of Saint Sebastion). Constructed between 1531 and 1547, the church combines Gothic, Manueline (Portuguese Renaissance) and Baroque elements.
(Overnight Ponta Delgada, São Miguel) B

Day 8: Saturday 23 May, São Miguel: Ponta Delgada – Caloura – Ponta Delgada

- Jardim Botânico António Borges, Ponta Delgada
- Private garden designed by Erik Dhont, Caloura *(by special appointment)*
- Special lecture with local volcanologist Adriano Henrique Gonçalves Pimentel

This morning, we visit the botanical garden of António Borges. In the region of Ponta Delgada, where the António Borges garden is located, the soil and the climate conditions have made possible the botanical acclimatisation of fascinating ornamental species, from very distant origins, mostly from the low latitudes and Southern Hemisphere.

After lunch, we travel to Caloura to visit a private garden recently designed by Belgian landscape architect Erik Dhont. The garden (which used to be a vineyard) is located on a cliff surrounded by sea on all sides. Scattered throughout the terrain are several themed gardens such as a pleasure garden with a vast collection of proteas flowers, a jungle garden which evokes the botanical abundance of tropical vegetation, an ornamental kitchen garden and a 'sea garden' with, among others, bromeliads, agaves, and agapanthus. There is also a new vineyard which pays homage to the history of the place.

We return to Ponta Delgada and 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

Furnas, São Miguel Island, Azores - 2 nights

Day 9: Sunday 24 May, São Miguel: Ponta Delgada – Caldeira das Sete Cidades – Ribeira – Grande Furnas

- Scenic drive stopping at Vista do Rei, Caldeira das Sete Cidades, the *miradouro* of Cerrado das Freira, Visa do Rei, Carvao & Lagoa do Canário
- Arquipelago Contemporary Arts Centre, Ribeira Grande
- Restaurant Alabote, Ribeira Grande
- Ribeira Grande walking tour
- Miradouro do Pico do Ferro
- Gorreana Tea Plantation
- Geothermal pools, Lake Furnas

This morning, we depart from Ponta Delgada travelling northwest stopping at the *miradouro* (viewpoints) of Cerrado das Freira, Visa do Rei, Carvao & Lagoa do Canário.

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.

We stop along the trail which 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.

Then we travel east to Ribeira Grande, where we visit the Arquipelago Contemporary Arts Centre, a liquor factory turned into a stunning contemporary art centre. We enjoy lunch at Restaurant Alabote, with stunning views over the ocean. Then we take a walking tour of the town including the landmark bridge of eight arches and gardens.

Our next 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 travel south-east, making a brief stop at the Miradouro do Pico do Ferro for fine views over Lagoa das Furnas. We arrive at 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) BLD

Day 10: Monday 25 May, 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 collections 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. W 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 again in the hotel's thermal waters. Tonight, we enjoy dinner at Terra Nostra Restaurant. (Overnight Furnas, São Miguel) BLD

Flores Island, Azores - 2 nights

Day 11: Tuesday 26 May, Furnas – Ponta Delgada, São Miguel Island – Flores Island

- José do Canto Botanical Garden, UNESCO World Heritage garden, Ponta Delgada
- Fly São Miguel to Flores
- Dinner Pôr-do Sol, Fajãzinha village

This morning we return to Ponta Delgada and 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).

Then we fly from São Miguel Island to Flores Island.

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.

For the next two nights we stay at Aldeia da Cuada. Tonight, we enjoy a group dinner at Restaurant Pôr-do Sol, in the village of Fajãzinha. (Overnight Farmstay: Aldeia da Cuada, Flores) BD

Day 12: Wednesday 27 May, 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 28 May, Flores – Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira

- Poça da Ribeira do Ferreiro Waterfall Trail (c. 1.3km, uphill walk, rated: moderate)
- Fly Flores to Terceira

This morning 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.

This afternoon we fly to the island of Terceira. Terceira (pop. 56,000) is one of the larger islands (396.75 km^2) 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 (*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.

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. (Overnight Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira) BL

Day 14: Friday 29 May, Terceira: Angra do Heroísmo – Boscoitos – Algar do Carvão – Angra do Heroísmo

- Scenic route to Boscoitos
- Algar de Carvão Reserve (Volcanic cone incl. 300 steps, duration: 90 min)

This morning 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.

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. (Overnight Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira) BL

Horta, Faial Island, Azores - 4 nights

Day 15: Saturday 30 May, Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira – Horta, Faial Island

- Walking tour of Angra do Heroísmo UNESCO World Heritage town
- Palácio dos Capitães-Generais: Guided tour of Palace & Gardens
- Miradouro da Serra do Cume
- Fly Terceira to Faial

This morning we do a guided walk through Angra do Heroísmo. 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 then enjoy a guided tour of the impressive Palácio dos Capitães-Generais (Palace of the Captians 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. We finish the morning program at the Museum of Angra do Heroísmo. Since the 60s the town's museum has been housed in the Convento de São Francisco, which dates to the 17th century and has a cloister and church of serious scale. It takes you through the Azores and Portuguese colonial history.

Mid-afternoon, 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 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 km^2 and formed along a transform fault with significant volcanic activity extending from the mid-Atlantic Ridge to the Hirondelle 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 31 May, Faial Island: Horta

- Whale & Dolphin Watching expedition by zodiac (3hrs)
- Afternoon at leisure
- Cory's Shearwater night visit

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. 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) B

Day 17: Monday 1 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 km^2), 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 follow a boardwalk over the vineyards. We will have lunch in a local restaurant. We also enjoy some wine at 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. In the late afternoon, we return to Faial. (Overnight Horta, Faial) BL

Day 18: Tuesday 2 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
- Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant

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.

Tonight we enjoy a farewell group dinner at a local restaurant. (Overnight Horta, Faial) BLD

Day 19: Wednesday 3 June, Faial Island: Horta – Lisbon

- Late afternoon flight from Horta to Lisbon

This afternoon we fly from Horta to Lisbon where our tour ends mid-evening. B

Accommodation

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.

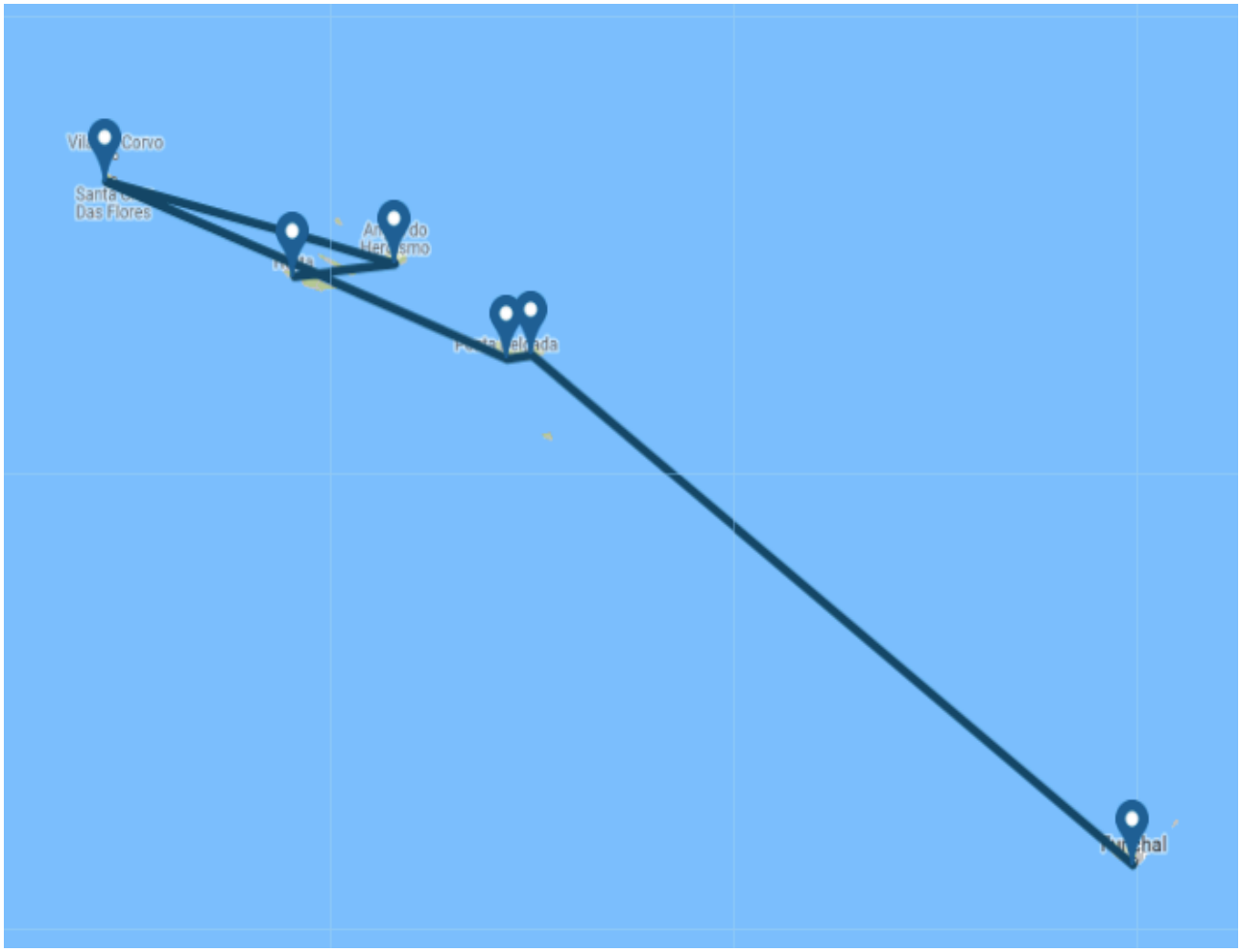
- Funchal, Madeira (6 nights): 4-star Turim Santa Maria – a new hotel located in the centre of the old town of Funchal.
- Ponta Delgada, São Miguel (2 nights): 4-star Azoris Royal Garden – a modern hotel located in the town centre, overlooking a Zen garden.
- Furnas, São Miguel (2 nights): 4-star Terra 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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 $ 13,190.00 Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 30 June 2025

AUD $ 14,090.00 Land Content Only

AUD $ 3080.00 Single Supplement

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.
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach
- 5 internal flights: Madeira-São Miguel, São Miguel-Flores, Flores-Terceira, Terceira-Faial, Faial-Lisbon
- 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 in Funchal.
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Tour notes
- 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, Lisbon-Australia
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Visas (if applicable)

Fitness Criteria & Practical Information

Fitness Level

Level 3 - Challenging

Among our most physically demanding

You must be able to:

- manage at least five to seven hours of physical activity per day with ease.
- walk at a regular to moderate pace. These islands are volcanic: the majority of walks include rocky and uneven terrain, several with steep inclines. The program includes four moderate nature walks ranging in length from 1.3 to 7.7km.
- keep up with the group at all times.
- climb several flights of stairs without duress.
- cope with a demanding tour schedule including some long travel days, regular early morning starts and 5 internal flights.
- contend with a shower over a bath; walk-in showers may not be available at all hotels.
- manage your own luggage at some hotels.

Fitness Levels
Please also view the fitness criteria required for our tours, graded from Level 1 to Level 3, at www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/

All ASA tours are active programs suitable for people with a good level of mental and physical fitness and good mobility. They are not suitable for people who lack stamina, have difficulty walking at the group's pace or who have mobility issues. An unavoidable aspect of every tour is the need to manage walking, stair-climbing and standing for long periods of time.

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. Before enrolling on an ASA tour please read the fitness requirements carefully.

Weather: Madeira and the Azores Archipelago

Travel to Madeira in late May/early 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.

To include in your packing list

- 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.

Booking Conditions

ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD $1000.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.

Reservation Application

TOUR NAME _____

TOUR DATES _____

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

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 ☐

Passport

Number _____ Expiry date / / _____ Nationality _____

☐ Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed ☐ I'm renewing my passport ☐ ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

Covid Certificate

☐ A copy of my current international certificate enclosed

Travel Plans

☐ I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date / / _____

☐ I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.

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

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

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

☐ fish ☐ poultry ☐ red meat ☐ dairy products

☐ eggs ☐ pork ☐ nuts

☐ Other _____

Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence ☐ Postal Mail ☐ Email Address _____

Emergency Contact Details

Note: this person MUST be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA

Name _____ Relationship to Traveller _____

Address _____

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

EMAIL address _____

Medical Information

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at **www.asatours.com.au**
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. www.traveldoctor.com.au tel:1300 658 444; www.travelvax.com.au tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

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. **You must also be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.** 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. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

	YES	NO
1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions?	◯	◯
2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces?	◯	◯
3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted?	◯	◯
4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted?	◯	◯
5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage?	◯	◯
6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places?	◯	◯
7. Can you administer your own medication?	◯	◯
8. You do NOT have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour?	◯	◯

Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

	YES	NO
1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program?	◯	◯

If yes, please specify

_____

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

_____

Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

	YES	NO
1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances?	◯	◯

If yes, please specify

_____

_____

2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything?	◯	◯

If yes, please specify

_____

_____

Do you carry an epipen?	◯	◯
3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs?	◯	◯

If yes, please specify

_____

_____

Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

	YES	NO
1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour?	◯	◯

If yes, please specify

_____

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

_____

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine?	◯	◯

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

Diabetics: You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

3. Are you diabetic?	◯	◯
Are you insulin dependent?	◯	◯
4. Do you suffer from travel sickness? Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.	◯	◯

Declaration, Liability and Booking Conditions

Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept the inherent dangers, risks and uncertainties in travel and those beyond ASA's control and understand they may occur before or during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but only for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services associated with the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of booking, preparing for, travelling to, on and from or cancelling any tour.

I release and indemnify ASA with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour;
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
   a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
   b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
   c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally; and
   d. any event or happening beyond ASA's control
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of any tour, part of a tour or of my continued participation on a tour for any reason (subject to ASA's refund conditions below).

Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products, services, terms and conditions. If a service provider cancels or does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, and does not give a refund, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (e.g. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, border closures, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any tour service provider or authority however caused (contingencies). You must take out such travel insurance as is available against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour cancelled or changed will be limited to the partial refund of amounts you have paid, less an administration fee of $500 and other costs and charges of third party service providers. No compensation will be payable to you by ASA where ASA cancels or changes a tour, or any part of a tour.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate and in the best interests of health, safety and wellbeing of tour participants. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

Booking Conditions

DEPOSITS

A non-refundable deposit of $1000.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

CANCELLATION FEES

If you cancel your booking the following charges apply:

More than 75 days before departure: your initial deposit of $1000.00 is non-refundable.**

75-31 days prior 50% of total amount due

30-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

**$500.00 of this amount (ie 50% of your deposit) may be credited to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.

We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.

UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions or services of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW

☐ I accept the conditions on this booking form

☐ I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature

Print Full Name Dated

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

Payment Form

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

The above amount is payable for:

- ☐ Intention to Travel
- ☐ Tour Deposit
- ☐ Balance of Payment
- ☐ Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit
- ☐ Travel Insurance
- ☐ Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation) _____

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 & 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 _____

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