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most natural, right in the heart of the Atlantic. 9 naturally surprising islands, with hotels and restaurants in complete harmony with the environment. The no. 1 archipelago in sustainability awaits you. Know more National Geographic Know more Diário de Noticias Know more When you first look through the airplane window and down at
the Azores, you might think you're in the South Pacific. Just a quick glimpse will explain why so many call this Portuguese archipelago the "Hawaii of Europe" and the "Islands of Colors." Set in the middle of the Atlantic halfway between the USA and continental Portugal, the nine major Azores islands - São Miguel, Santa Maria, Terceira, Graciosa, São
Jorge, Pico, Faial, Flores and Corvo - are impossible not to adore. Expect green fields spotted with free-roaming local cattle (referred to locally as "happy cows"), and lagoons in extinct volcanoes. Thermal pools offer the chance for a hot dip (the warmth coming from deep within the earth), while ultra-fresh ingredients make for uniquely savory local
cuisine. A trip to the Azores is simply a must-do for savvy travelers - and one you'll never forget. If you've never been before, read on. Then get planning. Advertisement Ribeira Quente beach in São Miguel, the Azores. Andriy R/Shutterstock When should I go to the Azores? Since the Azores are a year-round destination, your key considerations will be
what you want to do, and your budget. The summer brings many visitors from the mainland, who arrive to soak up the scenery or visit relatives, making this a busier and more expensive season. The scene is more relaxed and cheaper in the middle
of the ocean and are more exposed to the winter storms that form in the Atlantic - which often affects flights (and your plans!). Whenever you visit, prepare to face all four seasons in one day. You can wake up with sunshine and warm weather, only to take a hike up a mountain to find plunging temperatures, lashing rain and minimal visibility. Don't
leave without packing a waterproof layer, and have it in your backpack at all times. In the summer, temperatures range from about 53-64°F (12-18°C), and during winter from about 53-64°F (12-18°C), and during winter from about 53-64°F (12-18°C).
widely. Is it easy to get to the Azores? São Miguel is the largest island in the Azores and works as a hub to reach the other eight. The Ponta Delgada airport receives international flights from the United States and Canada as well as a number of European countries; transatlantic flights also serve Terceira. If you can't find a nonstop flight, the easiest
way to get to the Azores is via Lisbon or Porto, on Portugal's mainland. From São Miguel, you can get internal flights with the local airline SATA to every island in the Azores. You can also opt for SATA's Azores Air Pass, which allows travelers to visit up to three islands at a special rate. Another way to get around is by ferry: Atlanticoline serves
Terceira, Graciosa, São Jorge, Pico, Faial, Flores and Corvo. Be advised that your plane or boat legs may change, as the departure schedule can be disrupted by air and ocean conditions. Being flexible with your itinerary is a good idea if you plan to visit more than one island in the Azores, especially in wintertime. Driving in the Azores. The roads are
especially lovely in summer, when the hydrangea bushes bloom. Vitor Miranda/Shutterstock Is it easy to get around the Azores?Renting a car is the best way to explore these beautiful islands. With so much to see and do, having the most of your
trip. Plus, renting a car allows you to easily get around the larger islands, such as São Miguel (287 sq miles / 343 sq km), Pico (172 sq miles / 445 sq km) or Terceira (154 sq miles / 399 sq km). You can even take your rented car on the ferry between some of the islands, including the Pico-Faial-São Jorge triangle. Public buses are also available on all
 islands except Corvo.Once you reach your desired destination, get out and explore on foot - for the views in these islands never disappoint. Walk the dirt paths, immerse yourself in nature and be amazed by the sounds of the birds and running waterfalls, and the smell of flowers and wet vegetation. Advertisement Whale-watching of the coast of São
Miguel, the Azores. Marek Pelikan/Shutterstock How much time should I spend in the Azores? It all depends on what you want to do. São Miguel is a great option for first-time visitors, with its wide range of activities, landscapes, and great restaurant and accommodation options. Five days should be enough time for a thorough introduction. But if you
want to get a true sense of the richness of the Azores, set aside two to three weeks to hop between islands and get to know what distinguishes each one - and why the archipelago is truly one of the most exceptional destinations in Europe. Top things to do in the Azores A hiker in the Sete Cidades volcanic crater in São Miguel, the Azores.
EyesTravelling/Shutterstock Hike for daysIf you want to immerse yourself in nature and experience the rawness of gorgeous landscapes, you're in luck. All the islands have hiking trails that cascade from the top of the mountains. On the island of
the same name, Mt Pico is another must-see place in the Azores. As the highest point in Portugal, it's a challenging climb. But the unforgettable view from the top on a clear day is well worth the effort. While in Pico, visit the local vineyards that are part of a landscape that's been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. Gaze out at the ocean as you
enjoy a glass of wine: you might spot a pod of playful dolphins or even giant whales. Left: Removing pots of "cozido das furnas" - which get cooked in the ground by the heat of volcanoes have shaped the islands'
landscape and history You'll know you're atop a cluster of volcanoes when you see the dark-gray stone used in the black sand on the beaches. When visiting São Miguel, you can even feel the volcanic activity on your very skin: the water at iron-rich thermal springs is warmed by heat emanating from the island's inner depths. The
same heat cooks the traditional cozido dos Açores (Azorean stew) in the Furnas area, where chefs place vegetables and meat in the earth for up to seven hours, before it emerges steaming hot and with a sulfur-y kick. Terceira and São Jorge have natural pools that are carved in stone by the rough Atlantic and simultaneously heated by the volcanic
rock.In Faial, the underwater Vulcão dos Capelinhos erupted in the 1950s - an event that caused half the island's population to flee. An interpretative center near the site of the eruption gives context on the ongoing volcanic activity in and around the islands. The delightful Gorreana Tea Factory is one of the most popular stops on tours of São Miguel
© Damian Lugowski / Shutterstock Combine a whale-watching trip with a visit to a tea factory Exploring outdoors is far from the only activity in the Azores. On São Miguel, you can join a whale-watching trip with a visit to a tea factory, the oldest
(and arguably only) tea plantation in Europe. Staff members offer free tours of the factory and museum, which feature plenty of vintage machinery (some still in use); toast to your visit with a cup at the end of the tour. The fajãs of São Jorge are a challenge to get to - and that's the whole point. Eefje Verbeek/iStock/Getty Images My favorite thing to
do in the AzoresIf your goal is to escape and disconnect from the world, you'll find that tranquility in the Azorean fajãs, small coastal villages next to large cliffs. I recommend the difficult-to-access but enchanting Fajã da Caldeira de Santo Cristo in São Jorge. You can get there on foot by following the Caldeira de Santo Cristo Trail, which starts in
Serra do Topo. The descent gradually reveals the small town, its houses, the church and the large lagoon stretching near the sea. You can also arrive by quad bike, starting from Fajã dos Cubres; pre-arrange the trip with your accommodation. Once in Fajã de Santo Cristo, cell phone and internet connections are almost non-existent, leaving no choice
but to unplug and slow down. This is the ideal place to relax, catch up on your reading, discover the lagoon by kayak or taste the clams served at O Borges, the oldest restaurant in this location. How much money do I need in the Azores? The Azores? The Azores? The Azores? The Azores is a destination for all types of travelers, with everything from five-star hotels to local homestays. You
can find lodging, food options and island tours to suit all budgets. Your car rental will likely be your biggest expense, especially if you are traveling in high season; try to plan ahead and make your reservations as soon as possible. These are the average daily costs you can expect: Four-star hotel room for two: from £150 (US$158)Dormitory room in a
hostel: from €45 (US$47)Self-catering apartment: from €35 (US$1.50)Coffee: €1 (US$1.50)Entrance to hot springs: €8 (US$31.50)Entrance to hot springs: €8 (US$8.40) Take care as you immerse yourself in the Azores' stunning landscapes. IKO-studio/Shutterstock What to pack
when visiting the AzoresGiven the variable weather and outdoor-adventure possibilities in the Azores, we recommend bringing a light rain jacket, a breathable fleece layer you can take on and off on the go, and waterproof trekking boots and poles. You'll want a good backpack to carry all this with you as you get out and about in this magical
archipelago. Remember to interact with nature safely Exploring the various volcanic craters and lagoons hidden in the islands' interiors provides one of the Azores' most memorable experiences. Keep in mind that these extraordinary natural ecosystems should be approached with great care. Respect the local landscape by visiting in a way that doesn't
disturb the animals or damage any plants; the easiest way to do this is by sticking to marked trails. Many are there to protect vegetation and prevent soil erosion, but also for your safety, as they avoid unstable or slippery ground. Also, as much as the lagoons seem like the perfect opportunity for a cooling dip, most are unsuitable for bathing or
swimming for safety reasons. Always follow the safety signs displayed at each lagoon. Finally, be aware that weather conditions can change from one moment to the next, especially in higher areas. Check the forecast before venturing out on a long trail to ensure you're not caught in a precarious position mid-hike. And never forget that waterproof
layer. Between Lisbon and New York lies an archipelago called the Azores, made up of 9 islands. The Azores are a part of Portuguese call the "mainland". Millions from all around the globe travel to the Azores every year to discover the beautiful landscapes and unique cultural heritage of each
island. While visiting every island would make the perfect long vacation, many online have time to visit a few. To figure out which one best fits your budget and taste, you need to learn a bit about what makes each island special. You are in luck, as we have a travel guide for every island of the Azores: CorvoFaialFloresGraciosaPicoSanta MariaSão
JorgeSão MiguelTerceiraSee Tours & Activities in the AzoresThe 9 Azorean IslandsIf you are short on time and cannot look through each quide at the moment, take a look at an overview of each Azorean islandsIf you are short on time and cannot look through each quide at the moment, take a look at an overview of each Azorean islandsIf you are short on time and cannot look through each quide at the moment, take a look at an overview of each Azorean islandsIf you are short on time and cannot look through each quide at the moment, take a look at an overview of each Azorean islandsIf you are short on time and cannot look through each quide at the moment, take a look at an overview of each Azorean islandsIf you are short on time and cannot look through each quide at the moment, take a look at an overview of each Azorean islandsIf you are short on time and cannot look through each quide at the moment, take a look at an overview of each Azorean islandsIf you are short on time and cannot look through each quide at the moment, take a look at an overview of each Azorean islandsIf you are short on the each Azorean islan
provides an isolated getaway with astonishing green landscapes, narrow streets with black stone, and sea views. Together with Flores, a few kilometers away, Corvo is considered a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. The top activities in Corvo are bird watching, swimming in natural pools and beaches, as well as visiting the 300-meter
deep volcanic crater. Photo by Gabriela Mendes (Unsplash)2. Faial, AzoresThis 67 square mile island is home to 15,000 locals and is the westernmost point of Europe. Faial is nicknamed the Blue Island because of the hydrangeas in different shades of blue that span the landscapes of the island. Located 4.5 miles from Pico and 11 miles from São
Jorge, Faial is a cosmopolitan island that still features activities for nature lovers. From hiking the 400-meter deep volcanic crater, exploring the city center of Horta, and visiting the Capelinos, a volcano that erupted in 1958, this island has so much to offer. Photo by Dan DeAlmeida (Unsplash)3. Flores, AzoresLess than 4,000 people live on this island
making it a quaint destination to experience the Azorean way of life. The island's name, Flores, translates to "flowers" because, during the summer, it is covered with thousands of blue and pink hydrangeas, as well as yellow goldenrods. These cover the sides of the roads that cross the green landscapes. Flores offers an astonishing landscape of green
rolling hills and blue lakes, waterfalls, and sea views. Flores might not be the island that every tourist visits when traveling to the Azores, but this is also what makes it so special. Flores has some of the best natural pools in Santa Cruz das Flores and is known for the seven lakes, blue and green lakes that span the volcanic crater. Photo by Kévin et
Laurianne Langlais (Unsplash)4. Graciosa, AzoresGraciosa, AzoresGraciosa, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve has a unique landscape and a strong architectural heritage that makes it a top Azorean island to discover. Graciosa is 12.5 KM in length and has around 4,000 inhabitants. Part of the Central Groups of the Azores Archipelago, its closest neighbor is São
Jorge, making it a great spot for island hopping. The nickname for this island, the White Island, comes from the white characteristics of Graciosa are swimming in the iconic thermal baths and visiting the Caldeira da Graciosa, a large crater
that is classified as a Regional Natural Monument. Photo by Vita Marija Murenaite (Unsplash)5. Pico, AzoresThe Hawaii of Portugal, Pico is home to Portugal, Pico is the most recently formed island of the Azores at only 300,000 years old. Pico island is 46 kilometers long
and is filled with exotic vegetation and astonishing sea views. Pico is known as the Ilha Preta ("Black Island") because of its black volcanic soils which nourish the UNESCO-designated vineyards. Pico has ever since been leading a
movement of fair treatment study of whales, as well as other sea animals. It is one of the world for whale-watching, as well as hiking and wine tasting. Photo by Giuseppe Bandiera (Unsplash6. Santa Maria, AzoresSanta Maria is one of the warmest and driest islands in the archipelago, as this island is the most southern of the Azores
The island of Santa Maria is the home of 6,000 Azoreans and is around 96.87 km<sup>2</sup>. Along with São Miguel 81 KM away, Santa Maria is part of the Eastern Group of the Azores. Santa Maria is unique from the other islands, with yellow beaches and even a "red desert". From exploring the town center Vila do Porto and swimming in some of the best
natural pools in the Azores, Santa Maria is an island to not miss. Photo by Rodrigo Ramos (Unsplash)7. São Jorge, AzoresSão Jorge is a volcanic island that features astonishing views of Pico and Faial island. The island is known for its beautiful contrasting views of a green landscape and dark blue ocean. Around 9,000 people live on the island that
spans 243.9 sq. km. A part of the "triangle islands" with Faial and Pico, this island features fajas that make up quaint villages and natural pools. We recommend visiting the coffee plantation, the only one in Europe, as well as the most famous island in the Azores and is
the most populated island of the Azores with 140,000 inhabitants. 45,000 people reside in Ponta Delgada, the island is part of the Eastern Group of the Archipelago with the island of Santa Maria that is 80 kilometers away. From the São Miguel iconic pineapple plantations to the cozido das furnas, the island has a rich culture
and Azorean cuisine. The island has so much to offer. From diving, hiking, surfing, and biking, São Miguel is great for the whole familyPhoto by João Reguengos (Unsplash)9. Terceira, AzoresThe name Terceira means "third", as this island was the third to be discovered in the Azores in the 15th century. It is the second most inhabited island of the
Azores, with around 60,000 people living there. The island's beauty is a consequence of the contrast between the natural landscapes of the volcanic island and the human-built historic center. You must visit the capital of the island, Angra do Heroísmo. It was founded in 1534 and was the first place in the Azores to be classified as a city. It was made a
World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1983. There is so much to experience on this island, from water sports to visiting an extinct volcano called Algar do Carvão. Terceira island is nicknamed "the festive island" because it's known for its local festivals that are full of life and represent Azorean culture. Visiting during these festivities is a great
option. Azores: When to Go & Weather Azores Weather in January Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (52°F) Low temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (52°F) Low temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (52°F) Low temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (52°F) Low temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather in February Average temperature 12°C (54°F) Rainfall days 17 days Azores Weather 12°C (54°F) Rainfall
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(66.6°F)High temperature 22°C (71°F)Low temperature 16°C (62.3°F)High temperature 16°C (62.3°F)High temperature 15.4°C (63.5°F)High temperature 18°C (64°F)Low temperature 15.4°C (62.3°F)High temperature 15.4°C (63.5°F)High temperature 15.4°C (63.5°F)High
temperature 13°C (55°F)Rainfall days 18 daysThe best times to travel to the Azores are between May and September. Temperatures are the most moderate at this time, rarely get theat waves in summer or cold waves in winter so you can also travel
boho-chic style. SENSI features an indoor and outdoor pool, a garden, and a spa. Ponta Delgada is a 30-minute drive away, which is not uncommon on the island. A large room with a sea view costs around £120 a night. 2. Azul Singular, FaialThis place feels like a tropical oasis. Azul Singular offers a sustainable tented experience. You will sleep in your
own little wooden hut or yurt tent, in the middle of gorgeous palm trees. This is truly a one of a kind experience. Every unit comes with an equipped chicken, a dining table, and a gorgeous bathroom. You get a continental or vegetarian breakfast, brought to your unit every morning. A yurt tent costs €70 a night and a superior wooden tent costs €75 a
night. 3. Cabanas da Viscondessa, São JorgeCabanas da Viscondessa offers private wooden cabins with a view of the ocean and Pico Island. A luxurious experience, each cabin has been decorated in an elevated style by a renowned interior designer and a private terrace with a garden view. Each unit also comes with a modern kitchen, dining area, and
bathroom. This property has a restaurant, bar, and a shared garden, as well as an outdoor terrace where you can enjoy a meal or drink. Every morning, a continental breakfast is served from local products. The studio cabins cost between $80 and $$100 a night depending on the season. 4. The Shipyard, TerceiraThe Shipyard is located in the
historical center, a 10-minute walk from Praiana Beach, one of the best beaches on the island. This place has a restaurant called Oficina da Esquina, a high-end restaurant serving Portuguese food. The property consists of a series of modern studios and apartments, perfect for any kind of tourist, from solo travelers to families. A studio with breakfast
included costs $\five 70 and a one-bedroom apartment is $\five 85. They also have larger apartments at a higher price. 5. Charming Blue, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue, Santa Maria Blue, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue, Santa Maria Blue, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel that has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Blue is a modern hotel has 15 rooms in Vila do Porto, Santa Blue is a modern hotel has 15 rooms in Vila
pool for guests to enjoy as well as its own restaurant called Mesa d'Oito where you can enjoy delicious dishes. You can get large rooms here for €80 a night. 6. Casa da Barra, located in Santa Cruz da Graciosa is a large holiday hope surrounded by green landscapes. The
three-bedroom home sleeps up to five people, has a living room and two bathrooms. The home costs $100 a night. 7. Adega do Xelica, PicoWhat better place to stay than your very own Azorean cottage? Built out of
black lava rock, Adega do Xelica is only 5 minutes away from a wonderful natural pool. This place is in Arcos and features a terrace with a view of Mount Pico. It has 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, a balcony, private terraces, a dining area, as well as free private parking. All of this for only $\infty$100 a night. 8. Casa da Boa Onda, FloresLocated in the quaint Lajes
das Flores, Casa da Boa Onda is an entire home that you can rent. The property has 1 bedroom and 1 bathroom, as well as a kitchen and dining area. The best part of this place can sleep up to 3 people as it also has an extra single bed if
necessary. It's also located near many hiking trails, perfect for a morning stroll. The whole house only costs €50 to €70 a night depending on the season.9. Joe & Vera's Vintage, CorvoJoe & Vera's Vintage is a quaint guest house with cozy rooms that feature a private bathroom, a desk, and a patio. This place also offers a delicious continental breakfast
at an affordable price. A 15-minute walk from Praia da Areia, this guesthouse also offers an airport shuttle service, as well as free parking. You can get a room here for €70. Our blog is reader-supported, so no banner ads Affiliate links may earn us a commission. Located deep in the Atlantic, roughly between Boston and Lisbon, the Azores is a
stunning off-the-beaten-path destination. While sometimes dubbed 'the Hawaii of Europe' or 'Iceland without the ice', in truth the archipelago defies such lazy marketing labels — being unlike anywhere else. The Azores are easily reached from both Europe and east-coast North America. Its allure lies in its incredible volcanic geography, its many
outdoor activities, and its lack of mass tourism. The islands are a real gem - and we're excited to tell you all about it in this jam-packed Azores travel guide, which is intended to be the jumping-off point to other specific guides on our blog. We've covered most of the islands and have visited (or re-visited) several times, so whether you are planning a
first introduction to the Azores or a bigger trip, we can help you out! Know before you go Before we get stuck into the best Azores islands to when to visit, there are a few things to consider. From how to get to the islands to when to visit, there are a few things to consider. From how to get to the islands to when to visit, we'll cover all you need to know for a stress-free time. Good question! Even some devoted globe-trotters might struggle to
pinpoint it precisely on a map, as the islands are but little dots in a vast ocean, Roughly speaking, the Azores are somewhere between the US and Europe. The Azores are somewhere between the US and Europe. The Azores are somewhere between the US and Europe. The Azores are somewhere between the US and Europe. The Azores are somewhere between the US and Europe. The Azores are somewhere between the US and Europe.
While some are fairly popular tourist destinations and have plenty of infrastructure in place, others are remote and barely visited. Most flights arrive at João Paulo II Airport on São Miguel Island, and from there, island hopping the Azores is done by local plane or ferry. While belonging to Portugal, the Azores have their own identity, as well as
historical connections with (and a large diaspora in) the USA and Canada. The Azores is home to the westernmost tip of Europe, which is either in Faial or Flores depending on whether you measure it geographically or geologically. First and foremost, The Azores is an adventure travel paradise. No matter which islands you choose, you will be
rewarded with some amazing opportunities for hiking, caving, scuba diving, canyoning, whale watching, and many more exciting activities. However, it's equally an excellent destination for a relaxing rural holiday. The Azores stands out for its authenticity, gentle pace of life, and incredibly fresh seafood, meat, and dairy produce. We also love that the
stunning beaches and natural pools to enjoy. You can see volcanic craters, drive along meandering coastal roads, go dolphin and whale watching, gorge on fresh Azores is from June to September
The islands have a generally mild climate, with maximum summer, you'll have particularly pleasant conditions for hiking and swimming. However, expect unpredictable weather regardless of which time of year you visit. It's often said that you can experience all seasons
in a single day on the Azores. July and August are the busiest months during which accommodation prices will be higher. Some places may also be more crowded, in particular some specific spots on São Miguel Island (such as the viewpoints at Sete Cidades). However, the crowds are luckily nothing like in the most popular destinations around
Europe. Nevertheless, we recommend pre-booking your accommodations and especially car rentals during peak season, since there is a limited stock of rental cars on each island. The hot springs in winter The Azores are quiet in winter, with blustery winds and more frequent rainfall. However, if you gear up appropriately for the colder weather, it
can still be an excellent time for hiking. The winter light and occasionally misty conditions will create different kinds of landscapes to enjoy. The hot thermal baths in São Miguel are much more rewarding in winter due to the cooler air temperatures. Last but not least, you may be able to benefit from some attractive hotel deals in the off season. Keep
in mind that from October to April, there are no inter-island ferries apart from some of the shortest routes like Pico \leftrightarrow Faial. You likely need to fly if you wish to visit multiple islands during this time. The Azores are geographically remote, but they are pretty easy to fly to. The biggest airport is on the island of São Miguel, followed by the airport of
Terceira. From Europe: Budget carriers Ryanair and Easyjet fly directly to São Miguel and Terceira from many points of origin. You can fly directly from places such as London, Munich, Frankfurt, Lisbon, Porto, and Faro. You can fly directly from places such as London, Munich, Frankfurt, Lisbon, Porto, and Faro. You can fly directly from places such as London, Munich, Frankfurt, Lisbon, Porto, and Faro. You can fly directly from places such as London, Munich, Frankfurt, Lisbon, Porto, and Faro. You can fly directly from places such as London, Munich, Frankfurt, Lisbon, Porto, and Faro. You can fly directly from places such as London, Munich, Frankfurt, Lisbon, Porto, and Faro. You can fly directly from places such as London, Munich, Frankfurt, Lisbon, Porto, and Faro. You can fly directly from places such as London, Munich, Frankfurt, Lisbon, Porto, and Faro. You can fly directly from places such as London, Munich, Frankfurt, Lisbon, Porto, and Faro. You can fly directly from places such as London, Munich, Frankfurt, Lisbon, Porto, and Faro. You can fly directly from places such as London, Munich, Frankfurt, Lisbon, Porto, and Faro. You can fly directly from places such as London, Munich, Frankfurt, Lisbon, Porto, and Faro. You can fly directly from places such as London, Munich, Frankfurt, Lisbon, Porto, and Faro. You can fly directly from places such as London, Munich, Frankfurt, Lisbon, Frankfu
 months). From North America: There are direct flights from Boston, New York, Toronto, and seasonally from Montréal. These flights are run by Azores Airlines. United also flies seasonally from Boston, New York, Toronto, and seasonally from Montréal. These flights are run by Azores. If you're travelling between North America and Europe, consider making a stopover on the Azores. Much like Iceland, the
Azores promotes itself as a layover between Europe and North America. Azores Airlines has promotions for Azores the nine Azores islands are not all close together. There are three island groups, each approximately one hour's flight apart. Terceira São Jorge Faial Pico Graciosa The easiest way to see multiple
islands on one trip is to fly. The local carrier, SATA (also called Azores Airlines), provides inter-island flight services. All islands have local air connections. It's easy to travel between two Azores islands can cost as much as a flight from
mainland Portugal. Local residents are eligible for lower fares, but not tourists. If you're on a budget, then ferries are the better option. The central group is ideal for island hopping, as these islands for more specifics. All ferries on the Azores are run
by the same company, Atlânticoline. Ferries are the easiest way to hop between islands that are close together. In the central island group, islands like Pico and São Jorge are just short (30-60 min) ferry rides away. There are no longer
ferries between the island groups, only within them. Ferries mostly run only from May to September, though some run year-round. The exact timetables can be found on the Atlânticoline site. For the best experience, we strongly recommend having your own transportation. Either rent a car or a scooter or moped could be an option too on some
 islands. Don't count on being able to explore easily by public transport. This is only vaguely practical on São Miguel Island, but even there, the network doesn't support independent travel all that much. If you absolutely can't rent your own car, you can also stay in or near the island's capitals and use organized day trips with local tour companies
Taxis are available on most islands near urban centres but are not economical for extended sightseeing or long drives. It's important to book your rental car early as they can run out in the peak tourist months, or at least your preferred type of car or transmission may not be available. You can search at Discovercars.com for prices and availability with
all local car hire providers. Best Azores islands to visit There are 9 islands in the Azores, ranging in size from São Miquel (140,000 inhabitants) all the way to the small island of Corvo (population just 430). Each is different and worth discovering in its own right.
Azores are to São Miguel. It makes sense as it's the easiest island to reach directly by air (from mainland Portugal or internationally) and it has the most things to see and do. Among the sights are several waterfalls, hot springs, some epic views of volcanic crater lakes, and the many authentic fishing villages dotted around the island. São Miguel is
also one of the best Azorean islands for hiking — mostly thanks to the varied and lush landscapes but also because of the number of hikes available. Don't miss some of the best hikes in São Miguel. It's the only island to have lots of volcanic steam vents and hot springs. The Caldeira Velha hot spring, in particular, is highly worth visiting. We created a
dedicated travel guide to São Miguel that will tell you everything else you can experience! São Miguel is the most developed island and the only one with a couple of multi-lane expressways. The capital of Ponta Delgada is a small but busy commercial centre. While other islands may have a more remote feeling overall, São Miguel is still mostly defined
by its nature and rural areas. You can spend about 3 days on São Miguel island just to see the top sights, but ideally 1 week to take it easy, include several hikes, at get a much more complete picture. This São Miguel using
organized trips. For example, this São Miguel 2-day island tour with meals and pickup from your hotel is a great alternative to self-driving. Best for: a varied island-hopping itinerary The central group is perfect for island hopping, since ferries between the islands never take more than an hour or so. However, you can also choose to stay on just one of
the islands (in which case we suggest looking at Pico with a potential day trip to Faial). Taken all together, the central islands easily have as much to see and do as the biggest island, São Miguel — possibly even more. Since they're somewhat less visited, exploring them can make for a more unique trip. Let us introduce you to each island. Pico is the
 geologically youngest island of the Azores, so the landscapes can be rockier and characterized by dark volcanic terrain. It's known mainly for its unique vineyard culture. Some of the landscapes are checkered with little walls made from volcanic rocks that protect the vines against the harsh elements—a typical feature that earned parts of the island
 UNESCO World Heritage status. Besides this, it's home to the eponymous "peak", a 2351m tall conical volcano that is the highest point in all of Portugal. If you're fit and up for the challenge, you can hike up to the top for some epic views. We suggest doing this with an organised tour as it's an intense 7-9 hour hike through gravelly terrain that will
take you far above the clouds. We've now visited the island on two occasions and created this guide to Pico Island to tell you about all there is to see. There's easily enough to fill 2 to 3 days of activities. Faial may be small, but it's not one to miss. It usually doesn't get the most hype, but there are some excellent sights that warrant at least a day or two
if your travel time allows. The island has some epic volcanic landscapes, especially its lush green central Caldeira and the site of Capelinhas — where a volcano erupted for over a year in 1958. Walking around the grey and dusty landscapes
in the Azores. The cute town of Horta, built on hills beside a pretty sailing harbour, is also legendary among sailors. It's the one place where recreational sailors crossing the Atlantic tend to make a stopover, giving the island a lively atmosphere
during summer. All along the harbour barriers, you'll find colourful paintings left there by sailors to commemorate their journeys. There's also a cultural element to Faial, with several museums providing interesting insights into its whaling history, as well as its one-time status as an important transatlantic node for the early telephone and telegraph
lines. Faial is a small island. Although it has some truly great things to see, you need at most 2 days — but you can spend longer, of course, but this is just to indicate the time needed for purely the main sightseeing. Longing to go off the beaten path? Then São Jorge awaits! Here, you can appreciate some stunning
nature on an island that does its own thing and is not preoccupied with tourism very much. Keep in mind it's less populated and somewhat more remote. There are fewer facilities, restaurants have shorter opening times and there aren't as many typical 'sights' that you can visit. We've spoken to tourists (who weren't hikers) who found the island less
engaging. However, if you love to hike, then you may in fact consider São Jorge one of the best islands to visit. We believe it is an underappreciated gem that will reward explorers. It might be our personal favourite of the central islands! A mountain range runs along almost its entire length, forming more or less an elongated plateau. Down the
shoreside cliffs are so-called fajas, which are small plains once formed by lava flows or landslides. At these fajas, you'll find tiny villages that can be reached only by windy roads or sometimes by walking trails only. These thin strips of flat coastal land backed by huge cliffs are the most common in Sao Jorge. There are over 40 fajas on Sao Jorge, while
the other islands usually have just one or two. Whatever you do, do not miss the Caldeira de Santo Cristo hike. It goes through some lush valleys on São Jorge, past several waterfalls, and through two of the fajãs. Terceira is the second most populated island after São Miguel and is home to a US Air Force Base, playing an important economic role in
the Azores. It also has a good range of things to see and do, albeit having fewer hikes to offer. Subjectively, we love Terceira may have slightly less interest than other islands, and the landscapes a bit less in-your-face amazing. However, it's still highly worth
including in a central island-hopping itinerary. Firstly, because of the capital, Angra do Heroísmo. This city (which feels more like a large town) has earned UNESCO recognition for its old centre and 17th-century fortresses. We'd argue it's more appealing than Ponta Delgada in São Miguel, boasting a lot of historical architecture and a beautiful
harbour. There are also several great sights in Terceira. The Algar do Carvão is the biggest and most impressive cave in the Azores. It's also fun to take a boat ride to the small Ilhéus das Cabras (Goat Islands). Smaller stops, such as the Wine Museum in Biscoitos, can further fill up your itinerary. What makes Terceira easy to include in your travel
route is its international airport, which makes it a perfect launching pad into the archipelago. If you're not renting a car, consider booking this tour of Terceira Island, which makes it a perfect launching pad into the archipelago. If you're not renting a car, consider booking this tour of Terceira Island, which makes it a perfect launching pad into the archipelago. If you're not renting a car, consider booking this tour of Terceira Island, which will cover all the top sights in one day. Best for: remote hiking trails and bird-watching These two islands form the westernmost group. They are located far away and best
reached by plane. Flores is among the smallest islands, with just under 4,000 inhabitants, while Corvo has only one small settlement with a few hundred people. Flores (meaning flowers) is known as the greenest of all the islands. It features epic cliffs with numerous waterfalls, making it one of the top places to go hiking in the Azores. Although Flores
doesn't have as many accommodations or restaurants, dedicated travellers make their way here for its raw beauty and remote edge-of-the-world feel. The nearby crater island of Corvo (meaning crow) is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. It's tiny (just 17 square kilometres) and doesn't feature on the usual Azores itinerary, receiving only about 1,000
visits per year. However, it's known by birdwatchers as an excellent place to spot many endemic and migratory species. How many days do you need? As you can tell, there is a lot to explore on the Azores! And we've not even covered all of the islands here. It's hard to say how much time you should dedicate to your visit, as it all depends on your
travel style and interests. However, we can say that most of the islands in the Azores can take about two or three days just to see and do. It's possible to visit São Miguel for a couple of days for some high-level
sightseeing, as a side-trip from Portugal or even as a stopover. But you create the perfect Azores vacation for you, here's a quick breakdown of my recommended itineraries for any traveler: 3 days on São Miguel. Good for a weekend trip from
mainland Portugal or for a layover, though you'll only have time for some of the highlights. 7 days on Faial, Pico & São Jorge. A fun island-hopping itinerary including some of the best of the Azores! It takes a bit more planning than just staying on São Miguel Island, but it'll be highly rewarding. Check out our suggested itinerary here. 7 days on São Miguel Island, but it'll be highly rewarding. Check out our suggested itinerary here. 7 days on São Miguel Island, but it'll be highly rewarding.
Miguel. Perfect if you love to hike a lot, swim, and see São Miguel in depth. Consider staying in two different parts of the island and renting a car to explore far and wide. Check our guide to São Miguel and our one week in São Miguel itinerary. 2 weeks or more. Start in São Miguel or Terceira, then see as much as you want! Have a browse around
our blog for some inspiration. Final thoughts So there, you have it, an in-depth guide to exploring these Portuguese islands. Whether you're looking to zig-zag around Portugal's unique islands or have a short layover during your American-to-Europe trip, the Azores is a fantastic place to go. There is too much to share about the Azores to fit into a
single guide, so don't miss our other posts about these beautiful islands: FAQ — Quick answers What is the Azores? The weather in the Azores? The weather in
Islands? The Azores is located in the Atlantic Ocean. It's an island group belonging to Portugal. It's about a 3-hour flight from Lisbon in mainland Portugal and roughly 5 to 6 hours from Boston or Toronto. Due to its climate, the Azores is not a typical sun-and-sand vacation destination, but it's known for its varied geography, cuisine, culture, and
nature trails. You can see volcanic craters, drive along meandering coastal roads, go dolphin- and whale watching, gorge on fresh seafood, and go hiking all over the Azores. How can you get to the Azores? The Azores islands are reached by air. The biggest airport is on the island of São Miguel, followed by the airport of Terceira. There are direct
flights from numerous places in Europe, as well as Boston, Toronto, and seasonally from Oakland and Montréal. Do you need a car in the Azores? It's recommended to have a car. Public transport can't be relied on to take you to most places of tourist interest. You can see many sights on organized tours, but the best way is to rent a car. What are the
best islands to visit in the Azores? The largest island of São Miguel offers a great introduction to the Azores if it is your first time visiting. The central islands of Pico, Faial, and São Jorge are also easy to combine in an island hopping itinerary. How many days are enough for the Azores? It takes about two or three days per major island to see the
highlights there. One exception is the largest island, São Miguel, where you can easily spend a whole week. The Azores Islands are a Portuguese archipelago in the North Atlantic Ocean, located about 1,500 km (930 mi) from Lisbon and about 3,900 km (2,400 mi) from the east coast of North America. The Monchique islet on Flores Island, located at
31° 16′ 24″ W is regarded as the westernmost point in Europe, even though from a geological standpoint the two westernmost Azorean islands (Flores and Corvo) actually lie on the North American plate. Nowadays the Azorean islands (Flores and Corvo) actually lie on the North American plate. Nowadays the Azorean islands and the eight small
Formigas extend for more than 600 km (373 mi) and lie in a northwest-southeast direction. The vast extent of the islands defines an immense exclusive economic zone of 1,100,000 Km2 (420,000 square miles). The westernmost point of this area is 3,380 km (2,100 mi) from the North American continent. All of the islands have volcanic origins,
two autonomous regions of Portugal, along with the archipelago of Madeira. Azores History The Azores Islands, located in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, have a rich and fascinating history that dates back to their volcanic origins millions of years ago. The islands were first discovered and settled by the Portuguese in the 15th century during the Age
of Exploration. In 1427, the Portuguese navigator Diogo de Silves is believed to have been the first European to set foot on the islands. Throughout the centuries, the Azores played a strategic role as a stopover point for ships traveling between Europe and the New World. The islands' location made them a crucial hub for trade, exploration, and naval
operations, attracting attention from various European powers. During the 16th and 17th centuries, the Azores became a target for attacks and invasions by pirates and plunder riches. The islands' fortifications and defensive structures bear witness to this turbulent period in their history. In the 20th
century, the Azores gained geopolitical significance during World War II, serving as a key military presence on Terceira Island to monitor Soviet activities in the region. Today, the Azores Islands are known for their
stunning natural beauty, unique ecosystems, and vibrant culture. The islands have evolved into a popular destination for eco-tourism, outdoor activities, and sustainable travel, attracting visitors from around the world. The Azores' history is reflected in their charming towns, historic architecture, and cultural traditions, creating a blend of influences
from Portugal, Europe, and the Atlantic. With a rich heritage and a promising future, the Azores Islands continue to captivate travelers with their enchanting landscapes and timeless allure. Azores Climate The Azores archipelago is located in a region between 37° N and the parallels of latitude that pass through the Lisbon area (39° 43′ / 39° 55′ N),
giving it generally a tepid, oceanic, subtropical climate, with mild annual temperature in Azores is 18°C (64°F). Statistically the driest month is July and the wettest November. Average annual mean relative humidity is 76%. It ranges from 73% in August to 80% in December and
January. Frost is non-existent in Azores. The ocean water temperature in Azores range from 17°C (63°F) in the winter to 25°C (77° F) in the summer. E su me aggiungi che la quantitĂfÄ di abbigliamento sta ancora giocando italiafarmacia24.com ruolo. Ma se nei casi con le ragazze, questo ruolo ÄfĨ positivo, quindi nel caso degli uomini puÄfIJ
 essere negativo. The average annual rainfall increases from east to west, with annual precipitation of 958 mm (3.7 in) or 80 mm (3.1 in) per month. The Azores high, an area of high atmospheric pressure, is named after the islands. Light clothes, with one or two sweater or jacket pieces for the cooler days or nights, are enough all year round. In the
winter slightly warmer clothing may be necessary. It is better to bring along a light raincoat, however, as the Azoreans affectionately say are more prevalent in the months from October to April. Azores Language The official language in Azores is Portuguese
In most of the nine islands, the variety of Portuguese spoken is very similar to standard European Portuguese. The primary exception is the Portuguese territory. English is widely used in the tourism industry and is gaining
momentum in the islands due to being officially a required language in early schooling. Top 20 Suggestions of Things To Do When Visiting the Azores Islands, a hidden gem in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, where breathtaking landscapes, vibrant culture, and unique experiences await. From exploring
volcanic craters and lush greenery to diving into crystal-clear waters and indulging in delicious local cuisine, the Azores offer a diverse range of activities for every traveler. Whether you seek adventure, relaxation, or cultural immersion, the Azores Islands promise an unforgettable getaway filled with natural beauty, outdoor adventures, and authentic
Azorean charm. Discover the top things to do in this enchanting archipelago and get ready to experience the magic of the Azores like never before. Here are some suggestions: 1. Explore the stunning landscapes of Sete Cidades, where you can marvel at the twin lakes reflecting the different shades of blue and green. 2. Hike to the summit of Mount
Pico, the highest point in Portugal, for breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding islands and the vast Atlantic Ocean. 3. Relax in the natural hot springs of Furnas, surrounded by lush vegetation and geothermal activity, offering a truly rejuvenating experience. 4. Discover the unique Terceira Island and its historic sites, including the UNESCO
World Heritage city of Angra do Heroísmo with its charming streets and colorful buildings. 5. Go whale watching and spot playful dolphins in the crystal-clear waters surrounding the Azores, where you can witness these majestic creatures in their natural habitat. 6. Visit the charming town of Angra do Heroísmo, known for its historic architecture,
vibrant culture, and delicious local cuisine. 7. Enjoy a traditional Cozido meal cooked underground in Furnas, a unique culinary experience where meat and vegetables are slow-cooked in the natural heat of the volcanic soil. 8. Dive or snorkel in the azure waters of the Azores, where you can explore colorful marine life, underwater caves, and pristine
coral reefs. 9. Explore the lush greenery of Sao Miguel Island, known as the "Green Island, known as the "Green Island, with its stunning botanical gardens, volcanic craters, and picturesque lakes. 10. Take a boat trip to the picturesque lakes. 11. Visit the
impressive volcanic caves of Algar do Carvao, where you can descend into the depths of the earth and admire the unique geological formations of the Azores and savoring the flavors of the region. 13. Discover the tea plantations of Gorreana and Porto Formoso
the oldest in Europe, where you can learn about the tea-making process and enjoy a relaxing cup of Azorean tea. 14. Go bird watching and see unique species in their natural habitat, such as the Azores Bullfinch and Cory's Shearwater, making the islands a paradise for bird enthusiasts. 15. Experience the vibrant cultural festivals of the Azores
including religious celebrations, folkloric events, and music festivals that showcase the rich heritage of the islands. 16. Relax on the sand beaches of Santa Maria Island, where you can soak up the sun, swim in the clear waters, and unwind in a tranguil setting. 17. Try traditional Azorean dishes like Alcatra, a hearty beef stew, and Lapas, grilled
limpets, showcasing the delicious flavors of the local cuisine. 18. Explore the historic city of Ponta Delgada, the capital of Sao Miguel Island, with its beautiful architecture, charming squares, and bustling markets. 19. Take a scenic drive along the coastal roads of the islands, where you can admire dramatic cliffs, picturesque villages, and stunning
Azores. Azores.com specializes in the Azores Islands, providing in-depth knowledge and expertise to help you plan the perfect vacation tailored to your preferences. 2. Local Connections: With strong local connections and partnerships, Azores.com Travel & Tours can offer exclusive access to unique experiences, accommodations, and activities on the
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ensuring a seamless and stress-free vacation planning process. 5. Insider Tips: Gain insider tips and recommendations from local experts who can provide valuable insights on hidden gems, must-visit attractions, and off-the-beaten-path experiences in the Azores. 6. Customer Support: Enjoy dedicated customer support throughout your trip, with
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of accommodation options, tours, activities, and excursions to customize your itinerary and create a memorable and fulfilling vacation in the Azores. 9. Local Insight: Benefit from the local insight and recommendations provided by Azores. 9. Local Insight: Benefit from the local insight and recommendations provided by Azores. 9. Local Insight: Benefit from the local insight and recommendations provided by Azores. 9. Local Insight: Benefit from the local insight and recommendations provided by Azores. 9. Local Insight: Benefit from the local insight and recommendations provided by Azores. 9. Local Insight: Benefit from the local insight and recommendations provided by Azores. 9. Local Insight: Benefit from the local insight and recommendations provided by Azores. 9. Local Insight an
essence of the Azores Islands. 10. Peace of Mind: Book with confidence knowing that Azores.com Travel & Tours has a reputation for excellence, reliability, and customer satisfaction, ensuring that your vacation to the Azores Islands will be a memorable and worry-free experience from start to finish. Mother Nature has created a land full of natural
beauty, ready to be explored, in the blue immensity of the Atlantic Ocean: the Azores. To the East, on the island of Santa Maria, the beaches of warm white sand are inviting, and the vineyards covering the slopes like an amphitheatre resemble giant staircases. São Miguel, the largest island, is seductive with its Sete Cidades and Fogo Lagoons. The
power that emanates from the earth is felt in the geysers, hot thermal waters and volcanic lakes, as well as in the tasty "Cozido das Furnas" slowly cooked inside the earth. Photo: Ponta Delgada, AçoresIn the Central Group, the islands of Terceira, São Jorge, Pico, Faial and Graciosa are set harmoniously in the deep blue sea, where whales and dolphins
can be spotted, to the delight of visitors. On Terceira, the World Heritage town of Angra do Heroísmo, as well as its festivals, is steeped in history. Faial is the cool blue of the hydrangeas, the marina painted colourfully by yachtsmen from all over the world and the extinct Capelinhos volcano, which resembles a lunar landscape. In front is Pico, a
mountain that emerges from the sea, with vineyards planted in black lava fields, a unique specialty with an unmistakable flavour. Graciosa, graceful in both name and appearance, is an island of green fields covered with vineyards that
contrast with its peculiar windmills. Photo: Ilha do Corvo, AçoresIn the Western group, on the island of Flores, the beauty of the natural waterfalls and lakes carved out by volcanoes is dazzling. The tiny island of Corvo has a broad, beautiful crater at its centre, and attracts many species of birds coming from both Europe and America. These are the
Azores. Nine islands, nine small worlds that have as many similarities as differences, but where the friendliness of their inhabitants is shared by all. The Azores Geopark was born out of all
this natural wealth, as part (...) Whale and dolphin watching in the Azores, in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, is an archipelago of nine islands showing nature in its purest state, and one of the largest whale sanctuaries in the world. Among the resident and (...) Whether you are a lover of quiet walks or an adrenalin junkie, the Azores have
more than 60 hiking trails with all the conditions for walking safely. Venture out and discover unique landscapes (...) Angra do Heroísmo - Accessible Tour Located on the third island of the Azores to be discovered by 15th century explorers, Angra do Heroísmo was the first city established in the archipelago, strategically situated in the Atlantic (...)
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