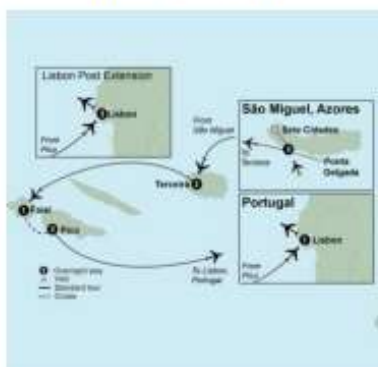


The Azores Jewels of Portugal



with optional Post Tour Extension

Highlights... Off Road Sete Cidades Experience • Lagoa do Canario Viewpoint • Terra Nostra Botanical Garden • Furnas Valley • Serra do Cume • Angra do Heroismo • Algar do Carvao • Natural Thermal Pools • Choices on Tour • Capelinhos Volcano Interpretation Center • Volcanic Stone House Stay • Pico Wine Museum



12 Days • 17 Meals: 10 Breakfasts • 2 Lunches • 5 Dinners

Stefan's "Join the Fun" Group Package Includes: Collette Tours

Aug. 18-31, 2023 - The Azores Jewels of Portugal

Group Package Includes:

Airfare

- Overnight Car Parking from Viera & Ormond
- Transportation to Orlando International Airport r/t with Gratuity to Driver Included
- Gratuity to your Tour Guide & Driver on your Tour
- Group Meet N Greet for Q & A
- Tour Package
- 17 Meals

Collette experiences

- Traverse the entire rim of the Sete Cidades caldera and gaze upon the twin lakes from Lagoa do Canario viewpoint.
- Spend 3 nights in the eco-friendly lava stone houses of Aldeia da Fonte, Pico Island.

Must-see inclusions

- Discover Pico's exclusive wines.
- Descend into Algar do Carvao, an ancient lava tube, with a local expert.
- Admire views of Pico Volcano, the highest point in Portugal.

Culinary inclusions

- Experience a truly unique *cozido das furnas* lunch in Furnas valley.
- On the island of Pico, enjoy a light home-hosted lunch featuring local meats and cheeses.
- Visit a local bakery that makes *queijadas*, a pastry made with egg yolks.



Day 1: Overnight Flight

From volcanic craters and thermal waters to lush vegetation and picturesque coasts, enjoy the natural splendor of this Portuguese archipelago and see why the Azores are commonly referred to as "the Hawaii of Europe."

Day 2: São Miguel, Açores, Portugal - Tour Begins

This is the Azores. A set of islands virtually untouched by urban development. Your adventure begins on São Miguel, the largest of the nine volcanic islands. Relax and explore as you wish, perhaps sit along the seaside promenade and breathe in the mild air of the Atlantic.

Day 3: São Miguel

Get to know Ponta Delgada, the capital city of São Miguel, on a morning walking tour of the area. This afternoon, traverse the dirt paths to the island's highest point on an off-road adventure. Venture to Sete Cidades, the blue and green mirror lakes, where you will navigate the rim of the entire crater. On your way, gaze down upon the blue lake (reflecting the sky) and the adjacent green lake (reflecting the earth). At Lagoa do Canario,* take in the amazing views around you during a short hike. Celebrate the beginning of your journey with a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 4: São Miguel

Glimpse into Portugal's sweet side at a family-run *queijadas* (pastry) bakery. After sampling treats, head to Furnas and enjoy the thermal waters at the local pools.** For lunch, enjoy a traditional *cozido das furnas* meal, where your food is cooked in the earth's volcanic heat. After, embark on a guided visit to the organic paradise of Terra Nostra Botanical Garden. Later, continue on to the green fields of a nearby tea plantation where we will learn about this unique crop before an evening of leisure in São Miguel. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 5: São Miguel - Terceira

Say hello to the colorful island of Terceira. Stand along the edge of the crater at Serra do Cume viewpoint and take in the patchwork of infinite green. Swap the grassy fields for sandy shores at Praia Victoria, or "Beach of Victory." Get to know Angra do Heroísmo (UNESCO) with a local guide. Restored in traditional style, the city features white facades and vibrant trims. Tonight, get a taste of the culture at a local restaurant. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 6: Terceira

The morning is yours. Perhaps you'll strap on your hiking boots for an optional hike along two volcanoes at Misterios Negros Nature Reserve. Gather later and head underground with an expert guide to Algar do Carvão, the "Cavern of Coal." Feel the quiet stillness as you descend into this ancient lava tube. Then, **it's your choice!** Swim** in the natural volcanic pools of Biscoitos **-OR-** hike along lava fields. Enjoy a free evening or entice your taste buds on an optional wine and tapas experience. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 7: Terceira - Faial

Say *bom dia* (good morning) to Faial, the "Blue Island" of the Azores. Encounter the volcanic vitality of Faial when you take in the rocky landscapes and the ash hills of the Capelinhos Volcano Interpretation Center. Peek into the daily life of Azoreans as you mingle amongst the locals and sample locally produced cheese at a local market. Make the most of an evening at leisure. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 8: Faial - Pico

After a relaxing morning, board a ferry to the nearby island of Pico. Enjoy a light home-hosted lunch, sampling drinks paired with local cheeses and meats, snacking on different Azorean favorites. Make a stop at Lagoa do Capitao and spy Sao Jorge Island in the distance. End the day at the rustic lava stone houses of Aldeia da Fonte, your home for the next 3 nights. Enjoy dinner at this cliff-side abode, overlooking the ocean. *Today breakfast, lunch and dinner will be included.*

Day 9: Pico

Today visit the Pico Wine Museum before tasting these exclusive wines at a wine collaborative. Then, **it's your choice!** In Lajes, visit the whaling museum highlighting the historical ties of the industry to the culture of the islands -**OR-** take advantage of free time in town to explore the area independently. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 10: Pico

The day is yours. Perhaps you will take to the waves on an optional ocean excursion, where you will watch for whales and dolphins before enjoying lunch back on land. No matter how you choose to spend the day, celebrate your Azorean adventure in the evening with a dinner of local flavors, folklore music, and captivating energy. "*Bom proveito!*" *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 11: Pico - Lisbon

Today we say farewell to the Azores Islands when we depart Pico for Lisbon. Enjoy some time at leisure for some last minute shopping or perhaps to wander through the streets of the capital city on your own. Tonight, toast to the end of your trip with a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included*

Day 12: Lisbon - Tour Ends Say *adeus* (goodbye) to Portugal and the Azores as you depart this coastal paradise. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Experience It! Sete Cidades

Sete Cidades is a parish on the island of São Miguel and encompasses a colossal volcanic crater. Within the crater lies two picturesque lakes adjacent to each other and connected by a miniscule strait. Despite their close proximity, one lake appears blue and the other green. Legend claims that the lakes were formed from the tears of a forlorn princess and shepherd that could not be together. The different colors of the lakes represent the hues of the lovers' eyes – green and blue respectively. However, despite the folklore romanticism, the varying colors of the water are actually a result of reflection; the blue lake reflects the sky and the green lake reflects the surrounding earth. Regardless of its origin, the basin contains lush greenery, abundant hydrangeas, and scenic lookouts. The caldera is best explored from the outer rim, where you'll be able to see the entirety of Lagoa das Sete Cidades.

Your itinerary at a glance

Day 1

Overnight Flight

Days 2 – 4

The Grand Hotel Açores Atlântico, Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel, Azores

Days 5, 6

Zenite Boutique Hotel & Spa, Terceira, Azores

Day 7

Hotel do Canal, Faial, Azores

Days 8 – 10

Aldeia da Fonte Nature Hotel, Pico, Azores

Day 11

Iberostar Lisboa, Lisbon

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

- **Explorations:** These small group tours give travelers access to the world in a truly authentic way. On these active, immersive journeys, travelers connect with the cultures of the world on a deeper, more meaningful level in ways that are hard to replicate. The group size is kept small, allowing these journeys to be the most active, engaging, and rewarding experience possible.

Package Cost: Double \$5,599 or SOLO \$6,499

*Are you a Solo Lady, call stefan if you're looking for a Travel Mate, Limited Solo Rooms available, to Book Call Stefan at 386-235-3443, to be part of the Group with Perks

