

# The Azores

The nine Portuguese islands of the Azores are situated in the Atlantic Ocean between Europe and North America. They are separated into three groups: the Eastern group of São Miguel and Santa Maria; the Central group of Terceira, Graciosa, São Jorge, Faial and Pico; and the Western group of Flores and Corvo.

The archipelago is a true paradise for nature lovers. Vast craters nurturing glistening blue lakes, sheer black cliffs falling into the ocean, lush countryside, lofty mountain peaks and hot mineral springs and geysers combine to create truly spectacular scenery found nowhere else in the world.



VISITAZORES.COM

## SUNVIL WEBSITE

Within our brochure you will find a good selection of properties, suggested itineraries and regional information that Sunvil offer. However, for additional properties, photos, itineraries and general information on the Azores please visit our website [www.sunvil.co.uk/azores](http://www.sunvil.co.uk/azores)



## Eastern Islands - See pages 54-65

**São Miguel** is the largest of the nine islands of the archipelago. It is a land of lakes nestled in volcanic craters that are many kilometres wide.



**Santa Maria** is the oldest island of the archipelago. The island is primarily known for its white sand beaches, distinct chimneys, and dry warm weather.



## Western Islands - See pages 80-81

**Flores and Corvo**, the westernmost islands of the Azores and indeed Europe, will mesmerise any visitor who travels to their shores.



## Central Islands - See pages 66-79

**Terceira** is the location of the historical capital of the archipelago; the Azores' oldest city and UNESCO World Heritage Site - Angra do Heroísmo.



**Graciosa**, the northernmost of the Central group of islands in the Azores, is a tranquil island, harder to reach and therefore untouched by time.



**São Jorge** is an island for walking, for exploring the little settlements on the fajãs along the coast by car and for admiring the stunning scenery.



**Pico** is dominated by its volcano, at 2351m it is the highest point in Portugal. There is no mistaking that the Black Island, as it is referred to, is volcanic.



**Faial** is the resting place of transatlantic sailors and has a cosmopolitan feel. The atmosphere at Peter's Café, on Horta's harbour-front, encapsulates the very essence of nautical adventure.



### Daily temperatures (°C)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
14	14	14	15	17	18
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
22	24	22	18	17	16

### Average rainfall (mm)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
110	95	75	50	50	25
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
25	25	50	95	110	110



## The Azores... what not to miss

Here is a selection of some of the many highlights to be found in the Azores which we hope will inspire you to travel and experience the many delights offered by this Portuguese archipelago.



### Algar do Carvão (Terceira)

Composed of several caves, and about 100m deep, this underground lava tube features stalactites and stalagmites galore. A visit is included when booking an island tour. Open (afternoons only) between Apr-Sep.



### Cozido a Caldeiras (São Miguel)

It is a tradition, still observed by the locals, to slowly cook food by underground vapours at the Furnas hot springs. The meal, consisting of a variety of meats and vegetables, is served daily at Tony's Restaurant in Furnas – pre-booking recommended.



### Diving (Santa Maria)

The Pedrinha, the islet of Lagoinhas, the islet of São Lourenço, the islets of Formigas and the Dollabarat reef offer an abundance of both Atlantic and Tropical fish life – parrot fish, groupers, sting and eagle rays, turtles and dolphins.



### Interpretation Centre (Faial)

Visit the fabulous museum 'Interpretation Centre' (closed Mondays) at Capelinhos and learn all about the volcanic formation of the Azores including the last eruption that took place on Faial in 1957. Not to be missed!



### Miradouro das Lagoas (Flores)

Enjoy a 3 hour (7km) self-guided walk along the west coast of Flores with spectacular views. The route ends at the pool and waterfall of Poça do Bacalhau in Fajã Grande – a perfect opportunity for a refreshing swim.



### Pico Mountain Hike (Pico)

Climb Mount Pico (2,351m) and enjoy spectacular views over the central islands of the archipelago. The ascent takes about 3½ hours depending on the prevailing weather conditions. The climb is guided and should only be attempted by strong walkers.



### Santo Cristo dos Milagres (Graciosa)

The festivities honouring the Senhor Santo Cristo dos Milagres (Our Lord Christ of Miracles) take place in August. There are musical shows and folk dancing that enliven the historic streets of Santa Cruz.



### Viewpoints (São Jorge)

From the highest peak (1,053m) on the island, on a clear day, you can admire the central islands of Terceira, Graciosa, Faial and Pico. The Miradouro view points overlooking the Fajã do Ouvidor and dos Cubres are also spectacular.