



Pico

The Grey Island

Area: 447 sq. km
Length: 42 km (26 miles)
Width: 15 km (9 miles)
Population: 15,000 inhabitants
Capital: Madalena do Pico

42km long and 15km wide, with an area of 447 sq. km, Pico is dominated by its volcano (snow capped in winter) at 2351m the highest point in Portugal. The views to and from the volcano are spectacular and its presence seemingly binds together the central islands of Faial, Sao Jorge and Pico itself. One cannot mistake that this island is volcanic.

Between Madalena and Lajes the black stones and rocks have been painstakingly gathered to make the labyrinthine walled enclosures which protect the famous Pico verdeho grape (fortified Verdeho wine) which, it is said, was imported in the 16th century from Cyprus. The houses and churches, too, are black – their features outlined in white. An area of 987 hectares of vineyards and its surrounding landscape, has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The volcanic landscape of Pico was recently (2010) declared one of 'The 7 natural wonders of Portugal'.



Pico and nearby Faial (30 minutes by boat from Madalena) were the centres for traditional, open-boat whale hunting, an important industry for the islands until its ban in 1987. These two islands are now the centre for the growing interest in whale watching and the conservation of these magnificent mammals.

Hire a car or a taxi for an island tour to visit the lakes and marvel at the magnificent views and changing facets of the mountain and its relationship with the sea. Visit the fascinating whaler's museum at Lajes. Walks are plentiful and, for the experienced walker (you must take a guide), the ascent to the summit of the volcano is a must. A particular favourite of the Sunvil team is a drive along the north coast of Pico where wonderful views to neighbouring Sao Jorge can be found. The north coast has many walking trails and pretty picnic areas.

Highlights

- **Pico wine**
Pick up a bottle of the local Verdeho (aperitif wine) or the equally famous Angelica and Pico brandies.
- **Museu dos Baleeiros**
Visit the fascinating whaling museum in Lajes do Pico offering a fascinating insight into the islands' long history of open-boat whale hunting (banned in 1987).
- **Gruta das Torres**
Take a tour (c.45-minutes) of a lava cave located just south of Madalena. A short film shows the history of volcanic caves in the archipelago followed by a walk along one of the longest caves (4,480m) found in the Azores.
- **Day excursions**
A 30-minute ferry links Madalena to Horta (Faial) at least five times a day. A 90-minute catamaran links Sao Roque to Velas (Sao Jorge) twice a day. These connections make Pico an ideal base for multi-island exploration.

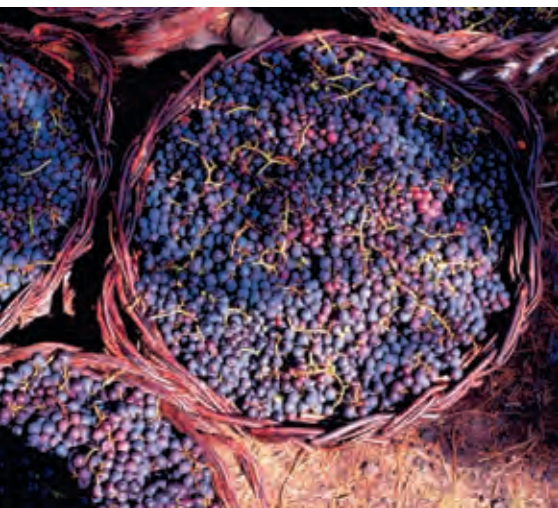
Festivals

- Espírito Santo (April & September) – festivities unravel throughout the island (Fri-Tues).
- Cais de Agosto (end July) – Music festival in Sao Roque.
- Festa do Sr Bom Jesus Milagroso (06 August) – Religious festival in Sao Mateus.
- Festa dos Baleeiros (Whaler's Week) in Lajes (20-26 August) – Religious, cultural and music festival celebrating the sea.

Note: Dates are subject to change.

Activities (page 48)

- Horse riding
- Island tours
- Natural rock swimming pools
- Scuba diving
- Walking (guided)
- Whale & dolphin watching



What to see and do on Pico

This rugged, mountainous island has a web-like network of black stone walls enclosing tiny fields, picturesque villages and the highest mountains in Portugal. To make the most of your stay on the island we have included a variety of excursions, shown below, that can be pre-booked by Sunvil.

Guided Walks

Cabeço Vermelho (Half day)

This 5km walk (c. 2-3hr), starting from Prainha de Cima, passes through areas of endemic flora (Picconia azorica, Lauros azoric and Myrica faya), vineyards and pasture meadows. Visit Prainha's natural swimming pool 'Poça Branca' - so-called due to its crystal clear waters, with time to enjoy a quick dip. The latter part of the route follows the coastline and offers some spectacular coastal and mountain views before ending at Canto da Areia with its small sand beach. **Grade 1**

Ribeira Nova (Half day)

Ribeira Nova is a 7km walk (c. 2-3hr) that starts from Santana and closely follows the stream that springs from the base of Mount Pico and offers the opportunity to observe endemic flora species and migratory birds. Part of the route passes along the coast and ends at the 'Vigia da Baleia', a well known whale watching spot where you can enjoy excellent panoramic views over Sao Jorge Island. **Grade 2**

Lava (Full day)

This 6km walk (c. 3hr) passes through a fascinating landscape of lava fields in which the famous 'currais' (semi-circled, stone walls in which vines are cultivated) are found. These unusual vineyards, on Pico's southern coast, produce an excellent Verdelho wine and are inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. **Grade 2**

Caminho das Voltas (Full day)

On the north coast of Pico is the small village of Santo Amaro, where the main ship building yard in the Azores can be found. This 12km walk (c.2-3 hr) twists and turns along the coastline of Pico and affords magnificent views over the ocean to Sao Jorge and of vineyards, rural scenes and Mount Pico. During the walk, you will have the opportunity to visit the maritime museum, an agricultural museum and the shipwright school in Santo Amaro (entrance fees payable locally). **Grade 2**

Price is £48 per person (Full day) and £30 per person (Half day).

Notes

- Daily departures based on a minimum of 2 participants
- Each walk is led by an experienced English speaking guide
- No child reductions
- Full day walks include a picnic lunch
- Pick-up included from/to all hotels on Pico.

Pico Mountain Hike

For the more adventurous traveller a climb to the summit of Mount Pico can present the opportunity of a life time especially if you are blessed with clear skies. The peak, at 2,351 metres, offers spectacular views over the central islands of the archipelago. The ascent generally takes between 3½ and 4½ hours depending on how fit you are and weather conditions. The climb should only be attempted by strong walkers. The walk is not technically difficult but would involve some steep slopes along uneven paths and in places slippery vegetation and loose stones. The climb starts from 1200 metres. To climb the mountain you must be accompanied by a qualified guide.

From Madalena

Price is £216 per taxi based on 2 passengers

From Prainha

Price is £245 per taxi based on 2 passengers

From Sao Roque

Price is £237 per taxi based on 2 passengers

Notes

- Accompanied by an experienced English speaking guide
- Lunch is not included
- For smaller/larger groups please telephone us for a quotation.

Island Tours

Sunvil is able to pre-book the following private taxi tours on Pico. Tours can also be tailor-made to suit the individual requirements of our clients, please telephone us for a quotation.

Pico Island – Full day

Depart from Madalena to the village of Sao Roque on the north coast of Pico, visiting the black rocks of Cachorro en route. Take the mountain road (altitude 900m) towards the village of Lajes do Pico, which for many years was the centre of the whaling industry in the Azores. Continue on to the Whaler's Museum (entrance fee not included) and home to a fascinating exhibition about the industry. Return to Madalena stopping at 'Verdelho' wine cellar en route.

From Madalena, Prainha and Sao Roque
Price is £174 per taxi

Faial Island – Full day

Depart from Madalena harbour to Faial Island (30 minutes by boat). Take the mountain road towards Caldeira, the highest point on Faial at 1,043 metres. Continue north to Capelinhos, the site of the last volcanic eruption in the Azores in 1957 and visit the museum, which details the evolution of the eruption. Return to Pico by boat.

From Madalena

Price is £219 per taxi

Notes

- Prices are based on a maximum of 3 people per taxi
- Lunch and entrance fees to museums and parks are not included
- Transfers to Madalena harbour, for the full day tour of Faial, available at a supplement – please telephone us for details
- Boat crossing between Madalena and Horta is included
- Itineraries are subject to change.





Baia da Barca, Madalena



Baia da Barca, Madalena

Airport: 8km Pico ■ Harbour: 700m Madalena

■ 4-star apart-hotel ■ Bed & Breakfast ■ Car hire recommended

This modern property affords wonderful ocean views as well as views of Mount Pico, Portugal's highest mountain and is a good base from which to enjoy the island of Pico. There are a few walking trails in the area, or for the more adventurous, a guided walk to the summit of Mount Pico is a must.

Set in a quiet bay, the Baia da Barca is ideal for anyone wishing to escape the stresses of city life yet without being totally isolated. The village of Madalena is within easy reach (c. 5-minutes' walk) as is the port which runs a regular half-hour ferry crossing to Horta, Faial. The Baia da Barca offers the highest standard of accommodation on Pico - Recommended.

Accommodation

10 air-conditioned apartments including 1-bedroom units, panoramic 1-bedroom units and 2-bedroom duplex units divided between three, two-floor buildings ■ All the units have a bathroom (bath and shower, hairdryer), satellite TV, DVD player (island promotional films available from reception), telephone, radio, minibar, kitchenette (4 electric hobs, fridge-freezer, microwave, toaster, kettle and coffee maker), complimentary WIFI internet connection and can accommodate an extra bed for an adult or child ■ All apartments have a private entrance ■ Air-conditioning available in the bedrooms ■ Iron and ironing board available on request.

Four 1-bedroom apartments

(sleep 2+1):

1-bedroom units are located on the ground floor and have a shared terrace (no view)

Four panoramic 1-bedroom apartments

(sleep 2+1):

Panoramic 1-bedroom apartments are located on the first floor and have a private balcony ■ The units have a side ocean or side mountain view from the bedroom and from the balcony or terrace

2-bedroom duplex apartments

(sleep 4+2):

The 2-bedroom duplex apartments have a dishwasher, separate WC (on the ground floor) and can accommodate 2 extra beds in the living room ■ One 2-bedroom apartment has a side ocean view and the other has a side mountain view.

Amenities/Leisure

Buffet breakfast ■ Terrace, bar and lounge with TV and DVD player. The terrace affords views to Faial and the bay ■ Computer with internet connection at reception ■ Free WIFI internet connection in the public areas ■ Salt water swimming pool ■ Jacuzzi and sauna (free of charge) ■ Bike rental (payable locally c. 9 Euros per day) ■ Free parking ■ Natural rock pool and bar c. 15-minutes' walk ■ Taxi to the port of Madalena costs c. 5 Euros each way ■ Wine museum is c.10-minutes' walk.

Closed: 01Dec11-09Jan12.





Casa da Vinha



Prainha

Adegas do Pico, Prainha

Airport: 24km Pico ■ Harbours: 32km Madalena and 11km Sao Roque

■ Traditional Stone Houses (Turismo Rural) ■ Self Catering ■ Car hire recommended

The ten traditional stone houses of Adegas do Pico are located in the fishing village of Prainha and enjoy panoramic views over the ocean and surrounding countryside. Each house has been lovingly renovated by owners Maria Serpa and Jose Maia in a warm, rustic style; and each is unique in size and design. Exposed stone walls, wood-beamed ceilings, antique pieces and outdoor terraces prominently feature.

The Adegas do Pico offer a tranquil retreat in which guests can mix with the local community, albeit for a short time, and experience Azorean village life.

Relax and enjoy the dramatic ocean and countryside views; participate in a whale and dolphin watching excursion; join the locals and swim/sunbathe at the natural rock pools; explore the volcanic, vineyard landscape of Pico – declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site; climb Mount Pico (with a guide) or take a day trip to Sao Jorge or Faial – the choice is yours.



Casa do Garajau



Casa da Vinha



Casa da Vinha

Three 1-bedroom houses (sleep 2):

Casa da Vinha, Casa da Baia and Casa do Garajau

Twin bedroom, bathroom (shower), lounge with TV, kitchen (electric oven, 4 gas hobs, fridge freezer, microwave, toaster, coffee maker and kettle), terrace and barbecue area. Casa do Garajau and Casa da Vinha have a washing machine.

Five 2-bedroom houses (sleep 4+2):

Casa do Lagar, Casa das Bananeiras, Casa da Moega, Casa do Farol and Casa Flor da Ribeira

One double and one twin bedroom, bathroom (shower), lounge with TV, kitchen (electric oven, 4 gas hobs, fridge freezer, microwave, toaster, coffee maker and kettle), terrace or balcony and barbecue area ■ Casa do Farol has an open-plan lounge and kitchen (gas oven, 6 gas hobs and a washing machine) ■ Casa Flor da Ribeira has a bathroom with bath tub and kitchen (gas oven, 4 gas hobs, fridge freezer, microwave, toaster, coffee maker, kettle and a washing machine).

Four 3-bedroom houses (sleep 6)

Casa Alto da Ribeira, Casa das Conteiras, Casa do Misterio and Casa da Montanha:

Two twin bedrooms and one double bedroom, two bathrooms (shower), lounge with TV, kitchen (gas oven, 4 gas hobs, fridge freezer, microwave, toaster, coffee maker, kettle, dishwasher and a washing machine), terrace and barbecue area ■ Casa do Misterio has two bathrooms, one with bath tub ■ The accommodation in Casa da Montanha is separated between two adjacent, detached buildings.

Notes:

■ All the houses enjoy an ocean view and are equipped with hairdryer, iron and ironing board, kitchen utensils and equipment, cleaning equipment (brush, mop, cloths and detergents), de-humidifier and electric heaters ■ Internet, DVD player, game station, baby cots and housekeeping services are available upon request ■ Welcome pack included (local

wine, bread, cheese, biscuits, 6 eggs, juice and 2 rolls of toilet paper) ■ The furthest houses – Casa da Baia and Casa do Misterio – are located 3km from the centre of Prainha. All other houses are located within 700m of the centre.

Amenities/Leisure

In the village of Prainha there is a pizza/snack bar, one restaurant, two grocery shops, a public telephone box, two ATM machines, a natural swimming pool and a small sandy beach (the only one on Pico) ■ 11km (10 minutes drive) to Sao Roque, from where the ferry departs to Sao Jorge ■ 24km (30 minutes drive) to Lajes do Pico, and the location of the Whaler's Museum ■ Free parking.



Casa do Ouvidor pool

Casa do Ouvidor, Sao Roque

Airport: 17km Pico ■ Harbour: 2km Sao Roque

■ Rural Houses (Turismo Rural) ■ Self Catering ■ Swimming pool ■ Air-Conditioning
■ Car hire recommended

Perched on the hillside above the town of Sao Roque, on Pico's north coast, is Casa do Ouvidor. This rural property is well positioned in a quiet and scenic location with magnificent views across the Atlantic Ocean towards Sao Jorge.

The property consists of three spacious houses each individually decorated: Casa do Mar is inspired by the Atlantic and has a blue theme; Casa da Terra is decorated in earthy tones of green and brown; whilst Casa do Fogo is decorated in reds and pinks offering a more romantic setting.

Accommodation

Each house is air-conditioned and has complimentary WIFI internet connection in the living room ■ Linen and towels provided ■ Cot available on request (free of charge) ■ Welcome pack included (bottle of water, milk, fruit and biscuits).



Casa do Mar (sleep 4+2)

Ground Floor: Living room with double sofa bed (suitable for two children), cable TV, fireplace and iron with ironing board, dining room, kitchen (electric oven, 4 electric hobs, microwave, fridge-freezer, dishwasher and washing machine) and patio with table and chairs. First Floor: Two bedrooms (1 double and 1 twin) and bathroom (bath, shower and hairdryer) and cable TV.

Casa da Terra (sleep 4+2)

Ground Floor: Living room with double sofa bed (suitable for two children), cable TV, dining table, fireplace and iron with ironing board, kitchen (electric oven, 4 electric hobs, microwave, fridge-freezer, dishwasher and washing machine) and patio with table and chairs. First Floor: Two bedrooms (1 double and 1 twin) and bathroom (bath, shower and hairdryer) and cable TV.



Casa do Fogo (sleep 4+2)

Ground Floor: Two bedrooms (1 double and 1 twin) and two bathrooms (bath, shower and hairdryer) and cable TV. First Floor: Living room double sofa bed (suitable for two children), kitchenette (electric oven, 4 electric hobs, microwave, fridge-freezer, dishwasher and washing machine), dining table, cable TV, iron with ironing board and balcony.



Amenities/Leisure

Buffet breakfast can be pre-booked or arranged locally at an additional charge ■ Outdoor swimming pool (66sqm) open all year - towels provided free of charge ■ Jacuzzi - towels provided ■ Sun deck with chairs, tables, sun loungers and umbrellas ■ Shared barbecue area ■ Extensive gardens (7,560sqm) with several orchards ■ Nearby woods with walking trails ■ Free private parking ■ 2.5km to the nearest restaurant, shop, and beach ■ Bus and taxi service nearby ■ c.5-minute drive to Sao Roque harbour for the ferry to Sao Jorge ■ c.25-minute drive to Madalena harbour for the ferry to Faial.