



Sao Miguel

The Green Island

Area: 746 sq. km
Length: 65 km (41 miles)
Width: 15 km (10 miles)
Population: 131,816 inhabitants
Capital: Ponta Delgada



Sao Miguel, located on the eastern side of the archipelago, is by far the largest of the nine islands. It is made up of six volcanic complexes and municipalities.

To the west, Ponta Delgada, the main town and port has preserved its historical beauty. It is a delight to explore the narrow cobbled streets bordered by very well preserved period houses. Ponta Delgada is the hub for all public transportation and tours, and as such is an ideal base from which to explore the island whilst having all local amenities in reach.

Within the municipality of Ponta Delgada are the Sete Cidades, an extinct volcano crater of 40 sq. km, within which are two magnificent lakes, one deep blue colour and the other emerald green. The best view over the lakes can be enjoyed from Vista do Rei. For the more active, a 13km walk, descending from the top of the crater to the village of Sete Cidades, offers wonderful panoramas of the lakes, countryside and ocean.

To the north lies the agricultural town of Ribeira Grande, surrounded by fertile lands yielding crops which include potatoes, tobacco, sugar beet, passion fruit and tea (one of the few places in Europe where it is grown). The black shingle beach of Ribeira Grande is a haven for surfers and has Blue Flag status.

Here, too, is the dramatic lake of fire "Lagoa do Fogo" and delightful beaches nestling under high cliffs.



The north-east coast is a relatively undiscovered region with spectacular high cliffs plunging from high, flower covered plateaux, fields and wooded mountains into the sea. This is the home of the rare Azorean Bullfinch (Priolo) and the highest peak on the island, Pico do Vara.

The municipality of Povoacao is in the south-east. Here are the most beautiful gardens in the Azores. The spa town of Furnas, one of the largest thermal water sources in the world, with its beautiful azalea bordered lake, is home to a 30 acre botanical garden of great international importance. Everywhere, from April to early summer, hedgerows of azaleas and hydrangeas abound.

To the south, the municipalities of Vila Franca do Campo (the town was the island's first capital) and Lagoa are mountainous and agricultural farming areas with black cliffs disappearing into the ocean. Here pineapples, bananas, oranges and vines are cultivated. Off the coast of Vila Franca is the Ilheu da Vila, a nature reserve and a popular spot for swimming (Blue Flag status).

The Sete Cidades Lake was recently (2010) voted as one of 'The 7 natural wonders of Portugal'. See photo on pages 2-3.

Highlights

Blue Flag beaches and natural swimming pools

12 beaches and marinas on Sao Miguel have achieved Blue Flag status.

Cozido a Caldeiras

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 the Hotel Terra Nostra Garden – pre-booking recommended.

Festivals

- Carnival (Ponta Delgada) 18-21 February
- Festa Sr dos Enfermos (the streets of Furnas are covered with azaleas for the procession) – 15 April
- Festa Sr Santo Cristo dos Milagres (Ponta Delgada) – 11-17 May
- Festas de Sao Joao da Vila (Vila Franca do Campo) – 23 June
- Cavalhadas de Sao Pedro (Ribeira Grande) – 29 June
- European Car Rally – June / July
- Spirito Santo – July

Note: Dates subject to change.

Activities (pages 10-14)

- Birdwatching
- Canoeing – see page 22
- Canyoning – see page 22
- Cycling
- Geological history tour
- Golf
- Horse riding – see page 22
- Island tours
- Jeep safaris
- Natural rock swimming pools
- Scuba diving
- Surfing (Santa Barbara, Ribeira Grande and Rabo de Peixe beaches)
- Swimming with dolphins
- Walking (guided)
- Whale & dolphin watching



Whale & Dolphin Watching Holidays

Experience the natural world up close on one of our 7-night whale and dolphin watching holidays on Sao Miguel.

Top of the list for most visitors to the Azores is whale and dolphin watching. Twenty-four of the planet's 80 species of whales and dolphins have been sighted off the coast of the Azores making this one of the best places in the world to whale watch. The most frequently spotted cetaceans are Sperm whale, Short-finned pilot whale, Common dolphin, Bottlenose dolphin, Atlantic spotted dolphin and Risso's dolphin.

The whale watching season runs all year, with the main season being between Apr-Oct. Although dolphins can be seen all year round, whales are less frequent during the winter months. Each excursion starts with a 10-minute briefing by a marine biologist, introducing the cetaceans of the Azores and discussing their habitat, communication and behavioural patterns.

Our whale and dolphin watching suppliers on Sao Miguel are partners on a research project called Monicet. The project aims to build a long-term database of cetacean sightings. For further information on Monicet and to view sighting statistics and maps, please visit www.monicet.net.

Holiday Option 1

7-nights based in Ponta Delgada

- Saturday scheduled flights with SATA International from London Gatwick to Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel.
- 7-nights accommodation at the Hotel Marina Atlantico, Ponta Delgada (bed & breakfast) – see page 17.
- Transfers to/from Ponta Delgada airport.
- Briefing by a marine biologist.
- Four 3-hour whale and dolphin watching excursions.
- **Price from £906 per person based on 2-sharing.**
Please telephone us for a quotation.



Sperm whale

Holiday Option 2

7-nights based in Vila Franca do Campo

- Saturday scheduled flights with SATA International from London Gatwick to Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel.
- 7-nights accommodation at the Quinta dos Curubas, Vila Franca do Campo (self catering) – see page 20.
- Group 'B' car hire – see details on page 68. Note: 5-minute drive to the whaling base in Vila Franca do Campo.
- Briefing by a marine biologist on board the zodiac.
- Four 3-hour whale and dolphin watching excursions.
- **Price from £869 per person based on 2-sharing.**
Please telephone us for a quotation.



Zodiac boat

Notes

- Zodiac boats (small, rigid hull inflatables carrying up to 24 people) are used.
- Excursions depart at 08:30 or 13:30 – schedules to be advised locally depending on weather conditions.
- Transfers to/from the whaling base are not included.
- We cannot guarantee that you will see a cetacean but it is unlikely that you should be so unlucky.
- Extra excursions can be pre-booked through Sunvil or locally through our agents – see details on page 11.
- Alternative accommodation in Ponta Delgada (Holiday Option 1) and near Vila Franca do Campo (Holiday Option 2) can be booked, please telephone us for a quotation.

Important: Children aged 4yrs or under, pregnant women or any person suffering from severe back problems, are not allowed on the Zodiac whale watching boats.



What to see and do on Sao Miguel

Swimming With Dolphins

Swim with dolphins in the blue Atlantic waters around Sao Miguel Island. The four species of dolphin that are regularly sighted here are Common, Bottlenose, Risso and Atlantic Spotted.

From Ponta Delgada

Price is £69 per person (all year)

From Vila Franca do Campo

Price is £62 per person (all year)

- Two people allowed in the water at a time (only free diving permitted). Contact with the dolphins is not permitted.
- No child reductions.
- Minimum 2 crew members on board at all times. The final decision to dive rests with the skipper on the day.
- Maximum of 8 people per boat (including crew members) from Ponta Delgada, and 10 people per boat (including crew members) from Vila Franca do Campo).
- Minimum child age is 5 years (accompanied by a parent or guardian).
- 3-hour trip (in the water for c.10-minutes).
- Briefing by the skipper (c.15-minutes).
- Location is c.10 miles from shore.
- Wetsuits and snorkelling life vest (without fins or tube) are provided.
- Private excursions can be arranged at a supplement.
- Pre-booking in July and August is recommended.
- **For experienced, confident swimmers only.**

Whale & Dolphin Watching Trip

A mere glimpse of a dorsal fin can have you beaming for hours. So why not hop on a Zodiac in search of cetacean activity – 24 of the planet's 80 species of whales and dolphins have been sighted off the coast of the Azores.

From Ponta Delgada

Price is £52 per person (all year)

From Vila Franca do Campo

Price is £50 per person (all year)

Recommended if staying in Agua de Alto, Caloura, Vila Franca do Campo and Furnas.

- 3-hour excursion departs at 08:30 or 13:30.
- Briefing by a marine biologist (c.10-minutes).
- Minimum child age is 5 years (accompanied by a parent or guardian).
- Zodiac boats (small, rigid hull inflatables carrying up to 24 people) are used.
- We cannot guarantee that you will see a cetacean but it is unlikely that you should be so unlucky.
- Pre-booking in July and August is recommended.

Important: Children aged 4yrs or under, pregnant women or any person suffering from severe back problems are not allowed on the Zodiac boats.

Diving

Enjoy an unforgettable adventure filled with caves, volcanic drop-offs, underwater arches and an abundance of both Atlantic and Tropical fish life – parrot fish, groupers, sting and eagle rays, moray and conger eels, barracudas, amberjacks, turtles and dolphins. A fully equipped PADI dive centre is based at the Hotel Caloura in Caloura - see page 21.

- Open daily from May to October.
- Suitable for all - from complete beginner to the most experienced, with shore and boat dives
- Dives are limited to 40 metres and a maximum group size of 6.
- Dives include a 12 litre steel tank (220 BAR), weight belt and weight, dive master guidance and boat transportation to/from the dive sites within a 6-mile radius.
- Minimum age of 16yrs applies to all PADI programmes except for the Discover scuba course which is 8yrs.
- Medical certificates confirming fitness to dive is required for the Discover Scuba Diving, Licence Scuba Diver and Licence Open Water Diver courses – prices on request.
- Sunvil's insurance covers dives up to a depth of 40m only.
- There are also PADI dive shops in Ponta Delgada and Vila Franca do Campo.
- **Price from £46 per person (1 dive own equipment) or £57 per person (1 dive with supplied equipment).**

Golf

Tee-off on one of two golf courses on Sao Miguel - Furnas, 4km from the Hotel Terra Nostra Garden, Furnas Lake Apartments and Quinta do Mo (pages 22-24) or Batalha, a 20-minute drive (12km) from Ponta Delgada (pages 15-18) and the Quinta de Santana (page 19).

Price is £37 per person for green fees (9 holes) all year and £62 per person (18 holes).

Furnas 'Cedars' Golf (pictured) is located in the mountains (500m above sea level) with beautiful lakes, fairways surrounded by large trees and undulating greenways.

- 46 hectare golf course
- Course length is 6232m maximum
- 18 holes
- Par 72
- Required handicap: 28 Men / 36 Women
- Clubhouse with bar, restaurant, small pro-shop and TV/video room
- Two putting greens, a practice tee and chipping and pitching area
- Obligatory to wear soft spike shoes on both courses.

Furnas 'Cedars' Golf course was named the 7th best golf course in Portugal by Today's Golfer (2011)

Batalha 'Azalea' Golf is a beautifully landscaped course with challenging fairways and greens overlooking the ocean.

- 100 hectare golf course
- Course length is 6435m maximum
- 27 holes
- Par 72
- Required handicap: 28 Men / 36 Women
- Clubhouse with bar, restaurant (golfers only), pro-shop, TV/video room and WIFI internet access
- Driving range, a putting green and chipping and pitching green
- Obligatory to wear soft spike shoes on both courses.



What to see and do on Sao Miguel

Azorean Experience

This full-day experience centres on a traditional Azorean family-run farm in the village of Ginetes, and provides an insight to the history, culture and lifestyles of rural farming communities on Sao Miguel.

Take a scenic ride on a horse and trap through Ginetes to the viewpoint of Escalvado, from where there is a splendid panorama over the western coast and the parish of Mosteiros; to the Sabrina Islet viewpoint and to the Ferraria lighthouse, the largest in the Azores.

Back at the farm, a guided tour is offered and you can even try your hand at milking a cow and/or making combread or wheat bread. Afterwards local produce including delicious home-made sweetbread, cheese, marmalade, pate, tea and traditional biscuits are offered as an appetiser before a three-course lunch (soup, main course and dessert) is served.

The Azorean Experience will highlight aspects of the Azores that are not to be missed.

Price is £97 per adult* and £38 per child* (3-11yrs) when travelling with 2 adults.

* Based on a minimum of 2 people

- Friday and Saturday departures from Ponta Delgada at 09:00 and return 17:00.
- Minimum 2 and maximum 12 people.
- Suitable for all age groups.
- Included: Taxi or minibus transfer to Ginetes, horse-and-trap ride and lunch.

Geological History Tour

Experience the fabulous Geological History Tour of Sao Miguel, expertly escorted by an enthusiastic English-speaking geologist. A unique insight into these stunning green islands which will give you a new and clear perspective of just how these diverse landscapes were formed. See, touch and learn the secrets of this volcanic archipelago in a fun and entertaining day trip around the island.

Price is £64 per adult and £50 per child (8-10yrs)

- Friday departures from Ponta Delgada 09:30 and return 17:00.
- Minimum 2 and maximum 12 people.
- Suitable for all age groups – recommended from 8yrs and over.
- Optional extra: Caving – not suitable for those with walking difficulties.
- Included: 10-seater Jeep Defender or 9/12-seater minibus, picnic lunch, safety equipment (caving option) and pick-up from/to all hotels outside Ponta Delgada (excluding Nordeste).

Birdwatching

This tour will appeal to beginners and long-time bird enthusiasts alike.

Escorted by an ornithologist, you will observe birds and learn about their behaviour and diet all within a magnificent landscape. Spot chaffinches, blackbirds, blackcaps, grey wagtails, shearwaters and canaries along the route.

Price is £64 per adult and £50 per child (8-10yrs)

- Sunday departures (Mar-Oct) from Ponta Delgada at 09:30 and return 17:00.
- Minimum 2 and maximum 8 people.
- Suitable for all – recommended for children aged 8yrs and over.
- Included: 10-seater Jeep Defender or 9/12-seater minibus, English speaking guide, picnic lunch, bird checklist and pick-up from/to all hotels outside Ponta Delgada (excluding Nordeste).
- Best time to observe resident and migrating birds is between Mar-Apr and Sep-Oct.

Note

- The birdwatching tour does not include a trip to Nordeste to see the Priolo.

The Azores Bullfinch (Priolo)

The Azores bullfinch, also known as *Pyrrhula murina* 'Priolo', is only found in a few square kilometres of wood in Serra da Tronqueira in the eastern region of São Miguel (8km from Nordeste). One of Europe's most endangered species – shot almost to extinction by fruit farmers who viewed them as agricultural pests, the bullfinch was rarely seen after the 1920's. Changes to the native vegetation of the Azores have destroyed the species' natural habitat and led to the population plummeting to around 400 birds. Sightings are most common in breeding season from mid-June to late August.

There is a plan underway aiming to manage the habitats of the area of Pico da Vara / Ribeira do Guilherme in a manner compatible with a sustainable future, guaranteeing the conservation of the Priolo. This means, in practice, to save and enlarge the areas with native vegetation.

The 'Association to protect the Priolo' on Sao Miguel runs a number of one day volunteer programmes throughout the year. Should you wish to join one of these programmes please contact us for further information. The programmes include:

1. Evaluation of the distribution of the bird population: Dec-Mar.
2. Registration of the priolo: Apr-Oct.
3. Help to catch and classify the birds: Nov.
4. Plantation of the endemic plants that they eat: Oct-Mar.
5. Removing exotic plants: May-Aug.



What to see and do on Sao Miguel

Island Tours

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

Sete Cidades

Depart to Sete Cidades lakes by the mountain road. According to local myth, the two lakes at Sete Cidades were formed after a love affair between a princess and a shepherd boy was abruptly ended on the orders of her father, the king. The myth states that the two lakes, one blue in colour the other green were formed from the tears of the pair as they separated. After visiting the lakes, you will stop at the 'Vista do Rei' belvedere from where there is a panoramic view over the lakes and the surrounding area. Return to Ponta Delgada, stopping en route at a pineapple plantation. Free afternoon.

From Ponta Delgada
Price is £155 per taxi

Furnas

Depart to the village of Furnas by the south road, stopping at the town of Vila Franca do Campo en route. In Furnas you will have time to visit the beautiful 30-acre botanical gardens and the hot springs before continuing to the town of Ribeira Grande, visiting a tea plantation en route. Return to Ponta Delgada.

From Ponta Delgada
Price is £155 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 ■ Pick up/drop off from hotels outside of Ponta Delgada at a supplement – please telephone us for a quotation ■ Itineraries are subject to change.

Jeep Tours

Enjoy an unforgettable drive along the islands' best trails. Driving through trees and pastures often overlooking the Atlantic ocean you will discover places and landscapes of rare beauty not often encountered by the average tourist. During the trip there will be several stops with time to enjoy the beautiful scenery.

■ Furnas (Monday full day)

See the mystic Furnas valley and surrounding area with its amazing volcanic formations.

- Caloura
- Vila Franca do Campo
- Castelo Branco
- Furnas Lake
- Pico do Ferro
- Ribeira Grande
- Ponta Delgada

Price is £61 per person

■ Lagoa do Fogo (Tuesday half day)

Visit the central area of the island and the vast volcanic complex of Lagoa do Fogo.

- Baleeiros viewpoint
- Caldeira Vehla
- Lagoa do Fogo
- Lagoa village
- Ponta Delgada

Price is £34 per person

■ Nordeste (Wednesday full day)

Take a tour to Nordeste on the eastern coast of Sao Miguel, known as the greenest part of the island.

- Ponta do Cintrao
- Santa Iria viewpoint
- Ribeira dos Caldeiros
- Serra da Tronqueira
- Salto do Cavalo

Price is £66 per person

■ Sete Cidades (Friday full day)

Visit the unique sights on Sao Miguel's west coast.

- Carvao viewpoint
- Lakes of Empadadas
- Sete Cidades Lake
- Vista do Rei viewpoint
- Mosteiros
- Escalvado viewpoint
- Ferraria
- Porto das Feteiras
- Ponta Delgada

Price is £61 per person

Notes

- Departures from Ponta Delgada.
- No child reductions.
- No minimum number required.
- Escorted by an English speaking driver/guide.
- Full day tours (c.8 hours) include lunch.
- Half day tours (c.4 hours).
- Pick-up from/to hotels outside of Ponta Delgada on request. An extra charge may be applicable.
- Itineraries are subject to change.



Fly-Drive Holiday

Sao Miguel, the largest of the nine Azorean islands, is only 65km long and 15km wide. With a picture book landscape interspersed by historical towns and small villages, it is ideal for a touring holiday.

Outlined below are three suggested itineraries that can be modified to create individual, tailor-made trips to suit individual needs. Please feel free to construct your own itinerary using any of our featured properties.

Fly-drive A

- 2nts Hotel Talisman, Ponta Delgada (page 16)
- 2nts Estalagem dos Clerigos, Nordeste (page 24)
- 3nts Hotel Terra Nostra Garden, Furnas (page 24)

Price from £746 per person based on 2-sharing

Fly-drive B

- 3nts Hotel Royal Garden, Ponta Delgada (page 17)
- 4nts Hotel Caloura, Caloura (page 21)

Price from £780 per person based on 2-sharing

Fly-drive C

- 4nts Quinta de Santana, Ribeira Grande (page 19)
- 3nts Furnas Lake Apartments, Furnas (page 25)

Price from £833 per person based on 2-sharing

Prices include: Saturday scheduled flights with SATA International from London Gatwick to Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel

- 7 nights accommodation, Group 'A' car hire – see details on page 68
- Please telephone us for a quotation.



Walking Holidays

The islands of the Azores, with their mild climate (day time temperature ranging from 14-22 degrees), are the most wonderful islands for walking. So why not join a guided walk for the day or experience the walks as shown on our 7-night Walking Holidays.

Holiday Option 1

7-nights based in Ponta Delgada

- Saturday scheduled flights with SATA International from London Gatwick to Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel.
- 7-nights accommodation at the Hotel Sao Miguel Park, Ponta Delgada (bed & breakfast) – see page 15.
- Transfers to/from Ponta Delgada and to/from all walks
- Four full-day guided walks – Faial da Terra, Monte Escuro, Lagoa do Fogo and Cumeeiras – with English speaking guide and including picnic lunches.
- Minimum 2 and maximum 8 people.
- **Price from £897 per person based on 2-sharing**

Holiday Option 2

7-nights based in Caloura

- Saturday scheduled flights with SATA International from London Gatwick to Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel.
- 7-nights accommodation at the Hotel Caloura, Caloura (bed & breakfast) – see page 21.
- Transfers to/from Caloura and to/from all walks
- Four full-day guided walks – Faial da Terra, Monte Escuro, Lagoa do Fogo and Cumeeiras – with English speaking guide and including picnic lunches.
- Minimum 2 and maximum 8 people.
- **Price from £953 per person based on 2-sharing**

Guided Walks

Each guided walk can be booked independently as part of a tailor-made holiday.

Faial da Terra (Sunday): This 6km (4-5-hour) walk takes place in the southeast of the island, in Faial da Terra. The trail is lined by exotic and luxurious vegetation. During the walk you will stop by the beautiful waterfall of Salto do Prego where it is possible to take a swim. Depart Ponta Delgada at 09:00 – Return 17:30 **Grade 2**

Monte Escuro (Tuesday): This 14km (4-5-hour) walk starts by the Monte Escuro volcano at a height of 890m. As the trail continues the scene changes, allowing you to appreciate long distance views over the island and the magnificent Lagoa do Fogo. The walk ends by the church of Nossa Senhora da Paz, a pilgrimage site that offers beautiful views over the village of Vila Franca do Campo and the islet of Vila Franca. Depart Ponta Delgada at 09:00 – Return 17:30 **Grade 2**

Lagoa do Fogo (Wednesday): This 12km (4-5-hour) walk takes place in the south-central area of Sao Miguel and includes a route along a levada. The high point is the arrival at Lagoa do Fogo, located at 575m which is one of the most beautiful lakes of the Azores. Depart Ponta Delgada at 09:30 – Return 17:00 **Grade 2**

Cumeeiras (Friday): This 12km (4-5-hour) walk takes place in the west of Sao Miguel. On the walk you will see some exotic and native species of Azorean flora. Part of the

trail follows the water line of the caldera of Sete Cidades, around the twin lakes known as Lagoa Verde and Lagoa Azul. Enjoy amazing panoramic views of the North and West coast of the island. Depart Ponta Delgada at 09:30 – Return 17:30 **Grade 1**

Sete Cidades (Saturday): This 7km (4-5-hour) walk descends through the valley towards the village of Sete Cidades, before continuing around the water's edge. During the walk, you will be able to take photographs of both the Sete Cidades lakes (one blue in colour, the other green), as well as panoramic pictures of lush countryside overlooking the ocean. The difficulty of this walk, if any, is the last stretch which is fairly steep and can be slippery due to the ground surface consisting of loose gravel on top of compacted stone. Depart Ponta Delgada at 09:30 – Return 17:30 **Grade 1**

Notes

■ The guided walks can be booked as individual walks to be 'bolted' on to a standard holiday booking. ■ **Price for each individual walk is £54 per adult and £47 per child (up to 10yrs).** An additional supplement is payable for transfers from Nordeste – prices on request.

Grading of Walks

1 for Easy
2 for Medium

Non Guided Walks

Lagoa do Canario walk will start at the lake before continuing to the viewpoint over the Sete Cidades lakes. Descend to the village of Capelas on the north coast of Sao Miguel, once an important whaling centre, passing the small lakes of Lagoa das Eguas, Lagoa Rasa and Lagoa Empadadas en route. Throughout this 6km (c. 2hr) walk you will be able to enjoy magnificent views over the northern coastline with its picturesque villages and pastures. **Grade 1**

Ponta Graca is an 8km (c. 2hr) walk that follows an old donkey trail along the scenic southern coastline until reaching the small fishing village of Ribeira Quente. The approach to the village will guide you through green countryside and two tunnels where there is a cascading waterfall. This is the only coastal trail on Sao Miguel which provides excellent ocean views for most of the walk. **Grade 2**

Furnas is a 9km (c. 3hr 30mins) walk around the village visiting the renowned hot springs and Furnas Lake. Visit the caldeira's hot springs, in which the traditional meal, Cozido, is cooked. **Grade 1**

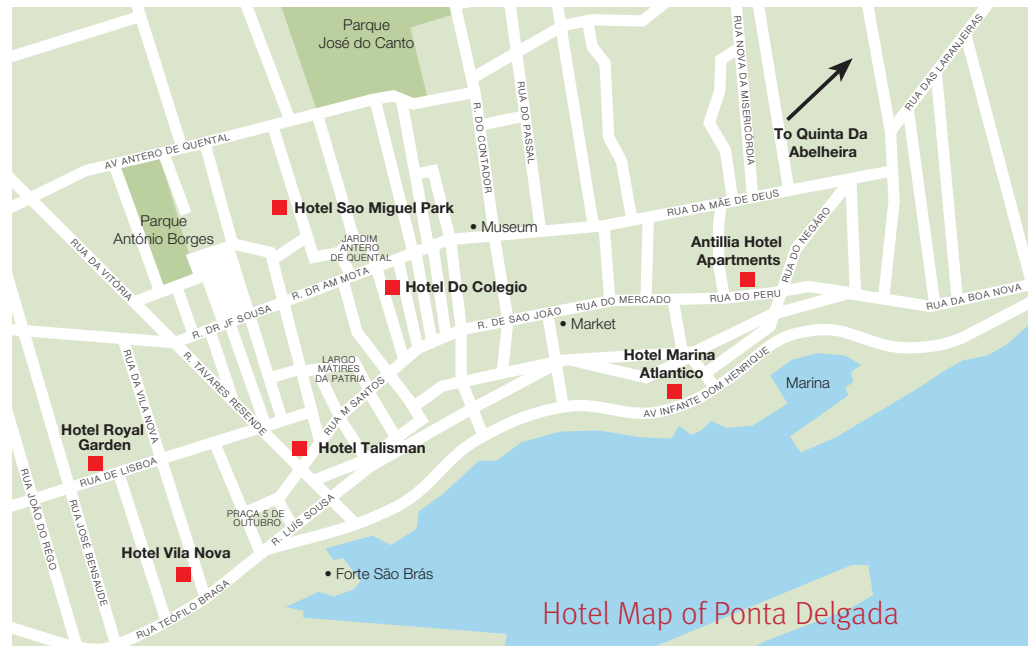
Notes

■ The non-guided walks shown here can be arranged and paid for locally ■ Walks are available daily.

Recommended: Why not combine Sao Miguel with Santa Maria (pages 27-29), Sao Jorge (pages 41-45) and/or Pico (pages 47-51). Please telephone us for a quotation.



Ponta Delgada



Hotel Map of Ponta Delgada

Hotel Vila Nova, Ponta Delgada

Airport: 3km Ponta Delgada

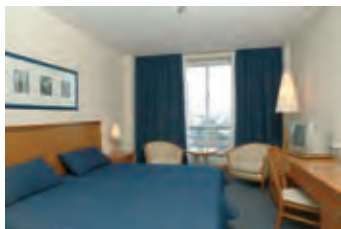
- 3-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Swimming pool
- Air-conditioning

The Hotel Vila Nova is located near the 16th century Fort of Sao Bras and the Praca (Square) de 5 Outubro in the city centre of Ponta Delgada, 200 metres from the town's cobbled shopping streets and 500 metres from the 18th century city gates. It offers clean, well-maintained guest accommodation and is a convenient base from which to explore the capital of Sao Miguel.

The Praca de 5 Outubro is a popular meeting place for locals and tourists alike, especially in the summer months when the square hosts local festivals and musical performances. During the Santo Cristo festival in May, the square is illuminated by colourful lanterns and is the heart of the celebrations and processional events.

Accommodation

102 air-conditioned rooms including single rooms, standard rooms, triple rooms, junior suites and a deluxe suite ■ All rooms have a bathroom (bath & shower), hairdryer, telephone, cable TV, safe deposit box, complimentary WIFI internet connection and views over the swimming pool or side street ■ Many rooms have a balcony including 4 triple rooms and the deluxe suite ■ 8 rooms



interconnect ■ Standard rooms with king size bed available on request ■ Junior suites have a king size bed and living room area with double sofa bed for 2 children and minibar (no balcony) ■ The deluxe suite has a separate bedroom (king size bed) and living area with minibar. The suite can accommodate two extra beds for children.

Amenities/Leisure

Breakfast room (buffet) overlooking the pool ■ Restaurant (buffet service) - please reserve your table locally before 18:00 ■ Bar/Lounge ■ Free internet connection in the lobby ■ Vending machine on each floor (drinks/snacks) ■ Games room (snooker, chess, cards, draughts and table football) ■ Outdoor heated swimming pool (6 x 12m) open all year - pool towels provided ■ Pool bar in summer ■ Lift ■ Parking (payable locally c.2 Euros per day) ■ 25-minutes walk from the marina.

Special Offer

- Stay 7 nights pay 6 nights between 01Nov11-31Oct12.

Hotel Sao Miguel Park, Ponta Delgada

Airport: 3km Ponta Delgada

- 3-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Swimming pools
- Air-conditioning

The Hotel Sao Miguel Park is located near (200 metres) to the city park and botanical gardens of Ponta Delgada. The building, originally used as a seminary, was completely remodelled and restored with few features remaining of the original academy. The hotel has many common areas, most with panoramic views, and a themed décor that includes many carved sculptures and pictures of birds. This comfortable, modern, city hotel has a host of facilities that challenge some of the more sophisticated 4-star hotels in the area.



Accommodation

163 air-conditioned rooms including single rooms, standard rooms, family rooms and a suite ■ All rooms have a bathroom (bath & shower), hairdryer, telephone, WIFI internet connection (payable locally c.3 Euros per hour and c.20 Euros per day), safe deposit box and cable TV ■ Most rooms have a balcony (48 without) ■ Standard rooms can accommodate 2 adults and 1 child ■ Family rooms can accommodate 3 adults and 1 child, or 2 adults and 2 children ■ The suite has a double bedroom (king size bed), bathroom (bath & shower), separate living room which can accommodate 2 extra beds for children and a balcony with ocean view.

Amenities/Leisure

Buffet breakfast ■ Panoramic restaurant (buffet service) ■ Bar with live entertainment Mon-Sat (usually piano player) ■ Gift shop ■ Games room (snooker - local charge 7 Euros per hour, card tables and checkers) ■ Vending machines on most floors ■ Health club with gym, 2 saunas, Turkish bath, Jacuzzi and indoor heated swimming pool (6.30 x 12m) ■ Outdoor swimming pool (7 x 14.40m) open all year - pool towels provided ■ Business centre with free internet access ■ 2 Lifts ■ 5-minutes walk to the town's cobbled shopping streets ■ Free parking ■ 25-minutes walk to the marina.

Special Offer

- Early booking discount applicable for reservations made 60 days or more prior to departure.



Ponta Delgada



Hotel Talisman, Ponta Delgada

Airport: 3km Ponta Delgada

- 4-star hotel ■ Bed & Breakfast ■ Swimming pool
- Air-conditioning ■ Tea/coffee making facilities in rooms

This elegantly styled hotel is conveniently located on a main shopping street in the historical centre of Ponta Delgada. The building is divided in to two, the original wing where the rooms are carpeted and have dark wood furnishings and the new wing, decorated in a modern minimalist style. There are two seating areas on the first floor, a winter garden, café bar, an excellent restaurant specialising in seafood and regional dishes and a rooftop swimming pool – unique for a city hotel. This well situated hotel provides a good base from which to explore the delights of the capital.

Accommodation

57 air-conditioned rooms including suites ■ All rooms have a bathroom (bath & shower), hairdryer, satellite TV, telephone, complimentary WIFI internet connection, safe deposit box (1 Euro per day), tea/coffee making facilities and fridge (drinks can be provided on request – payable locally) ■ Some standard rooms will accommodate an extra bed ■ Seven rooms have a French balcony facing the main shopping street ■ Six standard rooms interconnect ■ The suites, located on the second floor, have either a separate



living room or a designated living area within one large open-plan room and can accommodate two extra beds for adults or children.

Amenities/Leisure

Buffet breakfast ■ Restaurant serving regional dishes (specialising in fish and seafood) and international cuisine ■ ‘Sports One’ bar often with live music ■ ‘Palm Terrace’ café opening up on to a paved esplanade ■ Lounges ■ Complimentary WIFI internet connection in public areas ■ Business centre with WIFI and internet connection – payable locally c.3 Euros for 30 minutes and c.5 Euros per hour ■ Rooftop heated swimming pool (3.5 x 7m) and sundeck open all year – pool towels provided. The pool is accessed by a flight of stairs from the 3rd floor ■ Mini gym ■ Lift to 3rd floor only ■ Parking close-by (5 Euros per day) ■ 10-minute walk to the marina.



Hotel do Colegio, Ponta Delgada

Airport: 3km Ponta Delgada

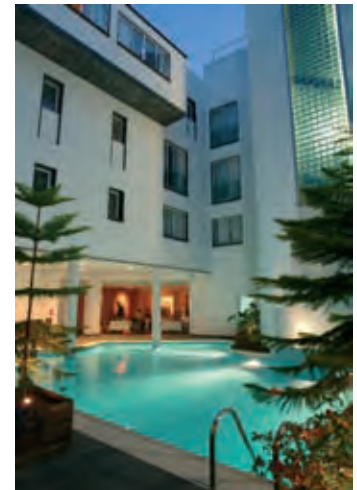
- 4-star hotel ■ Bed & Breakfast ■ Swimming pool
- Air-conditioning

The Hotel do Colegio enjoys a privileged location within the historical centre of Ponta Delgada. This 19th century building, once home to the Regional School of Music and rich in historical and cultural interest, has been remodelled to create a classically designed, four-star hotel. Many of the building’s original features are still in evidence including stone flooring in the reception, TV lounge and bar.

The Hotel do Colegio’s restaurant, ‘A Colmeia’, is one of the best places to eat in the Azores. The cooking, by Chef Guiomar Correia, is creative and modern and incorporates the best of island traditions and excellent local produce.

Accommodation

55 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, superior rooms, a junior suite and a superior junior suite ■ All rooms have a bathroom (bath & shower), hairdryer, telephone, cable TV, minibar and safe deposit box ■ Standard rooms can accommodate an extra bed for an adult ■ Junior suites will take two extra fold up beds for children ■ The standard rooms and junior suite are located within the hotel’s new wing, whilst the superior junior suite and the superior rooms are in the original building (Conservatorio wing) ■ The superior rooms have a high ceiling, a



trouser press, are slightly larger than the standard rooms and can accommodate an extra bed for an adult ■ Some standard rooms, superior rooms and the superior junior suite have a pool view ■ The superior junior suite, one superior room and one standard room have a king size bed ■ Six rooms interconnect.

Amenities/Leisure

Buffet breakfast ■ Gastronomic à la carte restaurant (closed Sat-Sun lunchtimes) ■ TV lounge/Bar ■ Health club with free use of a mini gym, sauna and Turkish bath ■ Swimming pool (6 x 10,50m) open all year – pool towels provided ■ Secure underground parking (free of charge) ■ Lift ■ Café ‘A Colmeia’ located opposite the harbour promenade ■ Restaurant ‘La Cantina’ located opposite the marina and serving Italian cuisine.



Hotel Royal Garden pool

Hotel Royal Garden, Ponta Delgada

Airport: 3km Ponta Delgada

- 4-star hotel ■ Bed & Breakfast ■ Swimming pools
- Air-conditioning

Located in Ponta Delgada, 250 metres from the town's cobbled shopping streets, the hotel provides a tranquil environment in which guests can relax and unwind after a day's exploration. Set around a beautiful Japanese garden, with water features and seating areas, the hotel has managed to encapsulate a feeling of the orient. Within the hotel the oriental theme contrasts with Aztec and South African statues to provide a warm, comfortable and stylish atmosphere.



Accommodation

193 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, executive rooms, junior suites and suites ■ All rooms have a bathroom (bath & shower), hairdryer, telephone, cable TV and minibar ■ Most rooms have a private covered balcony ■ Some rooms have an internet connection (c.20 Euros per day payable locally) ■ The rooms have views either over the town to the ocean in the distance (front facing), of the Japanese garden (inner courtyard) or over the garden and swimming pool (rear facing – double rooms with no balcony) ■ Standard rooms will accommodate an extra bed for a child ■ 5 junior suites have two bathrooms (one with shower only), three proper beds (but will also accommodate an extra put-up bed for a child) and have a garden view ■ Executive rooms have a distant ocean view, are slightly larger than the standard rooms and will accommodate an extra bed for a child ■ 12 executive rooms interconnect ■ The suites can accommodate up to 2 adults and 2 children and have a separate living room with a double sofa bed, a trouser press, two bathrooms (one with shower only) and a balcony with distant ocean view.

Amenities/Leisure

Buffet breakfast ■ Restaurant serving international and regional dishes (buffet and à la carte) ■ Bar with evening entertainment from a pianist (Tues-Sun) ■ Various seating areas ■ Hairdressers (Mon-Sat) ■ Outdoor swimming pool (8 x 18m) open all year - pool towels on request (free of charge). Pool heated Nov-Mar ■ Children's pool (2.20 x 2.20m) ■ Coffee shop, located near the outdoor swimming pool, open daily Apr–Oct ■ 1 tennis court (c.20 Euros per hour including equipment) ■ Spa including indoor heated pool (6 x 12m), sauna, Jacuzzi, Turkish bath and mini gym ■ Snooker room (payable locally c.750 Euros per hour) ■ ATM machine for cash withdrawals (Visa/Maestro/Mastercard) located in reception ■ 4 Lifts ■ Free underground parking ■ 15-minutes walk from the centre and 25-minutes walk from the marina.



Hotel Marina Atlantico, Ponta Delgada

Airport: 3km Ponta Delgada

- 4-star hotel ■ Bed & Breakfast ■ Swimming pool
- Air-conditioning

Built on the harbour front of Ponta Delgada this property has an enviable location affording panoramic views over the ocean and city marina. The glass fronted common areas on the ground and mezzanine floors are light and airy and designed to take full advantage of the location of the property. A private bridge over the coastal road connects the hotel to the open-air public swimming pool (open Jun-Sep c.2.50 Euros entry fee).



quiet working area ■ The suites can accommodate an extra bed for an adult.

Accommodation

184 air-conditioned rooms including single rooms with balcony and ocean view, standard rooms with rear town view and no balcony, standard rooms with balcony and ocean view (six have no balcony) and suites with balcony and ocean view, separate lounge with single sofa bed and bathroom (hydro-massage bath and two washbasins) ■ All rooms have a bathroom (bath & shower), hairdryer, minibar, safe deposit box, cable TV, telephone and WIFI internet connection (payable locally c.3.50 Euros per hour and c.20 Euros per day) ■ 18 ocean view rooms interconnect ■ Most rooms are twin bedded ■ Rooms with rear view can accommodate an extra bed for an adult ■ Executive floor with dedicated

Amenities/Leisure

Buffet breakfast ■ Restaurant ■ Bar ■ Sophisticated fitness centre with treatment rooms and hairdresser (payable locally), Turkish bath and sauna (free of charge) ■ Large gym with the latest exercise machines ■ Jacuzzi and indoor swimming pool (15 x 7m) - pool towels provided ■ Business centre with free internet connection ■ Lift ■ Private parking (payable locally c.750 Euros per day).

Special Offer

- Early booking discount applicable for reservations made 60 days or more prior to departure.





Ponta Delgada



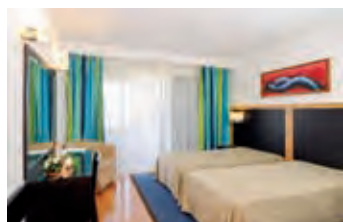
Ponta Delgada

Antillia Hotel Apartments, Ponta Delgada

Airport: 3km Ponta Delgada

- 4-star hotel ■ Bed & Breakfast (BB) ■ Self Catering (SC) ■ Swimming pools
- Air-conditioning

This modern styled hotel is well situated in the historical centre of Ponta Delgada with easy access to shops, restaurants and the marina. Offering a wealth of accommodation, the Antillia is suitable for both couples and families - as many apartments are large enough to accommodate a party of six people. In addition to ample seating areas, an outdoor swimming pool and sun terrace, guests also have complimentary access to the neighbouring health spa - indoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, Turkish bath and treatment rooms. A good city based property offering self-catering facilities.



Accommodation

47 air-conditioned apartments and 7 rooms including one suite.

Main hotel (sleep 2) – BB

The hotel has 6 double rooms and one suite. All the rooms have a bathroom (bath and/or shower and hairdryer), private balcony, telephone, cable TV, complimentary internet connection and safe deposit box (c.1.50 Euros per day). The suite has a separate living room, small kitchenette and Jacuzzi bath.

Six studio apartments (sleep 2+1) – SC

Open-plan studio with a twin/double bedroom, bathroom (bath, shower and hairdryer), single sofa bed suitable for a child, corner kitchenette (2 electric hobs, microwave/grill, kettle, coffee making machine, fridge and small freezer), telephone, cable TV, complimentary internet connection, iron/ironing board and safe deposit box.



Thirty-Eight 1-bedroom apartments (sleep 2+2) – SC

Twin/double bedroom, bathroom (bath, shower and hairdryer), separate living room with two sofa beds (accommodate two adults/children), corner kitchenette (2 electric hobs, microwave/grill, kettle, coffee making machine, fridge and small freezer), private balcony, telephone, cable TV, complimentary internet connection, iron/ironing board and safe deposit box.

Three 2-bedroom duplex apartments (sleep 4+3) – SC

Two twin/double bedrooms, two bathrooms (bath, shower and hairdryer), separate living room with corner kitchenette (2 electric hobs, microwave/grill, kettle, coffee making machine, fridge and small freezer), private balcony (one unit does not have balcony), telephone, cable TV, complimentary internet connection, iron/ironing board and safe deposit box. One apartment has three sofa beds in the living room that will accommodate three adults; one apartment has two sofa beds and the third has one sofa bed.

Amenities/Leisure

Breakfast (delivered to the apartments on request and payable locally or pre-book prior to departure) ■ Restaurant serving regional and international cuisine ■ Bar ■ TV lounge with games room (pool table and card tables) ■ Free WIFI connection in the lobby ■ Children's playground (unsupervised) ■ Gardens ■ Outdoor swimming pool (6 x 12m) with sun-loungers and decking area and open all year – pool towels provided ■ Health Club with free use of an indoor heated swimming pool (5.5 x 11m) – swimming cap required, sauna, Jacuzzi, Turkish bath, solarium and gym (closed Sundays) ■ 150m from the marina ■ Free secure parking (difficult to park between 18:00-20:00 due to locals using the health club facilities).

Minimum stay: 3 nights

Note

■ The Antillia Hotel Apartments can be combined as a 2-centre holiday with the Hotel Colombo on Santa Maria – please see page 29.





Quinta de Santana, Ribeira Grande

Airport: 20km Ponta Delgada

- Traditional Farm (Turismo Rural) ■ Self Catering
- Swimming pool ■ Car hire recommended

The Quinta de Santana enjoys a peaceful setting on the north coast of Sao Miguel, surrounded by 2 hectares of beautiful well-maintained gardens. The landscape is calm and relaxing with a large lawn, outdoor swimming pool and colourful borders of tropical flowers: hydrangeas, hibiscus, citrus fruit, passion flowers, bananas and strawberries.

Owner-managed by Emanuela Galvao, the Quinta de Santana has recently expanded the range of accommodation offered and today has 32 self catering apartments. The apartments are decorated in either a traditional style or using modern décor and furnishings, and each is equipped with modern conveniences and a shared terrace.

Accommodation

25 apartments with cable TV, telephone and terrace ■ Traditionally decorated apartments have air-conditioning. The modern apartments have been built in a style that refracts the heat and therefore air-conditioning is not required.

Six 1-Bedroom duplex apartments (sleep 2+2)

Ground Floor: Small living room with kitchenette (2 electric hobs, microwave, fridge-freezer, toaster, kettle or coffee maker) and bathroom (bath, shower and hairdryer). 1st Floor: Wooden staircase leads up to a double bedroom ■ Terrace with table and chairs ■ Some apartments will accommodate an extra bed for an adult or two children ■ Some apartments have the bathroom on the 1st floor ■ All 1-bedroom duplex units are air-conditioned.

Twelve 1-Bedroom apartments (sleep 2+2) – Ground or first floor:

Double/Twin bedroom with bathroom (bath, shower and hairdryer), living room with kitchenette (2 electric hobs, microwave, fridge-freezer, toaster, kettle or coffee maker) and terrace with table and chairs ■ Some apartments will accommodate an extra bed for an adult or two children ■ Four 1-bedroom apartments are air-conditioned.

Seven 2-Bedroom apartments (sleep 4+1) – Ground floor:

1 twin and 1 double bedroom, living room with kitchenette (2 electric hobs, microwave, fridge-freezer, toaster, kettle or coffee maker), bathroom (bath, shower and hairdryer) and terrace with table and chairs ■ Some apartments will accommodate an extra bed for an adult or child ■ One 2-bedroom apartment is air-conditioned.

Amenities/Leisure

Restaurant serving continental and buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner (c.17 Euros per person) ■ Honesty bar and complimentary WIFI internet connection in the reception ■ Games room (pool table) ■ Function room, which can be used by guests when not in use for special events, opens up on to the garden ■ Outdoor swimming pool (5.50 x 11m) open May-Sep ■ Children's play area (swings, slide and sea-saw) ■ Barbecue area ■ 2-hectares of cultivated gardens growing a variety of fruits including bananas, passion fruit, strawberries and figs and seasonal vegetables ■ The farm produces its own jam and liqueurs which can be purchased locally ■ Secure free parking ■ 5km to the supermarket at



Ribeira Grande ■ 5-minutes walk to a good beef restaurant and 10-minutes to a fish restaurant ■ Two sandy beaches within easy reach (2km to the beach at Ribeira Grande and 10-minutes walk to Santana beach) ■ 10-minutes (12km) drive to the Batalha golf course (27 hole) and 41km to the Furnas golf course ■ Welcome pack included (local wine, water, bread, butter, cheese, coffee/tea, biscuits, sugar, 6 eggs, milk, juice, salt/pepper and 2 rolls of toilet paper).

Special Offers

- Stay 10 nights between 01Nov11-31Mar12 and receive a complimentary evening meal for 2 people (drinks excluded).
- Stay 7 nights pay 5 nights between 01Apr-31May12 and 01-31Oct12.
- Stay 14 nights pay 10 nights and receive a complimentary evening meal for 2 people (drinks excluded) between 01Apr-31May12 and 01-31Oct12.
- Stay 14 nights between 01Jun-30Sep12 and receive a complimentary evening meal for 2 people (drinks excluded).



Hotel Bahia Palace, Agua de Alto

Hotel Bahia Palace, Agua de Alto

Airport: 23km Ponta Delgada

- 4-star hotel ■ Bed & Breakfast ■ Swimming pool
- Air-conditioning ■ Car hire recommended

The Hotel Bahia Palace is located at one end of the longest beach on Sao Miguel – Praia da Agua de Alto (dark sand, and with blue flag status), 18km from Ponta Delgada and 5km from the town and marina of Vila Franca do Campo. Uninterrupted ocean views can be enjoyed from the large gardens and outdoor swimming pool, restaurant and many of the spacious, guest bedrooms.

A public bus service connects the Hotel Bahia Palace, six times a day, with Ponta Delgada and Vila Franca do Campo – from where it is possible to join a whale and dolphin watching or diving excursion, or visit the nature reserve of Ilheu da Vila. For guests with car hire, the location of this 4-star hotel, on the south coast, makes it an ideal base for exploring the island. In fact, the picturesque Lagoa do Fogo is only 5km away.

Accommodation

101 air-conditioned rooms including single rooms, junior suites (large bedroom with designated living area that can accommodate an extra bed for an adult or child) and senior suites (separate bedroom and toilet and a large living area that can accommodate an extra bed for an adult or child) ■ All rooms with twin beds, marbled bathroom (bath & shower), hairdryer, telephone, cable TV, minibar, safe deposit box and balcony ■ Rooms have side ocean view and side garden or mountain view ■ Some junior suites interconnect.

Special Offer

- Early booking discount applicable for reservations made by 31Mar12.



Junior Suite

Amenities/Leisure

Restaurant (buffet and à la carte) ■ Bar and buffet breakfast room extending out to the garden terrace ■ Live music twice weekly ■ WIFI internet connection in the lobby (payable locally c.3 Euros per 30 minutes) ■ Games room (table football and table tennis) ■ Billiard room ■ Cards room ■ Library/reading room ■ Free form swimming pool (30 x 3,70m) with pool bar – pool towels provided ■ Extensive lawns and gardens (60,000 square metres) ■ 2 lifts ■ Small gym ■ Saunas (free of charge) ■ Private access to the beach (with life guards). The beach has changing facilities and a restaurant (summer months) ■ Mountain bike hire c.5,00 Euros ■ Free parking ■ 5km from Vila Franca do Campo – restaurants, café bars, shops, markets, PADI diving centre and whale watching base. During the summer months an hourly boat service links the marina of Vila Franca do Campo to the nature reserve of Ilheu da Vila ■ Hotel shuttle bus departs at 10:30 and returns at 16:00 Monday to Friday (sometimes more often) ■ Daily bus service to Ponta Delgada (30-minutes) c. 2.80 Euros each way.



View over Vila Franca do Campo

Quinta dos Curubas, Vila Franca do Campo

Airport: 25km Ponta Delgada

- Country cottages ■ Self Catering ■ Car hire recommended

This charming property, owner managed by Rui and his wife Catarina, offers a high standard of accommodation in five self-contained cottages, perched on the hillside overlooking the town and bay of Vila Franca do Campo. The cottages, built out of natural pinewood, are all named after fruits grown in the property's beautifully maintained gardens – Cherimoya (Anona), Banana, Maracuja (Passion fruit), Goiaba (Guava) and Laranja (Orange).

The property, set on 10,000 square metres of land, has a small chapel, fruit orchards and is surrounded by verdant countryside where cows can often be seen grazing. It is also home to three dogs, ducks, a peacock, a cockerel and chickens – a veritable menagerie that children and adults alike will appreciate. The natural bay of Vila Franca do Campo is ideal for swimming and regular whale watching, diving and boat excursions (Mar-Dec) depart from its harbour. Highly recommended.

Accommodation

5 cottages including two (Anona and Banana) that interconnect, each equipped with cleaning products and a welcome pack filled with seasonal fruit, cheese, bread, butter and local tea ■ Linen change every week, towels changed daily on request and cleaning provided at end of stay.

Special Offer

- Stay 7 nights between 01May-30Jun12 and 01Sep-31Oct12 and receive a complimentary whale and dolphin watching excursion for 2 people. Transfers not included.



Five 1-bedroom cottages (sleep 2+2)

4 units have a double bed and 1 unit has a twin bed, all have bathroom (bath & shower), separate open-plan living room, kitchenette (2 electric hobs, microwave, kettle, toaster, coffee machine, fridge and small freezer), double sofa bed – suitable for an adult or two children, satellite TV, complimentary WIFI internet connection and a private terrace with sea view and outdoor table/chairs.

Amenities/Leisure

Mobile phone and hairdryer provided on request ■ Reception ■ Beautifully maintained gardens overlooking the town and bay of Vila Franca do Campo ■ Self-service laundry room with washer and dryer – washing powder not included. Clothes lines are located behind each cottage ■ Barbecue on request ■ Free use of three bicycles ■ Access to the owners' kitchen garden with vegetables and herbs that clients are welcome to use ■ The property is perched on the hillside above the main road. Some road noise is audible ■ 2km to the centre of Vila Franca do Campo – restaurants, café-bars, shops, markets, PADI diving centre and whale watching base. During the summer months an hourly boat service links the marina of Vila Franca do Campo to the nature reserve of Ilheu da Vila ■ Free parking.

Minimum stay: 7 nights between 01Nov11-30Apr12



Quinta do Mar, Caloura

Quinta do Mar, Caloura

Airport: 21km Ponta Delgada

- 4-star equivalent ■ Bed & Breakfast ■ Swimming pool
- Air-conditioning ■ Car hire recommended

Nick Heathcote, for 17 years a BBC television executive producer, is one of a handful of British who live in the Azores. Captivated by the islands following a whistle-stop taxi tour from the QE2 which docked in Sao Miguel for half a day in 1997, he decided to settle in Caloura and bought a small, 160 year old "Adega" set within 7,500 square meters of hillside land and only a short stroll from the tiny fishing harbour of Caloura. Using local craftsmen and stonemasons, the property, including the original wine press, has been fully restored and enhanced to an extremely high standard. The Quinta do Mar is one of our most well praised properties – highly recommended!

Accommodation

Contemporary guest wing with 4 large air-conditioned twin/double designer bedrooms each with dark wood floors and tastefully furnished ■ All rooms have a contemporary marbled bathroom (bath & shower), hairdryer, cable TV, internet access, telephone, DVD/CD player and large balcony with ocean view.



Amenities/Leisure

Comfortable lounge and dining room in the original building ■ Persian carpets and antique Chinese furniture much in evidence ■ Infinity pool (12 x 4.50m) open all year (heated Apr–Oct) with toilets and changing rooms – pool towels provided ■ Pool side breakfast pavilion – cooked breakfasts – and honesty bar with good views to the ocean and harbour ■ Complimentary tea/coffee all day ■ Shaded terraces with sun loungers and wonderful ocean views ■ Small citrus orchard ■ Complimentary WIFI internet connection on roof terrace ■ Nature trail close-by ■ Free parking ■ Closest café bar 'Bar Caloura' serving hot and cold snacks is a 5-minute walk ■ The village of Agua de Pau has two restaurants with full menus (open all year – one is closed on Mondays) – within a 20-minute walk. The village also has several cafes serving simple meals ■ 8km from Vila Franca do Campo.

Notes

■ No children under 14 permitted ■ The property is not suitable for those with walking difficulties due to the number of steps.



Hotel Caloura, Caloura

Hotel Caloura, Caloura

Airport: 21km Ponta Delgada

- 4-star hotel ■ Bed & Breakfast ■ Swimming pool
- Air-conditioning ■ Car hire recommended

This owner-managed modern hotel is located at the edge of the picturesque fishing harbour of Caloura and a 15-minutes uphill walk to the village of Agua de Pau – less on the way back! The hotel has a magnificent setting on a rocky promontory overlooking the sea and is set against a background of small fields and vineyards. There is a small sandy beach 'Baixa d'Areira' 5-minutes walk from the hotel (also accessible by car) and natural pools on the headland to which the hotel has access. Panoramic views of the coastline can be enjoyed from the hotel bar, lounge and restaurant, which features local cuisine. We would particularly recommend the Hotel Caloura for anybody wanting to stay a week or longer on Sao Miguel.

Accommodation

80 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, triple rooms (ground floor) and a suite (2nd floor) ■ All rooms have a bathroom (bath & shower), hairdryer, telephone, cable TV, WIFI internet access (payable locally), safe deposit box (c.1.25 Euros per day), minibar and balcony with ocean view ■ Standard rooms will accommodate an extra bed for an adult or two extra beds for children ■ The suite has a double bedroom (king size bed), bathroom (bath & shower), separate living room with sofa bed for an adult or two children and balcony with ocean view ■ Some standard rooms have a king size bed ■ Triple rooms will accommodate two extra beds for children and have direct access to the gardens.



Amenities/Leisure

Buffet breakfast ■ Panoramic restaurant with ocean views serving international cuisine (buffet and à la carte menu) ■ Panoramic bar serving snacks with musical entertainment ■ Lounges ■ Business centre with WIFI internet connection (payable locally c.9 Euros for 1-hour and c.15 Euros per day) ■ Outdoor swimming pool (10 x 30m) open all year – pool towels provided ■ Pool bar (May-Oct) ■ Mini gym ■ Sauna (local charge) ■ Lift ■ Free parking ■ 1 tennis court (guests can hire rackets/balls from the hotel) ■ A path starting from the hotel leads to a natural rock pool ■ 8km from Vila Franca do Campo ■ PADI dive centre (May-Oct) ■ 5-minute walk to the beach ■ The village of Agua de Pau has two restaurants with full menus (open all year – one is closed on Mondays) – within a 20-minute walk. The village also has several cafes serving simple meals.

Special Offer

- Honeymoon couples receive a complimentary upgrade to a junior suite (subject to availability on arrival) and flowers in the room.



Hot springs in Furnas



Furnas Lake

Furnas Lake Apartments, Furnas

Airport: 40km Ponta Delgada

- 4-star equivalent ■ Self Catering ■ Swimming pool
- Air-conditioning ■ Car hire recommended

In a lush green valley surrounded by heavily vegetated volcanic hillsides are these eight wooden clad units set in a shallow water basin and created to blend with the environment. The Furnas Lake Apartments have long been the dream of Manuel and Helena Gago de Camara. Each air-conditioned unit has fresh, contemporary, Scandinavian style furnishings using light woods and green, grey and white colours that provide accommodation with all the homely comforts. Only a short walk from the beautiful lake at Furnas (within 10-minutes) this is an ideal location for walkers and nature lovers with endless possibilities.

Accommodation

All apartments have a hairdryer, iron and ironing board ■ Welcome pack included (local wine, water, bread, butter, cheese, coffee/tea, biscuits, sugar, 6 eggs, milk, juice and salt/pepper) ■ Cleaning and towel change every other day ■ Linen changed every 4 days.

Eight 1-bedroom apartments (sleep 2+2)

Each unit consists of a twin bedroom with French windows (young children need to be supervised), bathroom (bath & shower), hairdryer, living/dining room with TV, telephone, complimentary internet connection, fireplace and kitchenette (fridge, coffee maker, microwave, toaster, kettle and two electric hobs) which opens onto a covered deck terrace. Four 1-bedroom apartments have a foldaway double bed (suitable for 2 adults or children).

One 2-bedroom apartments (sleep 4+2)

The 2-bedroom unit is a traditional house (not wooden clad) has 2 twin bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (one with bath & shower, the other with shower), a fully equipped kitchenette (full electric oven, 4 electric hobs, fridge, freezer, dishwasher, microwave, coffee maker, kettle and toaster). The unit will take an extra bed for 2 adults or children.

Minimum stay: 2 nights

Special Offer

- Stay 7 nights pay 6 nights between 01Nov-24Dec11, 03Jan-18Feb12, 25Feb-31Mar12, 14Apr-31May12 and 01-31Oct12.



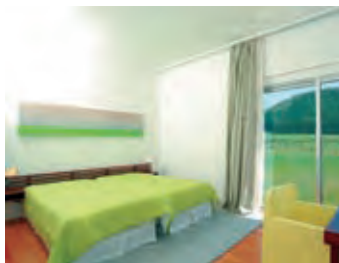
Amenities/Leisure

Breakfast can be provided on request (payable locally at 12 Euros per person) ■ Circular swimming pool – pool towels provided ■ Safe deposit box at reception ■ Free parking ■ 3km to Furnas village ■ 20km to Vila Franca do Campo – local taxi costs c.18 Euros each way, 9km to Ribeira Quente and 35km to Nordeste ■ 50 minutes drive to Ponta Delgada from Furnas – local taxi costs c.40 Euros each way ■ A 1-hour walk through the surrounding hills to the fishing village of Ribeira Quente ■ Reception is not manned 24-hours but contact telephone numbers are provided.

Activities

The owners run their own activity company. Guests of the Furnas Lake Apartments can pre-book or arrange locally the following activities:

- Canoeing (c.10 Euros per person – half day payable locally)
- Canyoning (c.70 Euros per person – full day payable locally)
- Hiking (c.45 Euros – full day payable locally)
- Horse riding (c.45 Euros per person – half day payable locally)
- Mountain bike hire (c.10 Euros – half day payable locally)
- Swimming with dolphins (see page 11)
- Whale & dolphin watching (see page 11)





Furnas botanical gardens



Cozido cooked in natural underground ovens, Furnas

Quinta da M6, Furnas

Airport: 45km Ponta Delgada

- Detached houses ■ Self Catering
- Car hire recommended

Located in the centre of Furnas, the Quinta da M6 is well situated close to restaurants, shops, the botanical gardens and Furnas lake whilst providing a peaceful natural setting for a relaxed stay. The owners, Luisa and Valerio, have spent a great deal of time restoring and remodeling the grounds and buildings of this former watermill and, in turn, have created an oasis of quiet and calm surrounded by exotic plants.

Accommodation

Four units including three 1-bedroom cottages and one 3-bedroom house ■ Linen change every four days ■ Cleaning every day except Sunday and public holidays ■ Welcome pack (local products) included ■ Guests are required to carry their luggage from the car park, along a gravel path through the gardens, to their house.

CASA DO GRANEL & CASA DO CAFUAO Two 1-bedroom house (sleep 2+2)

Built on stone pillars and overlaid with wood, these chalet type cottages have large

windows overlooking the garden and have a private wooden decking area furnished with tables, chairs and a parasol. These two units, located opposite one another, have a double bedroom, bathroom (bath, shower and hairdryer), open-plan living room with kitchenette (2 electric hobs, microwave, fridge and kettle), double sofa bed suitable for an adult or two children, satellite TV, DVD player (no DVDs included) and WIFI internet connection.

ENGENHO

One 1-bedroom (air-conditioned) house (sleep 2)

Surrounded by trees, the Engenho has one double bedroom with sloping roof on the first floor and, on the ground floor, bathroom (bath, shower & hairdryer), open-plan living room with kitchenette (2 electric hobs, microwave, fridge and kettle), satellite TV, DVD player (no DVDs included), WIFI internet connection and double sofa bed suitable for an adult or two children. There is a private wooden decking area furnished with tables, chairs and a parasol.



Engenho, Quinta da M6

CASA DO M6

One 3-bedroom house (sleep 6)

This restored watermill dating from 1880, on three floors, has 2 double bedrooms with en suite bathroom (one with bath & shower, the second with shower and hairdryer only), 1 twin bedroom with en suite bathroom (bath, shower & hairdryer), large lounge with cable TV, DVD player (no DVDs), telephone, wood-burning stove, old flour mill and carpentry tools adorning the walls. The fully equipped kitchen has an electric oven and 5 gas hobs, microwave, fridge-freezer, dish washer, kettle, toaster, coffee machine and a functioning wood burning, stone oven. Terrace area overlooking the brook.

Amenities/Leisure

Gardens (1-hectare) with a brook, citrus (lemon and orange) trees, chestnut and apple trees, tea and papaya plants, hydrangeas, two bridges, Jacuzzi (for up to 6 people), pagoda with massage table (a treatment can be arranged and paid for locally) and barbecue area ■ Cockerels and chickens roam freely within the grounds ■ Free private parking (security gate) ■ 2-minutes walk to the natural spa and 10-minutes to the lake ■ 3-minutes walk to the supermarket ■ 10-minutes walk to the nearest beach and Furnas golf club.

Minimum stay: 4 nights





Furnas botanical gardens

Hotel Terra Nostra Garden, Furnas

Airport: 45km Ponta Delgada

- 3-star hotel ■ Bed & Breakfast ■ Swimming pool
- Car hire recommended

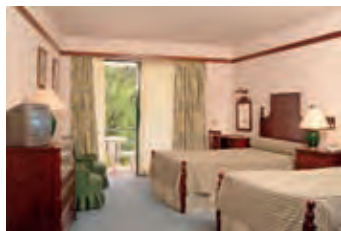
Opened in 1935, the Terra Nostra Garden is situated on the south of the island in Furnas. This is a very attractive, peaceful spa town, surrounded by hills and in an ideal location for those looking for peace and quiet. The hotel, which is due for refurbishment, has parquet flooring throughout and many of the hotel's bedrooms, along with the restaurant and indoor swimming pool, enjoy fabulous views over the world famous, extensive botanical gardens (owned by the hotel).

Accommodation

81 rooms including single rooms (art deco wing) and standard rooms, all with bathroom (bath & shower – 2 rooms have shower only), telephone and cable TV ■ Standard rooms in the garden wing have balcony and park view ■ Most rooms can accommodate an extra bed for an adult or child ■ Rooms in the art deco wing do not have a balcony and face the road or parking area (surrounded by heavily wooded hills in the background) ■ 8 standards rooms with balcony and park view interconnect.

Amenities/Leisure

Buffet breakfast ■ Restaurant (mostly à la carte) with view over the park and serving regional cuisine including the traditional Azorean dish of Cozido ■ Reading lounges/large sitting areas ■ WIFI internet connection at reception – payable locally c.2 Euros for 30 minutes and c.3 Euros per hour ■ Business centre with complimentary internet connection ■ Shop selling local handicrafts and souvenirs ■ Games room with table football (free), table tennis (c.2.60 Euros per hour), 3 playstations (free –



Standard 'garden wing' room games at reception) and card tables ■ Indoor heated swimming pool (10 x 14m) and pool bar with snooker table (payable locally c.5 Euros per hour). Pool towels on request and payable locally c.2 Euros per person per day ■ Hairdryer on request at reception ■ 3 Lifts ■ 1 tennis court (c.2.70 Euros per hour. Equipment available to hire c.2.10 Euros) ■ Free access to the 12-hectare botanical gardens and its outdoor thermal swimming pool fed by natural springs ■ Free parking ■ 5 restaurants within a 5-minute walk ■ 5-minutes walk to the centre of Furnas ■ Mountain bikes for adults available for hire (local charge c.16 Euros per day or c.3.75 per hour) ■ Irregular bus service (3 services to Vila Franca do Campo and Ponta Delgada and 1 to Ribeira Grande per day – early morning departure/late return) ■ 20km to Vila Franca do Campo – local taxi costs c.18 Euros each way; 9km to Ribeira Quente and 35km to Nordeste ■ 50 minutes drive to Ponta Delgada from Furnas – local taxi costs c.40 Euros each way.

Special Offer

- Early booking discount applicable for reservations made 60 days or more prior to departure.



Nordeste

Estalagem dos Clerigos, Nordeste

Airport: 80km Ponta Delgada

- 4-star hotel ■ Bed & Breakfast ■ Swimming pool
- Air-conditioning ■ Car hire recommended

The Estalagem dos Clerigos is a beautiful rural retreat, set on the hillside above the village of Nordeste, on the north-east coast of the island. Surrounded by lush green countryside with magnificent ocean views, this property is ideal for those wishing to relax and unwind. The property has been tastefully decorated throughout, using a traditional rustic style that blends in with the unspoilt and peaceful nature of the area. A charming property – recommended.

Accommodation

Main building

21 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms and a suite (first floor), all with bathroom (bath & shower – one room with shower only), hairdryer, telephone, cable TV, WIFI internet connection (payable locally c.2 Euros for 30 minutes and c.3 Euros per hour) and covered balcony with ocean and town views ■ All standard rooms have twin beds (can be made up as a double) and can take a fold up bed for an adult ■ The suite has a double bedroom (Emperor bed) and separate living room with sofa, wood burning fireplace and second balcony. The suites can accommodate two extra beds for children ■ Lift.



Four 2-bedroom apartments (sleep 4+2) in the Annexe (BB)

All apartments are air-conditioned and have 1 twin (rear facing, no balcony) and 1 double room (front facing) with balcony and ocean view, bathroom (bath, shower & hairdryer) and, on the lower floor, a bathroom (shower only), open plan living room and kitchen area (microwave, fridge, freezer and 4 electric hobs) with wood burning fireplace, large terrace and ocean view ■ The apartments can accommodate 5 adults or 4 adults and 2 children ■ Breakfast is taken in the main building.

Amenities/Leisure

Buffet breakfast ■ Restaurant serving regional cuisine (à la carte) ■ Bar/Lounge with small terrace and ocean view ■ Business centre with complimentary internet connection ■ Outdoor swimming pool (7.50 x 12.10m) open Mar-Dec – pool towels provided ■ Small chapel located next to the pool ■ Free parking ■ 5-minutes down hill walk to the centre of Vila de Nordeste (longer on the way back). Nordeste has three restaurants, one serving lunch only ■ 15-minutes walk to a black sand beach (summer only) and natural rock pool ■ Walking tours can be arranged locally through the hotel ■ 35km from Furnas and 40km from Vila Franca do Campo.

Closed: 01Jan-29Feb12

Note:

■ Nordeste is c. 90-minutes drive from Ponta Delgada. For this reason we recommend clients spend their first and/or last night in the capital.



Lombo Gordo beach, Nordeste



Casas Do Pinheiro Alto (Bilha & Forno)

Casas do Frade, Nordeste

Airport: 80km Ponta Delgada

■ Rural cottages (Turismo Rural) ■ Self Catering ■ Air-conditioning ■ Car hire recommended

These traditionally restored stone cottages are located at the foot of the Tronqueira mountain range, and are split in to 4 complexes situated along the same road in the quaint village of Lomba da Fazenda. The cottages have all been lovingly renovated by the owner Mr Antonio Melo and offer modern conveniences in a rural setting. For those wishing to experience a peaceful stay in rural surroundings, you could not wish for more. Highly recommended!

Accommodation

Each cottage is individually decorated using traditional furniture and local handicrafts ■ All cottages have an iron and ironing board, cleaning equipment, utensils, cutlery, crockery and a heating/air-conditioning unit ■ Linen provided (changed at end of stay or on request locally if staying for a long duration) ■ Cleaning at end of stay.

Special Offers

- Stay 6 nights pay 5 nights between 01Nov11-31May12.
- Stay 13 nights pay 11 nights between 01Nov11-31May12.



Casas Do Pinheiro Alto (Forno)

REFUGIO DO CONVENTO

Two 2-bedroom cottages (sleep 4)

One double bedroom and one twin bedroom, bathroom (shower), living room with TV, radio, CD player, dining table and kitchen (washing machine, microwave, fridge, freezer, 4 gas hobs, gas oven, kettle and toaster).

These cottages open onto a shared garden (each house has its own private area) with distant ocean view, washing lines and barbecues. Private parking.

CASA DO FIGUEIRA

One 2-bedroom cottage (sleep 4)

One double bedroom with garden view and one twin bedroom with garden and ocean view, bathroom (shower), separate toilet, living room with TV, radio, CD and cassette player, dining table and kitchen (original stone bread maker, washing machine, microwave, fridge, freezer, 4 gas hobs, gas oven, kettle, coffee machine and toaster). The detached Casa do Figueira enjoys a private garden with a beautiful view over the Casas do Frade, Nordeste village of Nordeste to the ocean, washing line and barbecue. Private parking.

CASAS DO PINHEIRO ALTO

One 2-bedroom cottage (sleep 4)

Ground floor: Twin bedroom with private access. First floor: Double bedroom, bathroom (shower), living room with TV, radio, CD player, dining table and kitchen (washing machine, microwave, fridge-freezer, 4 gas hobs, gas oven, kettle, coffee machine and toaster). There is also a barbecue.

One 1-bedroom cottage (sleep 2)

Ground floor: Living room with TV, radio, CD and cassette player, dining table and wood burning oven. Mezzanine level: Wooden steps lead to a mezzanine level with double bedroom with view over the countryside and ocean. Lower floor: Bathroom (shower) and kitchen (washing machine, microwave, fridge, freezer, 4 gas hobs, gas oven, kettle, coffee machine and toaster). The kitchen has an independent entrance.

These two units share a private garden to the rear with barbecue and beautiful views over the surrounding countryside to the ocean. The houses are accessed by a number of steps and are not suitable for those with walking difficulties. Private parking c.50 metres from the property.

CASAS DO FRADE

Three 1-bedroom cottages (sleep 2)

Double bedroom with view over the gardens to the ocean, bathroom (shower), small living room with TV, radio, CD and cassette player, dining table and kitchenette (microwave, fridge, freezer, 4 gas hobs, gas oven, kettle, coffee machine, toaster and washing machine. Please note that one unit has a kitchen with a low beam (5.1" height). These houses are



Casas Do Pinheiro Alto (Bilha)



Casas Do Pinheiro Alto (Bilha)

smaller in size than the other houses and so we would recommend them for a shorter stay or as a summer retreat when the large shared garden with ocean views, washing lines and barbecues can be used.

Amenities/Leisure

Welcome pack included (water, milk, tea, bread, seasonal fruits and cheese) ■ 200 metres to the closest café/supermarket in Lomba da Fazenda ■ 3km to a mini-market, restaurants and bank in Vila do Nordeste ■ 3km to Lombo Gordo beach (black sand) ■ 8km from Tronqueira mountain range ■ 35km from Furnas and 40km from Vila Franca do Campo ■ Free private parking.

Note:

■ Nordeste is c. 90 minutes drive from Ponta Delgada. For this reason we recommend clients spend their first and/or last night in the capital.