

A Walkers Paradise

By Alison

At the heart of the Atlantic Ocean lie the Azores, a mosaic of volcanic islands, verdant valleys and dramatic coastlines.

For walkers and nature lovers, this mid-Atlantic archipelago is nothing short of paradise. Each of the nine islands offers a different adventure, from the lush forests of São Miguel to the windswept cliffs of Pico, making every step an odyssey through nature.

With Sunvil's expertly curated walking holidays, travellers can explore the Azores' unique landscapes at their own pace. From volcanic peaks and crater lakes to lush greenery and rugged coastlines, the islands boast remarkable natural beauty. They are also home to a rich cultural heritage, from São Miguel's Romarias pilgrimages and Faial's seafaring traditions to Pico's historic vineyards and Terceira's livestock festivals.

What makes it a must-visit

The Azores are a walker's dream for many reasons. The trails of Lagoa do Fogo on São Miguel offer sweeping volcanic crater hikes with views over one of the most pristine lakes in the archipelago. The Sanguinho Trail, on the other hand, immerses hikers in dense, moss-covered forests, leading to a serene waterfall and the enchanting village of Sanguinho.

On Santa Maria, Pico Alto unfolds rolling green hills and sunlit coastlines, while Mount Pico soars above the islands, rewarding climbers with breathtaking views. For those seeking tranquillity, São Jorge's Serra do Topo to Fajã dos Cubres walk descends to a quiet lagoon backed by volcanic cliffs and famed for its local clams.

Beyond the marked trails, the Azores reveal their true character through nature's unpredictability. The weather can shift quickly, a gentle reminder of the islands' volcanic roots and the power of the Atlantic. Life here moves at an unhurried pace, and locals embrace change with calm good humour. Plans adapt, time slows and visitors are gently encouraged to walk more slowly, breathe deeper and enjoy whatever the day brings.

The Azores are more than a destination, they are a place to wander, to pause and to feel the heartbeat of each island from São Miguel's volcanic lagoons to Pico's soaring peaks and Terceira's living traditions.

Getting There

Flights

Direct flights from London. Indirect flights available via Lisbon and Porto.

Island Hopping

Ferries connect most central islands (Faial, Pico, São Jorge); flights are better for distant islands.

Travel Time

From London to Ponta Delgada (São Miguel), flights take approximately 4 hours.

Other Walking Destinations

Sunvil also offers curated walking holidays beyond the Azores for adventurers of all kinds:

Madeira: Lush levada walks and rugged coastal paths

Northern Portugal: Historic routes through rolling countryside and charming villages

Norway: Dramatic mountain peaks, waterfalls and serene landscapes

Peru: Trails steeped in ancient history, including the iconic Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

Greece: Escorted walking holidays on Kythnos, Sifnos, Serifos, Crete; self guided on Pelion; independent walking recommendations from our local representatives.



Sete Cidades, São Miguel



Walker on Faial



São Jorge

Our island obsession

Each island in The Azores has its own distinct character: São Miguel celebrates centuries-old religious festivals such as the Romarias pilgrimage; Faial showcases its deep connection to the sea and farming; Pico is defined by its viticulture; and Terceira takes pride in its livestock heritage. Travellers who visit are not merely observers but become participants in a living culture where customs are preserved and celebrated with genuine warmth.

The islands have maintained their pristine beauty despite growing numbers of international visitors. And the food! Each island offers its own specialities, served in generous portions, reflecting a culture where hospitality is heartfelt and feeding guests is a joy.

Another reason to visit the Azores at least once in a lifetime is their strong focus on sustainable tourism. Recognised by the Responsible Travel Awards, the islands place great emphasis on environmental care while providing visitors with thoroughly rewarding experiences that are both enriching and mindful.



“The Azores are remarkable for their sheer variety, from the dramatic landscapes to the marine-rich waters.”

Alison