

Notes

- Excursion provider: Picos de Aventura
- Departs: Saturdays
- Duration: 7½ hours
- Bike trails are selected depending on each person's fitness level and technique
- Minimum number 4 people - subject to change or cancellation
- Safety equipment provided: Bike helmet and repair kit
- Equipment required: Comfortable warm clothing including extra t-shirt and/or sweater, trainers, swim suit, towel, light rain jacket, backpack, hat, sun lotion, water, snack and a camera
- Recommended Equipment: MTB Gloves, hydration bag, clip shoes and pedals

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.

The Azores islands are an excellent destination for birdwatching. Here, you can find two of Europe's rarest birds: The Azores Bullfinch, *Pyrrhula murina*, endemic to a small area of São Miguel and the Mosteiro's storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma monteiroi*, breeding on the two islets south of Graciosa Island.

Other species seen here are the Atlantic Canary, *Serinus canaria*, an exclusive species from Macaronesia, as well as several subspecies such as the Common Chaffinch, *Fringilla coelebs moreletti*, the São Miguel Goldcrest, *Regulus regulus azoricus*, the Azores Woodpigeon, *Columba palumbus azorica*, and the Buzzard, *Buteo buteo rothschildi*.

Currently, the Azores holds the largest colony of Cory's Shearwater, *Calonectris diomedea borealis*, and one of the largest colonies of Roseate tern, *Sterna dougallii*, worldwide. Altogether, the archipelago has over 30 bird species which nest, and also, due to the islands central position in the Atlantic Ocean you may also observe migratory birds coming from America and Eurasia.

The number of species seen in the islands is close to 400, including a few which are extremely rare and even some which have been newly sighted in the Western Palearctic.

Price is £170 per taxi

Notes

- Excursion provider: Gerbybirding Azores
- Pick-up from hotels in Ponta Delgada at 08:30 (return 17:00)
- Pick-up from hotels outside Ponta Delgada at a supplement on request
- Departs: Daily (avoid weekends as too many people around the lake)
- Minimum 2 and maximum 8 people – subject to change or cancellation
- Suitable for all – recommended for children aged 8yrs and over
- Included: 9-seater minibus, English speaking guide, picnic and lunch
- Best time to observe resident and migrating birds is between Sep-May
- If clients want to see the Priôlo (Azores Bullfinch) please request this at the time of booking

Canoeing

Take a canoe out on Furnas Lake and revel in the sheer magnitude of being in a sleeping volcano surrounded by green lush slopes and hot springs. It is also possible to visit the thermal hot springs where the local stew 'Cozido' is cooked underground in large pots.

10:00 or 14:00 – Meet at the parking area (west) at Furnas Lake. Transfers not included.

Note: Transfer to and from Furnas can be arranged at a supplement on request

Price is £29 per adult and £15 per child (6-11yrs) without transfers

Notes

- Excursion provider: Picos de Aventura
- Departs: Daily
- Duration: 2 hours
- Canoes are large enough for two adults and a child under 10yrs
- Minimum number 4 people and maximum 18 - subject to change or cancellation
- Safety equipment provided: Paddle vest
- Equipment required: Comfortable warm clothing including extra t-shirt and/or sweater, trainers or casual footwear that can get wet, swim suit (Furnas thermal pool – optional), towel, light rain jacket, backpack, hat, sun lotion, strengthening food/water and a camera

Notes

- Excursion provider: Azorean Active Blueberry
- Pick-up from all properties in Ponta Delgada at 09:00
- Departs: Daily
- Half Day: 4 hours (including 2 hours in the canyon) – Level of difficult (easy)
- Full Day: 7 hours (including 4 hours in the canyon) - Level of difficult (medium)
- Location: Nordeste (northeast) or Ribeira Grande (north)
- Suitable for children aged 6 years and upwards
- Minimum 2 people - subject to change or cancellation
- Equipment included: Neoprene wetsuit and socks, canyoning shoes, helmet and harness
- Equipment required: Towel, swim suit, shoes that can get wet – preferably mountain boots or running shoes, hair-bands, warm clothing and a bottle of water

Coasteering

Coasteering is a combination of swimming, climbing and jumping in some of the most spectacular scenery of cliffs and waterfalls on the island of São Miguel. The volcanic island coastline hides areas that few ever get to see. This adventure involves scrambling and traversing the tide line, snorkelling and swimming, climbing or cliff jumping into salty water.

Price is £76 per person (Half Day)

Notes

- Excursion provider: Azorean Active Blueberry
- Departs: Daily
- Pick-up from all properties in Ponta Delgada at 09:00
- Duration: 4 hours (c.2 hours on the coastline)
- Suitable for children aged 6 years and upwards
- Level of difficulty: Easy
- Location: Central south coast
- Safety Equipment: neoprene wetsuit and socks, coasteering shoes, helmet, personal flotation devices (PFD) and group safety equipment
- Equipment required: Towel, swim suit, hair-bands and a bottle of water

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 in Ponta Delgada.

Price for 2 dives from £76 per person (own equipment)

Price for 4 dives from £146 per person (own equipment)

Notes

- Excursion provider: Açordiving
- Departure from Ponta Delgada at 09:00
- Daily activity (01Jan-31Oct)
- Equipment can be hired locally if required
- Suitable for all - from complete beginner to the most experienced, with boat dives.
- Dives include a 12 litre steel tank (200 BAR), weight belt, dive master guidance and boat transportation to and from the dive sites within a 6-mile radius
- Minimum age of 16yrs applies to all PADI programmes except for the Junior Open Water course which is 10yrs
- 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
- There are also PADI dive shops in Ponta Delgada

Fishing from São Miguel

The Azores are one of the world’s best locations for sport fishing.

Big Game Fishing

If you really want an exciting experience in the Azores try Big Game Fishing. There are two seasons and two types of fishing. One is for Tuna fishing that normally starts in May and ends in June but it can vary depending on water temperatures. Then Marlin fishing starts in June and goes to the end of September.

Price is £53 per adult, £27 per child (6-12yrs) and Free for children aged 5 years or under – Apr-Oct
From Ponta Delgada with Futurismo

Notes for Catamarans - Futurismo

- Excursion provider: Futurismo (Ponta Delgada base)
- Meeting point is Portas do Mar Marina (no.26) in Ponta Delgada departing daily at 08:30 or 12:30 (Nov-Mar) and 09:00 or 13:30 (Apr-Oct)
- Duration: 2-3 hour excursion with a pre tour briefing (c.10 minutes) by a marine biologist
- Two Catamarans - Cetus (max. capacity 77 people) and 4 Ventos (max. capacity 65 people), are used and both have toilets onboard
- Children aged 5 years or under go free of charge
- 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
- Recommend that you take a raincoat, sun cream, flat shoes and a bottle of water