

Pico - The Grey Island - Activities 2025

Sunvil can pre-book a variety of activities on Pico – see full details below.
Please note that any pre-booked activity with Sunvil must be requested 14 days or more before departure.



Guided Walks

The islands of the Azores, with their mild climate (day time temperature ranging from 14-22 degrees), are the most wonderful islands for walking. Our suggested walks incorporate some of the best scenic walks on the island.

Caminho dos Burros Trail (Half Day)

Caminho dos Burros (Donkeys' trail) is a walking trail of 11.2km (3.5 hours) that crosses the Island of Pico from the North to the South coast. This trail begins at the Central Plateau of Pico and ends at Baía das Canas. Along the trail you will see several types of vegetation such as Euphorbia stygiana, Azorean buckthorn (Frangula azorica), acacias and laurels. The last part of the trail after walking through Prainha Forest Park, you will go down a path that leads to Baía das Canas, where there is an old road made of large stones that was known as the donkeys' path.

■ Difficulty: Grade 2 (Medium)

Price is £81 per adult and £61 person child (4-10yrs)

Caminhos de Santa Luzia Trail (Half Day)

This 9km (2.5 hours) route starts on the regional road on the border between Santana and São Vicente. You will start with a descent towards Baía do Gasparal, between orchards and vineyards, the first place where wine was produced on the island and where there are warehouses and an old ramp and "rola-pipas" where barrels used to be loaded into boats. The route continues along the coast, through the vineyards, to Cabrito. You will then follow the path along the basaltic rock to the Ermida de São Mateus. In Arcos, the

walk continues until you reach an old ox cart trail “relheiras” that takes you to the centre of Lajido, the site of the UNESCO Vineyard Interpretation Center.

■ Difficulty: Grade 1 (Easy)

Price is £60 per adult and £45 person child (4-10yrs)

Lajidos de Vinha Trail (Half Day)

This 10km (3 hour 15 minute) trail starts in Fogos - Candelária and ends in Areia Larga. You will leave from an area with cellars and stills and pass by a dirt road which will lead you across vineyards to Calhau's Port. From here, you will continue until Pico's Protected Vineyard Landscape. Along the way you will pass by the old ox cart tracks, paths excavated on the rocks through which the transport of wine barrels was done; then you will continue towards the windmill, a place to enjoy an amazing view of the vineyard stonewalls, as well as of the islets of Madalena which can be found between the islands of Pico and Faial. Towards the end of the trail, you can observe an old rolling barrels track.

■ Difficulty: Grade 2 (Medium)

Price is £60 per adult and £45 person child (4-10yrs)

Notes

- Pick-up from hotels in Madalena (Pico) at about 09:00 - supplier Naturfactor
- Departures: Daily - all year.
- Minimum 2 people and maximum 16
- Guided walks with English speaking guide and picnic lunch included
- Recommended: Comfortable clothing, walking boots, swim suit, towel, rain jacket, sun lotion, binoculars and a camera



Pico Mountain Hike - Daytime Climb

For the more adventurous traveller a climb to the summit of Mount Pico can present the opportunity of a lifetime 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 3.5 and 4.5 hours depending on how fit you are and weather conditions along a 5km trail. 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.

Price (Daytime Climb) from Madalena is £116 per person (based on 2 people)

Price (Sunset Climb) from Madalena is £136 per person (based on 2 people)

Note: Prices for other group sizes on request

Notes

- Daily pick-up from hotels in Madalena at 07:00 (Daytime Climb) and 16:00 (Sunset Climb) - supplier Lava Steps
- Duration: 8 hours including 3-4 hours uphill
- Difficulty Level: High
- Minimum 3 people for Sunset Climb

- Mountain access fee and walking pole included and accompanied by an experienced English speaking guide
- Equipment required: Comfortable, layered clothing (1st layer lycra, 2nd layer polar and 3rd layer waterproof jacket), shorts for days without wind and trousers for days with wind, hat, sunscreen, mountain boots or hiking shoes, comfortable 20 litres backpack with water and food supplies (recommended on the way up and down energy bars or chocolate, for lunch, sandwiches and fruit, minimum 1.5 litres of water).
- **IMPORTANT:** Changes may occur due to weather conditions. Not suitable for pregnant women. Good physical condition and absence of pre-existing health problems are required.



Pico Van Tour - Full Day

Learn all about the historical, cultural and natural characteristics of Pico Island. Experience the striking Unesco World Heritage landscape where you will learn about the viticulture on the Island with a visit to typical wineries. The tour will take you to the central plateau where you will be pleasantly surprised by the green landscape and striking lakes. You will also be introduced to the island's whaling heritage with a visit to the boathouses, whale lookouts and the Whaler's Museum.

Price is £102 per adult and £77 per child (4-10yrs)

Notes

- Pick up from hotels in Madalena - local supplier Naturfactor
- Full day is 7.5 hours
- Minimum 2 people required
- Children 0-3 yrs free of charge
- Included: Transportation, guide service, lunch at a local restaurant and entrance fees at the Whaler's Museum. Visits to the Whale Factory, Wine Museum or Gruta das Torres (Lava cave) will incur an additional fee - on request. Clients will be given a choice locally and the majority vote dictates which museum is visited. If more than one is chosen then there will be a local charge for the additional museums: 5.56 Euros per person for the Wine Museum; 11.11 Euros per person for Gruta das Torres; and approx. 27.78 Euros per person for wine tasting.

Pico Wine Tour - Full Day

This tour will take you on a voyage of discovery through vineyards and wine production on Pico island. There will be a walk through the vineyards classified as a World Heritage Site by Unesco and where you will learn about the cultural heritage linked to wine production. There will also be time for some wine and liqueur tastings that are produced locally.

Price is £135 per adult and £101 per child (4-10yrs)

Notes

- Pick up from hotels in Madalena - local supplier Naturfactor
- Full day is 7.5 hours
- Minimum 2 people required
- Children 0-3 yrs free of charge

- Included: Transportation, guide, walking trail at Criação Velha vineyards, wine tasting at the wine cooperative, visit to the coastal areas of Cachorro and Lajido, liqueur tasting at Adega a Buraca and lunch at a local restaurant.



Private Taxi Tours

Sunvil is able to pre-book the following private taxi tours on Pico with an English speaking driver. 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 São 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 and home to a fascinating exhibition about the industry. Return to Madalena stopping at 'Verdelho' wine cellar en route.

Price from Madalena is £214 per taxi

Notes

- Pick-up from hotels in Madalena (Pico) at about 09:00
- Prices are based on a maximum of 3 people per taxi
- Full day (7 hours)
- Not included: Lunch and entrance fees to museums and parks
- A qualified English speaking guide can be provided at a supplement on request



Whale & Dolphin Watching Trip - Half Day

Take a trip of a lifetime on board a Zodiac in search of cetacean activity – 28 of the planet's 80 species of whales and dolphins have been sighted off the coast of the Azores.

**Price is £62 per person (22Mar-11Apr and 04Oct-07Nov),
£81 per person (12Apr-02May and 28Jun-29Aug) and
£69 per person (03May-27Jun and 30Aug-03Oct)**

Notes

- Meeting point is Espaço Talassa's base in Lajes do Pico marina departing at 09:00 or 14:00 - Please arrive 15 minutes earlier than the departure time.
- Departures: Daily 3-hour excursions
- Transfers to/from the whaling base are not included
- Minimum child age is 6 years (accompanied by a parent or guardian)
- Briefing by a marine biologist (c.20-minute talk)
- Zodiac boats (small, rigid hull inflatable carrying up to 14 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 5 years or under, pregnant women or any person suffering from heart, back or bone problems are not allowed on the Zodiac boats

Whale & Dolphin Watching - Azorean biodiversity - Full Day

Join a tour where you will be able to birdwatch from land and sea; search for whales and dolphins in their natural habitat; stop for a picnic lunch; take a short walk on São Jorge Island; and have time to do some snorkelling.

**Price is £125 per person (22Mar-11Apr and 04Oct-07Nov),
£163 per person (12Apr-02May and 28Jun-29Aug) and
£138 per person (03May-27Jun and 30Aug-03Oct)**

Notes

- Meeting point is Espaço Talassa's base in Lajes do Pico marina departing at 09:00 - Please arrive 15 minutes earlier than the departure time.
- Departures: Fridays
- Duration: 8-hour
- Transfers to/from the whaling base are not included
- Minimum child age is 6 years (accompanied by a parent or guardian)
- Briefing by a marine biologist (c.20-minute talk)
- Zodiac boats (small, rigid hull inflatable carrying up to 14 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 5 years or under, pregnant women or any person suffering from heart, back or bone problems are not allowed on the Zodiac boats