

São Jorge - The Brown Island - Activities 2025

Sunvil can pre-book a variety of activities on São Jorge – see full details below.

These activities can also be booked locally through our local agent.

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.

Serra do Topo / Fajã dos Vimes

Starting at Serra do Topo, this trail stretches for 6km until reaching Fajã dos Vimes. It begins at an altitude of 700 metres and descends to sea level in Fajã dos Vimes on the South Coast of the Island. This trail was used by the ancient Fajã inhabitants twice a day, in the morning and in the afternoon to collect milk from the cows. It has a steep descent, mostly down steps. Here the use of hiking poles and proper footwear is recommended. This trail has a slope of 20 to 30 degrees and it starts with open views of the surrounding landscapes (Pico Island, Atlantic Ocean and South coast of the Island) and then closes in on its own flora, only opening again when reaching the road in Fajã dos Vimes. Here you can taste the delicious and unique coffee that is produced in Europe accompanied by a visit to the plantation of Café Nunes.

- Duration: 6km (4 hours)
- Difficulty: Grade 3 (Hard)
- Linear Trail
- Elevation: 700m

Norte Pequeno (KM0)

KM0 is a network of trails in the Parish of Norte Pequeno on the north coast of São Jorge Island. There are 5 trails that share the same starting point and each of them ends in a different Fajã. Fajã do Mero, Fajã das Funduras, Fajã da Peneda, Fajã das Pontas and Fajã do Neca, a total length (all together) of 11km. Passing through these Fajãs you will see that the geomorphology of each flat land area has different characteristics. At some points on this trail, especially at Fajã do Mero, you may have the chance to see an ancient steel cable used to transport firewood and incense that was cut in the high rocks of that site.

- Duration: 9km (4 hours)
- Difficulty: Grade 2 (Medium)
- Circular Trail
- Elevation: 450m

Fajã São João / Lourais / Fajã dos Vimes

This trail starts in the beautiful Fajã de São João, located on the south coast of São Jorge Island. It is a track dug in the hillside which is always in contact with the local culture, from architecture to agriculture. The first 5km are on the way to Lourais, which rises to 650m, and passes through Fajã de Além and Fajã do Ginjal. After the Loural, the walk continues for another 5km downhill until reaching Fajã dos Bodes. From this Fajã, there is a further 1.5km to Fajã dos Vimes where you will have the opportunity to visit the only coffee plantation in Europe - the plantation of Café Nunes.

- Duration: 12km (6 hours)
- Difficulty: Grade 3 (Hard)
- Linear Trail
- Elevation: 650m

Serra do Topo / Fajã da Caldeira do Santo Cristo / Fajã dos Cubres

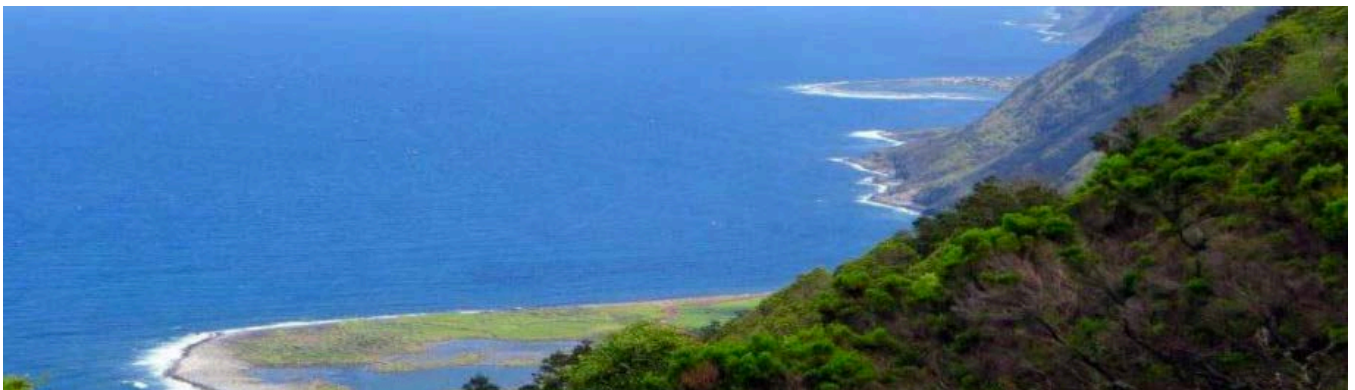
This route starts in Serra do Topo, next to the parking lot in the vicinity of Topo's Wind Farm. It begins by climbing a wide track flanked by hydrangeas. Then there is a descent through a shortcut down the slope where you will see several species of endemic flora such as the Azores heather, the Azores juniper, the Azores blueberry and the Azores sanicle. The descent alternates between dirt and paved stone paths. Along the way you will visit a waterfall. and continue the descent towards Fajã do Santo Cristo. Upon arriving at the Fajã, the walk proceeds along the waterfront that protects the Fajã from the waves, and there will be a stop in a small hillock with a wider view of the Fajã and the cliffs that backs it. Further ahead you will have a short stop in the Hermitage courtyard from where you will see the beautiful lagoon where you can bathe and which is also well known for being the cradle of the famous São Jorge clams. From here, follow the shortcut that surrounds the beautiful coastal lagoon on the left, towards Fajã do Belo. After this Fajã, follow the trail until arriving at a parking lot. You will continue on the road for another 800m until arriving at Nossa Senhora de Lourdes Hermitage where the trail ends.

- Duration: 10km (6 hours)
- Difficulty: Grade 2 (Medium)
- Linear Trail
- Elevation: 700m

Price for each walk is £119 per person (based on 2 people)

Notes

- Daily pick-up from properties in Velas or Queimada at 09:00 - supplier Discover Experience
- Departures: Daily
- Minimum age: 6 years - Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian
- Equipment required: light clothing suitable for walking (recommended for spring / summer) and slightly warm and waterproof clothing (recommended for autumn / winter); footwear such as hiking boots with high tops to strengthen the ankle; a backpack; sunscreen; hiking pole (option); bathing suit or shorts and towel (optional and recommended for the summer), snacks and a bottle of water.



São Jorge Van Tour (Full Day)

Learn all about the history, culture, landscape, and gastronomy of São Jorge Island. The tour will start with São Jorge Cheese, which has a status of a Protected Designation of Origin, produced exclusively from raw cows' milk. It has a strong and spicy flavour which increases with the time of ripening; or Queijo Canada, where the traditional way of making cheese is still maintained today. It is made exclusively from cows' milk.

The tour will include viewpoints with breath-taking views of the neighbouring islands, slopes, high cliffs and charming lagoons; Monuments shook by relentless volcanoes in the early 19th century; Handicrafts, where the tradition of creating pieces in wool, linen or cotton are produced in the creaking old wooden looms; Arabic coffee planted and cultivated in Fajãs, mere metres above sea level, unlike other places in the world, where it is grown at high altitudes; and a Forest Reserve of great beauty and natural diversity, hosting various species of fauna and flora.

Price is £201 per person (based on minimum 2 people). Prices for other group sizes on request.

Notes

- Pick up from hotels at 09:00 - supplier Discover Experience
- Full Day: 7 hours
- Lunch included at a local restaurant.
- Included: English speaking guide, visit to one of the cheese factories with cheese tasting, visit to Santa Bárbara's church, Ribeira do Nabo handicraft workshop, Cafe Nunes plantation and a handicraft workshop.
- Maximum 8 people
- Recommended: light and comfortable clothes; bathing suit and towel (optional - recommended for the summer).



Canyoning

Canyoning is an exciting combination of walking, scrambling, jumping, abseiling and swimming in some of the most spectacular scenery on the island of São Jorge. It has become a very popular extreme sport with fans all over the world and provides a unique experience in the middle of nature and at the same time moments of pure adrenaline.

Baptism

This activity is aimed at beginners with no previous experience of canyoning. Basic training in rappelling techniques are provided and used to scale small vertical (not exceeding 15m) walls with a maximum number of six abseilings. The objective is to enjoy a new experience in a natural setting.

- Difficulty Level: Easy

Price is £93 per person

Notes

- Meet at Discover Experience kiosk at Calheta harbour at 09:30
- Daily pick-up from properties in Velas or Queimada at a supplement on request.
- Duration: 4-5 hours – all year
- Picnic lunch (sandwich, juice, water, chocolate and fruit) included
- Location: Eastern part of the island
- A short briefing is included before each activity and instruction in rappelling techniques
- Maximum 8 people / Minimum 2 people
- Minimum age: 8 years (Baptism)
- Equipment required: Towel, swim suit, shoes that can get wet (preferably mountain boots or running shoes), warm clothing, spare pair of shoes and clothing for the trip home and a bottle of water
- Safety equipment provided: Neoprene wetsuit, socks and gloves, helmet and harness



Sea Kayaking

The kayaks used are 'sit on top' kayaks - they do not flood and are virtually unsinkable in normal use, and are able to navigate up to 300 metres from the shore. Clients will always be accompanied by one or two monitors depending on the route chosen. A short briefing is included before the activity.

Route to Fajã dos Vimes

This activity begins at the harbour of Calheta (south coast). Heading east you will paddle to the Fajã dos Vimes enjoying the scenery and the tranquil waters of the Pico- São Jorge channel and the only place where it is possible to visit the coffee plantations, try the coffee and visit the local handicraft facilities.

- Difficulty Level: Easy
- Duration: 3 hours (7km)

Price is £95 per person (based on 2 people)

Route Ribeira Seca

The Route to Ribeira Seca Bay is the shortest route, ideal for people who have little or no experience in this activity or for families with children who want to enjoy a short, fun and different tour during their holiday, keeping in touch with the Azorean sea.

- Difficulty Level: Easy
- Duration: 1 hour (3.5km)

Price is £41 per person (based on 2 people)

Notes

- Meet at Discover Experience kiosk at Calheta harbour at 09:30
- Daily pick-up from properties in Velas or Queimada at a supplement on request
- Maximum 6 people - 2 people per kayak
- Minimum age: 8 years - Children must be accompanied by parent/guardian
- Equipment required: Towel, swim suit, rain jacket, shoes that can get wet, warm clothing, spare pair of shoes and clothing for the trip home and sun lotion and hat
- Safety equipment provided: Life jackets