

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

AMAZING AZORES

2023 MULTI-GENERATIONAL ADVENTURE

US DEPARTURE DATE: JULY 8, 2023 | LAND TOUR START DATE: JULY 9, 2023
RETURN DATE: JULY 14, 2023

LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$ 2,225



START YOUR ADVENTURE.

Dear Alumni and Friends!

Look forward to summer 2023 and join us on a multi-generational island adventure to the Amazing Azores. Discover this beautiful green jewel in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean located west of mainland Portugal. Prepare yourself for stunning landscapes, colorful, lush vegetation, dormant volcanoes and hot springs, surrounded by pristine waters. Discover this paradise for nature lovers and those looking for an off-the-beaten-path European getaway.

Travel solo or with friends, a partner or your family as young as age five and above. This journey provides social, cultural, and recreational activities along with many opportunities for learning, enrichment and enjoying a connection back to University of Michigan.

This adventure offers great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 46 years of experience in the educational travel market. In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing.

If you have any questions about this tour, please contact our tour operator AESU Alumni World Travel by emailing: alumni@aesu.com or call 800-638-7640 or visit our website: www.aesu.com/UMich-Azores.

Sincerely,

Rachele Neu

RACHELE NEU B.S. '08, M.A. '12

Travel Program Manager

Alumni Association of the University of Michigan



Visit our website
WWW.AESU.COM/UMICH-AZORES
for more details and to book



TRAVEL INSURANCE

The University of Michigan highly recommends travel insurance.

Please, visit the link below for more information or to secure your travel insurance:

<https://alumni.trawickinternational.com/school/welcome/677/>

AMAZING AZORES

7 DAYS

PLACES VISITED:
PONTA DELGADAS, SAO MIGUEL ISLAND



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

7-Day Land Package Transportation and Lodging

- 5 nights in superior tourist class or better hotels with private bath/shower, twin-share rooms
- All ground transportation by private vehicles as per itinerary
- Airport transfers included with purchased AESU group airfare
- Private tour director for the duration of the land tour
 - All service charges and local taxes

Meals

- 10 meals: 5 breakfasts, 3 specialty dinners, 2 lunches

Activities & Admissions

- Pineapple Greenhouse
- Setes Cidades hike
- Ferraria geothermal pools

- Whale and dolphin-watching excursion, led by marine biologist
- Gruta do Carvao, Sao Miguel's longest ancient lava tube
 - Tea factory visit incl. tasting
 - Ribeira dos Caldeiroes Park
- Nordeste outpost and its seven-arched bridge

Optional Excursions (not included in land package price):

- Guided tour of Ponta Delgada
- Biking or kayaking at Sete Cidades Lake
- Excursion to Lagoa Do Fogo & Furnas Lake incl. hike and Cozido lunch
- Nighttime experience at Poca da Dona Beija Thermal Bath incl. Cozido dinner

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ABOUT THE TRIP:

São Miguel Island is a beautiful green jewel in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and the largest of the Azores nine-island archipelago, located west of mainland Portugal. With stunning lush landscapes, colorful plants, dormant volcanoes, hot springs, and surrounded by pristine waters, São Miguel is the perfect destination for nature lovers and those looking for an off-the-beaten-path European getaway. Explore the island and marvel at its natural beauty, hike down a dormant volcano and relax on the sandy lake beaches. Visit the only tea plantation in Europe and taste delicious locally grown pineapple. Discover the historical city of Ponta Delgada, with its cobbled streets and black and white mosaic pavements. Get ready for an amazing adventure with family and friends.

DAY 1 - FLIGHT TO AZORES

Board your overnight flight to Ponta Delgada on Sao Miguel Island today.

Meals: In-flight



DAY 2 - LAND TOUR START DATE: PONTA DELGADA

Welcome to Sao Miguel Island in the Azores, nicknamed “The Green Island” because of its lush environment with beautiful lakes, sparkling beaches, and mountains. Transfer to your hotel upon arrival and enjoy the rest of the afternoon at your leisure. Consider an optional walking tour to see historic sites like the Matriz Church, Portas da Cidade town hall and Fort Sao Bras. Tonight, meet fellow travelers and your tour director for a welcome orientation followed by a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Dinner

Inclusions: Airport transfer included with purchased AESU group airfare, Tour orientation and welcome dinner

Optional Activities: Guided walking tour of Ponta Delgada

DAY 3 - PONTA DELGADA - SETE CIDADES & PONTA DA FERRARIA HOT SPRINGS

This morning we pass green pastures, dotted with grazing cows busy mowing, en route to a traditional greenhouse where the Azorean pineapple has been cultivated for more than 150 years. Consider tasting some local delicacies made from pineapple, such as delicious natural juices, cocktails, chocolate fondue or artisan ice cream. As we continue our journey, plan to encounter many places that just take your breath away, but the first glimpse of Sete Cidades’ enormous caldera with its sparkling twin lakes may be one of the most stunning sights ever. The landscape seems to have been taken straight out of a fairytale, so it comes as no surprise that Sete Cidades (Mythical kingdom of Seven Cities) is the source of an Azorean legend in which the blue and the green lakes were formed from the tears of a green-eyed shepherd and a blue-eyed princess who shared a forbidden love. These lakes are considered one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Portugal. After lunch, we travel to the westernmost point of São Miguel where the therapeutic hot springs have enticed swimmers and wellness seekers since the Portuguese first populated the archipelago in the 15th century. As a volcanic island chain still bubbling with geothermal activity, the Azores — especially São Miguel — have always been known for hot springs and mineral water spas.

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Locals say that the hot springs at Ponta da Ferraria have special healing powers, so how about taking a dip.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch,

Inclusions: Guided tour of a local pineapple plantation, Exploration of Sete Cidades with a local expert, Lunch at a local restaurant, Ferraria, geothermal hot springs

Optional Activities: Bike ride inside the volcanic caldera of the Sete Cidades complex (mostly flat, circular route), Kayak experience on Lake Cidades



DAY 4 - PONTA DELGADA

Enjoy a day at leisure to explore Ponta Delgada on your own. Our optional excursion takes us along the southern coastline to Furnas, home to more volcanic landscapes and geothermal wonders. 'Lagoa do Fogo' or 'Lake of Fire,' is a crater lake within the volcanic complex of Água de Pau Massif and is a protected natural reserve. We start our hike at Miradouro da Lagoa do Fogo and walk down a steep trail taking us to the lake. This circular 2.5 mile trail with a difficulty level of easy to moderate takes us to the edge of the lake. Take some time to explore the accessible parts of the lake, sit and take in the scenery before we climb back to the top and continue to Furnas Village to enjoy a traditional 'Cozido das Furnas' lunch--a traditional stew placed in a pot and slow-cooked in a hole in the ground heated by volcanic activity. In the afternoon we visit Furnas Lake, known for its bubbling mineral rich geothermal pools and the island's most ancient volcanic crater. The Fumarolas da Lagoa das Furnas are located on the northern tip of Furnas Lake and are easily the lake's biggest attraction. While the Furnas has plenty of geothermal activity, the fumaroles on the water's edge are one of the most impressive examples of just how active the area really is. A series of boardwalks lead visitors through the billowing clouds of sulfuric smoke emanating from the mud pools and fumaroles. We return to Ponta Delgada for an evening at leisure or you can opt to join a nighttime experience at Poca da Dona Beija Thermal Bath.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Today is free to explore at leisure

Optional Activities: Full day excursion to Lagoa Do Fogo and Furnas, incl. hiking and lunch, Nighttime experience at Poca da Dona Beija Thermal Bath incl. Cozido dinner



DAY 5 - PONTA DELGADA - WHALE & DOLPHIN WATCHING TRIP - LAVA TUNNEL

This morning we walk to the marina and board a boat for our whale and dolphin-watching trip, led by a marine biologist. We will be briefed on the whale-watching code of ethics and hear which species of the Atlantic Ocean's most magnificent mammals we expect to see in their natural habitat based on their location and current weather conditions. We return to the marina in time for lunch at your leisure. Later in the afternoon join us on an exploration of the Gruta do Carvao, Sao Miguel's longest ancient lava tube and geological marvel. At almost one mile in length, exploring it is a fantastic way to see how the Azores main island was created and shaped.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Whale and dolphin watching trip by boat, Lava tunnel exploration



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DAY 6 - PONTA DELGADA - NORDESTE EXCURSION

Located in the eastern-most part of the island, Nordeste is considered to be the most beautiful area on the island with towering sea cliffs and is the most exotic, flower-rich region in Europe. For almost 200 years, tea has been grown on Sao Miguel Island, making the Azores Europe's secret tea capital. We visit the Gorreana tea factory, a family run business since 1883, producing a world class tea brand that includes a variety of 100% organic green and black teas and tea infusions. The facilities are located on a sloping mountain ridge on the north side of the island, with sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean. We continue to Ribeira dos Caldeirões Natural Park, a large expanse of varying vegetation, a number of waterfalls and watermills (some still functional), fountains and walking trails. Observe an abundance of various Macaronesian flora, highlighted by the large-sized tree ferns, massive Hortensia and large-sized cedars. You might even spot the endangered Azorean bullfinch, an endemic passerine bird. Then we cross Nordeste's sturdy seven-arched bridge, built in 1883 and arrive at this small outpost with spectacular Atlantic vistas. Take a stroll through the village and witness traditional Azorean life, then enjoy lunch made with locally grown ingredients. We continue our island exploration with a stop at Ponta da Madrugada viewpoint and a visit to the village of Povoacao for an opportunity to enjoy Fofas da Povoacao (traditional eclairs) during free time before returning to Ponta Delgada. Join fellow travelers tonight for our Amazing Azores farewell dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Inclusions: Nordeste excursion, Visit to Gorreana tea factory incl. tasting, Ribeira dos Caldeirões Natural Park with waterfalls, windmills, flora and fauna, Nordeste outpost and its seven-arched bridge, Ponta da Madrugada viewpoint

DAY 7 - TRAVEL HOME

After breakfast, travel home with fond memories of an amazing outdoor adventure with family and friends.

Meals: Breakfast, In-flight

Inclusions: Transfer from hotel to airport included with purchased AESU group airfare



PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS

Hey Adventurer!



Discover one of the best kept secrets and a paradise for outdoor adventurers of all ages. The landscape is a wonderland of lush mountain ranges, vibrant crater lakes, waterfalls and healing pools. Find unexpected treasures, such as an organic tea plantation, stroll, kayak or bike around Sete Cidades' enormous caldera with its sparkling twin lakes, then wander across the boardwalk at Furnas Lake, known for its bubbling mineral rich geothermal pools. Taste local delicacies slow-cooked in a hole in the ground heated by volcanic activity or relax at a café in Ponta Delgada, a town of distinctive architecture and colorful character.

This trip has been carefully designed and features fantastic inclusions and highlights.



For a glossary of these key aspects, visit: www.aesu.com/aspects-awt

ACTIVITY LEVEL



LEVEL 2: RELAXED

This tour requires light physical activity combined with shorter travel days.

For more details, please visit: <https://www.aesu.com/activity-levels-awt/>

TOUR DIRECTORS

Your tour includes the services of a professional tour director throughout the land package. We are very proud of our tour directors. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major universities. They are eager to show the world through the eyes of an adventurer. Our tour directors know this is a trip of a lifetime and will share their knowledge as well as interesting little-known facts. Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel.

HOTELS

Our hotels offer superior tourist class accommodations, with private bathrooms. Hotels are centrally located and many offer great extra amenities such as pools, gyms or roof-top bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If a single room is desired, a supplement of \$595 applies. If traveling solo and not wanting to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If a share cannot be arranged the single supplement will apply. This tour is suitable for children 5 years of age or older. The child package rate for a child between the ages of 5 and 17 (age at the time of travel) is \$2,115 if he/she shares a room with 1 or 2 adults.

“ **SUCH AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE.
I LOVED EVERYTHING.** ”

- past traveler

BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

EXCLUSIONS: These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own.); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested \$5 per day for tour director, \$2-3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; any vaccinations, pre/post trip testing/screening, airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. Cancellation from time of booking until 120 days prior to departure will result in a \$300 cancellation fee. Cancellation between 119-90 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 25% of tour cost; between 89-60 days 35% of tour cost; between 59-30 days 50% of tour cost. Cancellation within 30 days of departure or a "no-show" at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. Processing of cancellation refunds takes approximately 6-8 weeks.

AIRFARES are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable. Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Travel insurance, including medical health and accident coverage, is compulsory. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS AND BAGGAGE: All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 3:00 p.m. on program start date. **FLIGHT DELAYS - ALL AIRPORTS:** In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Many shuttle services are available as well as taxi or train options. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. If you purchase your own airfare, book your overnight flight from the USA one day earlier than the land tour start date listed on our website. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline's website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract.

RESPONSIBILITY: The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, epidemic health risk, any force majeure event, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/ herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond the Operator's control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. **TRAVEL INSURANCE** is compulsory in the event of tour cancellation for any reason, medical expenses, personal accident, baggage and other personal items, liability and 24-hr emergency assistance. Trip insurance may be offered directly by your Alumni Association. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, the Operator's liability shall be limited to a refund of land payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. If the change or cancellation is due to force majeure or other similar events beyond Operator's control, a refund of land payments received from applicants will be made less reasonable expenses incurred by Operator in respect to applicant's land booking. Baggage and personal injury are at owner's risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. The Operator reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/ or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour, or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our web site at www.aesu.com.