



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

AMAZING AZORES

2024 MULTI-GENERATIONAL TOUR

US DEPARTURE DATE: JULY 28, 2024

LAND TOUR START DATE: JULY 29, 2024

RETURN DATE: AUGUST 3, 2024

LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$2,465

START YOUR ADVENTURE.



Dear Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow University of Michigan Alumni?

The University of Michigan travel program offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with like-minded individuals, with similar backgrounds and experiences, but also your nearest and dearest, while enriching you on this well-designed, hassle-free tour of 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. Explore 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 the 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.

Sincerely,

Rachele Neu

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

Senior Travel Program Manager

Alumni Association of the University of Michigan

alumnitravel@umich.edu

The Amazing Azores Multi-Generational Trip is a benefit to current members of the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan. To join the Alumni Association, please visit <https://alumni.umich.edu/membership/>

Visit our website www.aesu.com/umich for more details and to book.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is compulsory. The Alumni Association of Michigan offers the following travel insurance:

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

AMAZING AZORES



7 DAYS | 5 NIGHTS



COUNTRIES VISITED:
PONTA DELGADAS | SAO MIGUEL ISLAND

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

7-Day Land Package Transportation and Lodging

- 5 nights in superior tourist class hotels with private bath/shower, 2-share rooms
- All ground transportation by private vehicles as per itinerary
- Airport transfers included with purchased AESU group airfare

Meals

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

Activities and Admissions

- Guided walking tour of Ponta Delgada, led by a local expert
 - Pineapple Greenhouse visit
 - Setes Cidades hike
- Whale and dolphin-watching excursion, led by marine biologist
 - Gorreana organic tea plantation tour and tasting
 - Praia Santa Barbara
 - Ribeira dos Caldeiroes Park

Sights

- Sao Miguel, The Green Island of the Azores
 - Ponta Delgada
- Sete Cidades caldera and lakes, Mythical Kingdom of Seven Cities
 - Boca do Inferno viewpoint
- Amazing Atlantic coastal views and lush landscapes

Plus

- Private tour director for the duration of the land tour
- All service charges and local taxes

Optional Activities (not included in land package price):

- Day 3: Kayaking at Sete Cidades Lake
- Day 4: Excursion to Lagoa Do Fogo & Furnas Lake incl. hike and Cozido lunch
- Day 5: Gruta do Carvao, Sao Miguel's longest ancient lava tube

Tour Highlights

- Welcome orientation and dinner
- Ponta Delgada city sights
- Pineapple Greenhouse
- Setes Cidades
- Whale and dolphin-watching excursion, led by marine biologist
- Black beaches of Praia Santa Barbara
- Organic tea factory visit incl. tasting
- Ribeira dos Caldeiroes Natural Park



AMAZING AZORES ITINERARY

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 TRAVEL TO THE AZORES

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

Meals: In-flight

DAY 2 LAND TOUR START DAY: 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 leisure time before our walking tour of Ponta Delgada. 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, Guided walking tour of Ponta Delgada, Tour orientation and welcome dinner

DAY 3 SETE CIDADES | PINEAPPLE PLANTATION

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 fairy tale, 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 return to Ponta Delgada. During free time, consider climbing the Ponta Delgada city tower for a birds-eye view of the city or take a dip into the waters of the natural pool at the Complexo Municipal de Piscinas.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

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

Optional Activity: Kayak experience on Lake Cidades



DAY 4

PONTA DELGADA | OPTIONAL LAGOA DO FOGO AND FURNAS HIKE

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.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Today is free to explore at leisure

Optional Activities: Excursion to Lagoa Do Fogo and Furnas, incl. hiking and lunch

DAY 5

PONTA DELGADA | WHALE AND DOLPHIN WATCHING EXCURSION

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 optional 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

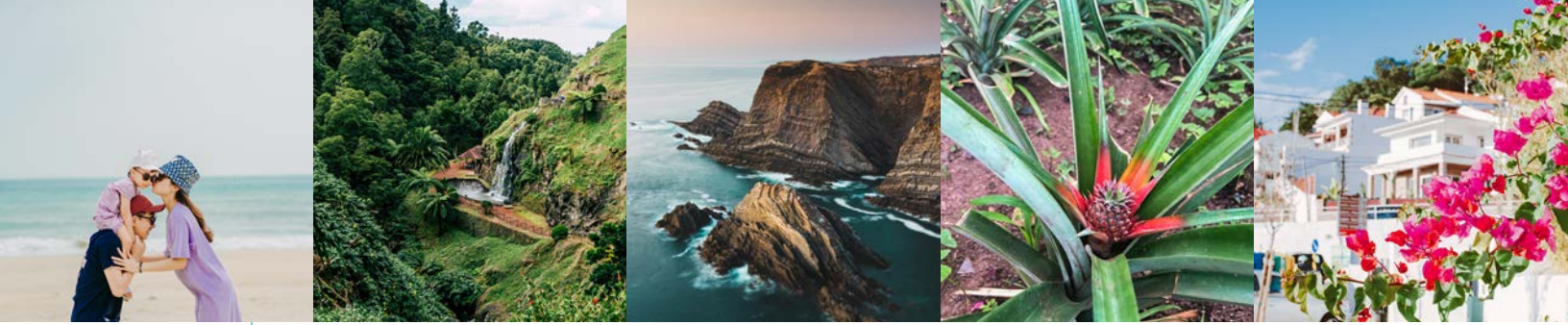
Inclusions: Whale and dolphin watching trip by boat

Optional Activity: Gruta do Carvao, Sao Miguel's longest ancient lava tube

DAY 6

ORGANIC TEA | PLANTATION | RIBEIRA DOS CALDEIROS NATURAL PARK | PRAIA DE SANTA BARBARA

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. After lunch, enjoy free time at the black sand beaches of Praia



de Santa Bárbara before returning to Ponta Delgada. Tonight, join fellow travelers tonight for our Amazing Azores farewell dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Inclusions: Visit to Gorreana tea factory incl. tasting, Ribeira dos Caldeiros Natural Park with waterfalls, windmills, flora and fauna, Black beaches of Praia de Santa Barbara

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

PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS



Hello Multi-Generational Traveler!

Discover one of the best kept secrets and a paradise for outdoor adventurers of all ages, just off the coast of Portugal. 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. São Miguel Island is truly amazing.

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



Culinary



Culture & Heritage



Leisure & Free Time



Landscapes & Wildlife



Outdoor & Adventure



Educational



Wellness



Eco Friendly

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



ACTIVITY LEVEL: RELAXED

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 you the world through the eyes of an adventurer. Our tour directors know this is a trip of a lifetime for you 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 \$635 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 \$2,315 if they share a room with 1 or 2 adults.

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**SUCH AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE.
I ABSOLUTELY LOVED EVERYTHING!**

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- past traveler

BOOKING TERMS & 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. 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.