



The Azores

Photo: Vicky SP / Shutterstock.com



aaabbccc / Shutterstock.com

Blue lakes bordered by flowers, dazzling views of the sea from high in the hills, and lush green landscapes of ancient volcanic craters - the nine islands of the Azores, situated in the middle of the Atlantic, just 4 hours from Boston and 2 hours from Lisbon by plane, are a paradise for nature-lovers. Choose a holiday on these beautiful islands and you'll rediscover the peace of the countryside in a stunning and unspoilt natural environment.

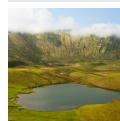


Pommeyrol Vincent / Shutterstock.com



Lukasz Janyst / Shutterstock.com

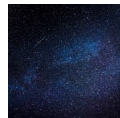
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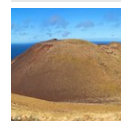


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THE ISLANDS



Roman Sulla / Shutterstock.com

One of the best sentences that describe the Azores is: One Location, Nine Unique Worlds.

The nine islands of the Azores archipelago represent Europe's most westernmost point, and are located in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

Each of the islands has its own specific landscape and character, and the Azorean people follow age-old traditions complemented by the diversity of their beautiful surroundings.

São Miguel, the largest island is renowned for its flowers and green landscapes, its large scenic lakes, and the vibrant city of Ponta Delgada. On the Island of Santa Maria, you'll discover vine-covered escarpments surrounding the site of the Anjos chapel of Baía de São Lourenço, where Columbus prayed on his return from America.

At the centre of the Azores, five islands lie very close together. Terceira Island is steeped in history, as the home of Angra do Heroísmo, the first European city in the Atlantic and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Nearby, Faial Island is famed for its blue hydrangeas and its marina painted in colours of visiting yachts from all over the world. Opposite Faial is Pico, with the highest mountain of Portugal at 2351m. Its

slopes are covered with black lava fields and vineyards, and its people remember age-old whaling traditions. Wide green pastures dominate the island of São Jorge, while at the base of its steep escarpments, slivers of land called "fajãs" nestle by the sea. The smallest of this central group of five islands is Graciosa, which has a lake carved in dormant volcanic rock, while its vineyards are dotted with windmills.

The island of Flores resembles a garden surrounded by the sea. Its charming scenery is made up of scenic lakes carved into the volcanic rock. The centre of the miniature ninth island of Corvo also has its own volcanic crater, or "caldeira", which takes up much of its centre.

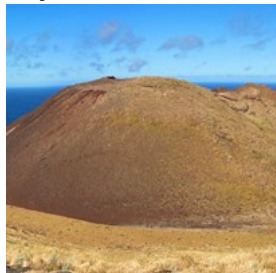
DO & SEE



Vicky SP / Shutterstock.com

Natural wonders greet you at every corner in these otherworldly islands. The nine islands of the Azores are in fact some of the world's highest mountains, and most interesting volcanic formations. Lakes and rivers, forest reserves, natural and recreational parks, protected landscape areas, endemic flora and fauna, and rare ecosystems combine to provide endless possibilities for those who venture off the beaten path.

Capelinhos Volcano

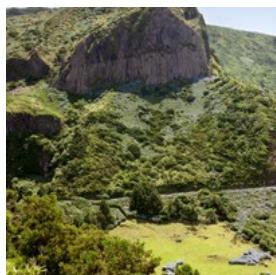


This otherworldly landscape should be on every visitor's itinerary. In 1957, the Capelinhos volcano erupted, and did not stop for a year and a month. Inhabitants were forced to abandon the island, which now lies deserted. Climb the volcano with the help of the official guide service to experience this unique and startling natural wonder.

Photo: Guillaume Baviere(image cropped)

Address: Faial Island

Rocha Dos Bordões

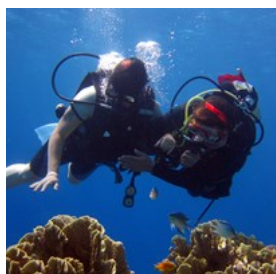


Shaped by nature over thousands of years, Rocha Dos Bordoes is a geological formation consisting of basalt columns and several rivers which lead to a tranquil waterfall. Near its base are the so-called Aguas Quentes, cauldrons of boiling sulphurous water.

Photo: Unukorno(image cropped)

Address: Flores Island, Azores

Scuba Diving



Go scuba diving day or night, in sandy, rocky or mixed seabeds, in caves or shipwrecks. Different operators provide varying experiences for all levels, from beginner to professional. Snorkel to leisurely enjoy the abundant marine life of the archipelago's crystal clear waters, or dive in to a stunning ocean.

Photo: Andrew Skudder(image cropped)

Lagoa Do Fogo



Located in the beautiful and green island of Sao Miguel, Lagoa do Fogo is the second largest lagoon on the Azores. Classified as a Natural Reserve, visitors marvel at the luscious beauty of this forest, which includes a caldeira - the walls of which reach up to 300m. Hikers should check out the "Lombadas Lagoa do Fogo" Trail to fully experience the fascinating array of flora and fauna characteristic of this geological phenomenon.

Photo: Michael Caven(image cropped)

Address: São Miguel Island, Azores

Lagoa Das Sete Cidades



Sete Cidades Lagoon is the largest freshwater lake in the Azores, with a length of 4.2 km and a depth that reaches 33 meters. Declared one of the 7 Natural Wonders of Portugal, it consists of two lakes - Lagoa Verde and Lagoa Azul (green lagoon and blue lagoon) - linked together and surrounded by a breathtaking scenery. Classified as Protected Landscape by Natura 2000, this natural wonder is surrounded by an extensive green area and beautiful rocky cliffs covered with trees and flowers.

Photo: David Stanley(image cropped)

Address: São Miguel Island, Azores

Algar Do Carvão



The island of Terceira features one of the most extraordinary volcanic formations - the Algar do Carvão, located within the Caldeira Guilherme

Moniz and is accessible to visitors. Go inside this volcanic cone through an artificial tunnel and a staircase, and follow the route of the lava tube. The highlights are the underground lake and the volcanic-glass stalactites and stalagmites.

Photo: Luissilveira(image cropped)
Address: Terceira Island, Azores

Furna do Enxofre



The Furna is a 100-metre deep tunnel ending in a cave. In the deepest depths you can find a lake with about 130 meters in diameter and a maximum depth of 15 meters.

Photo: José Luís Ávila Silveira/Pedro Noronha e Costa(image cropped)
Address: Graciosa Island, Azores

Fajã Da Caldeira Do Santo Cristo



Fajã da Caldeira de Santo Cristo is an area of great natural beauty, famous for its waves and thus loved by surfers and bodyboarders. Located on

the northern coast of the fabulous São Jorge Island, this is considered the most beautiful Fajã in the Island. Access is by a strenuous hike, Fajãs Itinerary ("Percurso das Fajãs"), which takes in stunning landscapes of both land and ocean.

Photo: Guillaume Baviere(image cropped)
Address: São Jorge Island, Azores

Volcanic Landscape of Pico Island

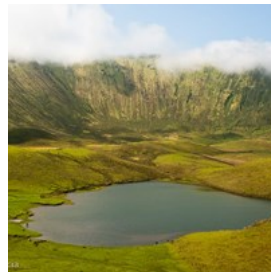


At 2351 metres above sea level, the Pico is the highest point of Portuguese territory. At the top is a 700-meter crater, 30 meters deep.

The entire landscape around the volcano is rich in geological formations, notably the vineyards at the base of the mountain, classified as a World Heritage site by UNESCO. Take a tour with an official guide to make the most of this experience.

Photo: David Stanley(image cropped)
Address: Pico Island, Azores

Caldeirão

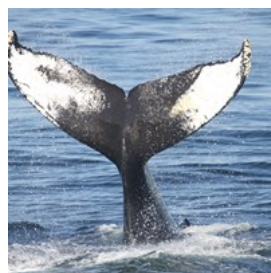


This 3400m-long crater is "the cradle" of the island. Formed by a volcanic eruption, there are two lakes in its interior, dotted with small islands.

An excellent vantage point, this area offers wonderful views of the island as well as a unique opportunity to explore a volcanic landscape.

Photo: Manuel Garcia(image cropped)
Address: Corvo Island, Azores

Whale Watching



The Azores are one of the world's biggest whale sanctuaries. Over 27 different species, both native and migrating, can be spotted here - that's

one third of the number of species in existence.

The shimmering blue seas of the Azores are the perfect place to observe these majestic creatures up close in the wild.

Photo: Isaac Kohane(image cropped)

Capelinhos Volcanic Museum



This underground museum was voted the best in Europe in 2012, and is an essential visit for anyone interested in how the island's volcanic formations came to be. Centro de Interpretação do Vulcão dos Capelinhos uses multimedia to teach visitors about the formations as well as the island's history, notably the 1957-58 eruption.

Photo: José Luís Ávila Silveira + Pedro Noronha e Costa/WikiCommons

Address: Farol dos Capelinhos Capelo, 9900-000 Horta, Portugal

Phone: (+351) 292 200 470

Museo Carlos Machado



Situated in the former Santo André Convent, this eccentric museum features a variety of artefacts from Azorean Natural History (zoology, botanic, geology, mineralogy). As well as this, it is home to a jaw-dropping sacristy, sacred art and sculpture collection.

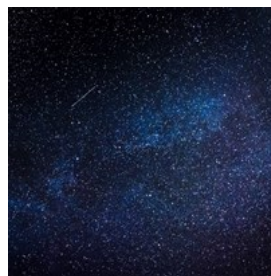
Photo: Christophe.Finot/cc by-sa 3.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: Convento de Santo André 9500-054 Ponta Delgada

Phone: *(+351) 296 202 930

Email: museu.cmachado.info@azores.gov.pt

Santana Astronomical Observatory



The clear skies of the Azores are the perfect place to see glorious constellations. This Science Centre shares its passion for astronomy with visitors of all ages. Visit in the evening to try out the observatory's telescopes and do some stargazing of your own.

Photo: Jezvg/Piqsels

Address: Rua de Santana Pico do Bode, Rabo de Peixe, São Miguel 9600-166 Portugal

Phone: (+351) 296 492 764

DINING



Natalia Mylova / Shutterstock.com

Food lovers will appreciate the varied cuisine of the Azores. For example, if you like fresh fish, then these islands will make for the perfect holiday. The “Cozido” das Furnas is one of the most emblematic dishes of the island of São Miguel--cooked beneath the earth in near the Furnas Lake. Several ingredients are placed in a pot that is buried next to the hot water springs. It takes about five hours to cook through natural heat that seeps up, produced by volcanic activity. Tasting “Cozido” das Furnas is an unforgettable experience for all visitors of the island. Main courses and sweet puddings come in many varieties, and fine cheeses are locally produced, particularly on São Jorge Island. Home-grown

fruit includes pineapple and tropical passion-fruit, while perfumed green tea is grown on the island of São Miguel.

When it comes to complementing your meal with a drink, be sure to try the local red and white wines, plus the firewater (aguardente) from Graciosa Island, Biscoitos from Terceira Island and of course the “verdelho” wine from Pico.

Tony's Restaurant



Tony's Restaurant is known locally for its generous portions and friendly service, but most importantly, for the tasty and tender "Cozido das

Furnas", a meat and vegetable stew, cooked underground using the hot springs for over 6 hours.

So, if you want to try this famous local delicacy--and we think you should--make sure to book in advance.

Photo: Dirk M. de Boer/Shutterstock.com

Address: Largo do Teatro 5, Furnas, São Miguel Island, Azores

Opening hours: Daily 7am-11pm

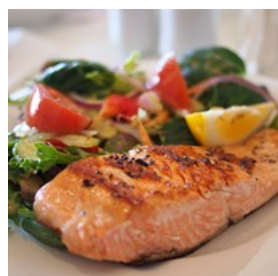
Phone: +351 296 584 290

Internet: restauranttonys.pt

Email: restauranttonys@sapo.pt

More Info: Another email: restauranttonys@gmail.com

Cais 20 Restaurant



One of the best seafood restaurants on the island of São Miguel, Cais 20 is full of flavours, friendly service, and one of the best places to taste what

the Azores have to offer. This is also the ideal

place for those who like to snack late into the night, as they stay open until 5am.

Photo: cattalin/Pixabay

Address: 2ª Rua do Terreiro 41, São Roque, Ponta Delgada, Azores

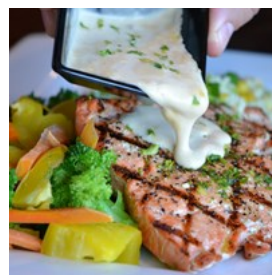
Opening hours: Daily 12pm-5am

Phone: +351 296 384 811

Internet: www.restaurantecais20.pt/en

Email: cais_20@hotmail.com

O Pescador Restaurant



Located in the town centre of Praia da Vitória, O Pescador is a cosy and sophisticated restaurant that specialises in seafood and fish. The food

here is fresh, delicious, and varied, which is greatly complemented by their vast wine selection.

Photo: YenniVance/Pixabay

Address: R. Conselheiro José Cardoso 11, Praia da Vitória, Terceira Island, Azores

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 12-2pm, 6-10pm

Phone: +351 295 513 495

Quinta Do Martelo Restaurant



At Quinta do Martelo, you can taste the best of the island's traditional cuisine. This restaurant received the first prize in the "Gastronomy -

National Heritage" contest, among other awards. Here, you can observe and taste the evolution of the Azorean gastronomy and culture throughout the centuries.

Photo: markusspiske/Pixabay

Address: Canada do Martelo, 24, São Mateus, Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira Island, Azores

Phone: +351 295 642 842

Café Restaurante Velense



Located next to the port of Velas, Restaurante Velense is a friendly place offering a truly authentic Azorean experience. Despite the reduced

menu offer, everything here is fresh, well cooked, and made with care. The menu favors fish and shellfish.

Photo: postchiangmai0/Pixabay

Address: Rua Conselheiro Doutor José Pereira, Velas, S. Jorge Island, Azores

Opening hours: Daily 6:30am-2am

Phone: +351 295 432 226

O Ancoradouro



O Ancoradouro Restaurant boasts stunning panoramic views over the island of Faial, and in the summer it also offers an attractive

terrace. Skewers of beef and prawns, octopus and rice with seafood are just a few of the specialties recommended.

Photo: RitaE/Pixabay

Address: Rua João de Lima Whitton, Areia Larga, Madalena, Pico Island, Azores

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 12-3pm, 7-10pm

Phone: +351 292 623 490

Pôr Do Sol Restaurant



At a superb remote location, on a cliff in the paradisiacal Flores island, Pôr Do Sol Restaurant is Europe's most Western restaurant.

Come here for typical dishes of the island such as sausage, black pudding, yams, sweet potato,

among others--all in a welcoming environment with a beautiful sea view. Be sure to book a table in advance as it gets quite busy.

Photo: David Stanley/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: Fajãzinha, Flores Island, Azores

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 12-2pm, 7-9pm, Sun 12-2pm

Phone: +351 292 552 075

Canto Da Doca Restaurant



With an interior that evokes the interior of a ship, the special feature of this restaurant is that all dishes are cooked in a stone. That is, the

customer is an integral and active part in the manufacturing of the dish, either meat or fish, which is accompanied by special sauces and crisp salad.

Photo: KRiemer/Pixabay

Address: Rua Nova, Horta, Faial Island, Azores

Opening hours: Daily 12-2:30pm, 6:30-11pm

Phone: +351 292 292 444

CAFES



Ekaterina Pokrovsky / Shutterstock.com

Casa de Chá



Despite the name Casa de Chá (tea house in Portuguese), this is also a slow food, café, and bar all in one. On their menu, an overwhelming variety

of tea leaves from which to choose--more than 100--as well as the usual coffee specialties, hot chocolate, cocktails, and other alcoholic drinks. Plus, salads, toasts, and pizzas along with pastries, pancakes, and mouthwatering cakes. Boasting a great view over the city and the bay as well as a beautiful garden, Casa de Chá a nice place to relax, have a chat, and grab a bite after a tour of the island.

Photo: Wiro.Klyngz / Shutterstock.com

Address: Rua De São João 38 A, Faial Island, Azores

Phone: +351 292 700 053

Email: casa38a@gmail.com

A minha casa



Tucked away in the upstairs of a house, A minha casa, which means My house in Portuguese, is a cosy and quaint little cafe right by the Angra

do Heroísmo Bay. Both the fare--which includes local dishes, pancakes, and burgers--and the funky decor invite patrons to linger for hours.

Photo: IAKOBCHUK VIACHESLAV / Shutterstock.com

Address: R. dos Canos Verdes 105, Angra do Heroísmo

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 3-9:30pm

Phone: +351 968 927 059

Confeitaria A Colmeia



The Illy coffee served at Confeitaria A Colmeia is largely praised as some of the best on the islands, but the food is probably this cafe's biggest draw.

Local style burgers with Azorean beef or lentil and mushroom based veggie burgers are particular highlights, along with the salads and the signature pastries, including island cheesecake and pineapple cake.

Photo: MR.MITR SRILACHAI / Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenida Infante D. Henrique 71, Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel Island, Azores

Opening hours: Daily 8am-10pm

Phone: +351 296 098 694

Chalet da Tia Mercês



Specializing in different types of tea and herbal infusions, Chalet da Tia Mercês is a picturesque and charming tea house, right next to the hot

springs in Furnas. Besides offering a vast selection of teas, their menu also features coffee, wine, local cheese, cakes, and sandwiches. Pretty much everything here is homemade and cooked with thermal water. But the icing on the cake is definitely the wonderful view it offers over of stream and Caldeiras.

Photo: HeadSpinPhoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rua das Caldeiras, Furnas

Opening hours: Thu 1-7pm, Fri 1-10pm, Sat & Sun 10am-10pm

Phone: +351 914 295 470

Intz48 Coffee Roasters



Intz48 has specialised in coffee, pastry, and gelato and is one of the most famous cafes on the island of Sao Miguel. Be sure to try one of their freshly roasted coffees and enjoy the atmosphere of Ponta Delgada's oldtown.

Photo: Elena Veselova/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rua Hintze Ribeiro 46-48, Ponta Delgada

Opening hours: Wed-Sun 9am-5pm

Internet: www.intz48.business.site/

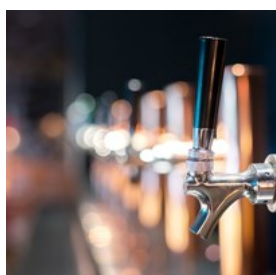
BARS & NIGHTLIFE



bbernard / Shutterstock.com

The Azores have a rich and active nightlife that can sometimes stay active well into the night and early morning. High-end lounges offering fine entertainment can be found at some hotels, while cosier and more intimate bars are spread out throughout the islands. Other options include live music, dancing, and wine cellars showcasing the Azorean wine tradition.

Peter Café Sport



Founded in 1918, Peter Café Sport is one of the most emblematic places in the Azores. They even have a saying: "If you sail to Horta and you don't

visit Peter's, you have not actually been to Horta". Peter's gin and tonic has international fame and, at your table, you can always hear stories about whaling.

Photo: ne3p / Shutterstock.com

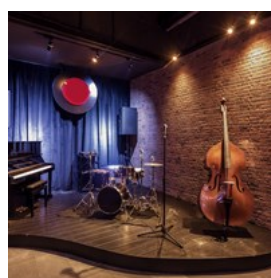
Address: Rua José Azevedo Peter 9, Horta, Faial Island, Azores

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 9am-12am, Fri-Sat 9am-1am

Phone: +351 292 292 327

Internet: www.petercafesport.com/en/

Lava Jazz



Enjoy an atmospheric Jazz Jam Session or one of the other live shows at Lava Jazz. They also have a resident band that performs from 10:30pm.

If you cannot choose what to dine, try their "Taste & Chill" offer.

Photo: AnnaTamila/Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenida Roberto Ivens, Ponta Delgada

Opening hours: Tue-Thu 7pm-12am, Fri-Sun 7pm-1am

Phone: +351 917 350 418

Internet: www.lavajazz.com/

Baía dos Anjos



Baía dos Anjos is one of Ponta Delgada's most popular bars and offers a great view on the marina and the bustling promenade. Meals and

drinks are served until early morning.

Photo: eFesenko/Shutterstock.com

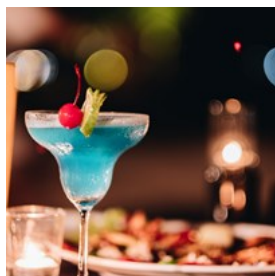
Address: Portas do Mar, Ioja 22, Ponta Delgada

Opening hours: Daily 9am-4am

Phone: +351 296 284 231

Internet: www.grupoanjos.pt/en/places/baia-dos-anjos/

Blues Bar



Blues Bar at Praia da Vitória on Terceira offers reasonably priced meals and drinks - the beach view is for free.

Occasionally there is live music.

Photo: nuu_jeed/Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenida Álvaro Martins Homem, Praia da Vitória

Opening hours: Tue-Thu, Sun 12pm-2am, Fri 12pm-5am, Sat 12pm-4am

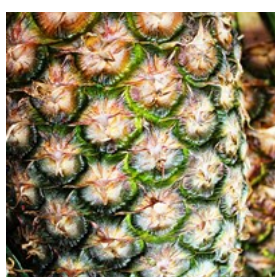
SHOPPING



pilipphoto / Shutterstock.com

Popular souvenirs in the Azores include ceramic items such as hand-painted clay dishes, vases, teapots and mugs, as well as embroidery and hand-woven blankets, sweaters and other items. Azorean wickerwork, mainly baskets and furniture, has recently grown in reputation, as has Azorean wine, making them popular souvenirs and gifts.

Pineapples



You can buy pineapples at the airports on all islands, at the supermarket or if visiting the greenhouses, on S. Miguel Island. Here you can visit the greenhouses to see the various stages of the

pineapples and also buy a range of products related with pineapples.

Photo: GregMontani

Address: Sao Miguel Island, Azores

Gorreana Tea Factory



Tea is also grown in the Azores. You can buy it at every supermarket or if you want a one of a kind experience, we recommend that you visit the Gorreana Factory on São Miguel Island. Here you can take a tour of the factory and taste different kinds of teas.

Photo: highnesser

Address: Rua Gorreana de Cima, Maia, São Miguel Island, Azores

Phone: +351 296 442 349

Internet: www.gorreana.pt/en

Email: gorreanazores@gmail.com

Parque Atlantico



The best shopping place in the Azores, if you want to find almost all of the souvenirs for which the islands are famous, is the modern Parque Atlantico mall in Ponta Delgada, São Miguel Island. There are 104 stores, and a giant supermarket which sells traditional jams and Azorean honey.

Photo: Rei-artur(image cropped)

Address: R. da Juventude, Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel Island, Azores

Phone: +351 296 307 550

Internet: www.parqueatlanticoshopping.pt

Adega A Buraca



Though small, wine production on the Azores has grown in reputation. One of the best places to visit and try some wines is Adega A Buraca, where visitors can see how the wine is produced, try different varieties, and choose a bottle or two to take home with them.

Photo: Arno_M

Address: Estrada Regional 35, Santo António, Pico Island, Azores

Phone: +351 292 642 119

Internet: www.adegaaburaca.com

Galerias Portas do Mar



Connected to the old marina of Ponta Delgada and boasting a prime location on the seafront, Galerias Portas do Mar gathers various shops and a leisure area with a seaside garden promenade, as well as restaurants, bars, banks, travel agencies, and much more.

Photo: Feliciano Guimarães(image cropped)

Address: Galerias Comerciais Portas do Mar, Av. Infante D. Henrique, Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel Island, Azores

Phone: +351 296 629 424

Internet: www.portasdomar.pt

Email: gpm@norma-acoeres.pt

TOURIST INFORMATION



Iryna Rasko / Shutterstock.com

Airport



There are the three international airports located in the Azores: Sao Miguel (the largest island in the Azores) - the international airport is

located 2 km from Ponta Delgada.

Faial - the international airport is located 10 km from Horta.

Terceira - the international airport is located in Lajes and is 22 km from Angra do Heroísmo and 5 km from Praia da Vitória.

To travel between islands, you can take a domestic flight with by SATA airlines (www.sata.pt), or you can travel by ferry (Atlanticoline, www.atlanticoline.pt) around all islands (from June to September). Transmaçor (www.transmacor.pt) also operates by boat between Terceira, Faial, Pico and São Jorge islands.

In all airports the most convenient form of transportation is by taxi or rental car.

Photo: Juan Garces

Public Transport



All islands except Corvo have bus and taxi transportation. Rental car services are available on the eight main islands.

Taxi and sightseeing services are available on the island of Corvo.

The two rent-a-cars that operate in all Azores islands are:

Autatlantis: www.autatlantis.com/ing/index.php

Ilha Verde:

www.ilhaverde.com/English/default.html

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Taxi



Taxis are relatively inexpensive, and trips are usually metered, although there are fixed charges for certain trips. Sao Miguel: +351 296 302

530

Faial: +351 292 391 300

Terceira: +351 295 212 004

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Post Office

Posto de Correios de Vila do Porto



Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Rua Teófilo Braga, 38, Vila Do Porto, Azores

Pharmacy



Prescription and non-prescription medicines are available from pharmacies (Farmácias). Pharmacies are open from Monday to

Friday (9 am until 7 pm, in most cases). There is also a late duty route, posted on pharmacy windows.

Parafarmacia da Associacao dos Socorros Mutuos:

Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: Rua Machado dos Santos, 22, Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel Island, Azores

Electricity

220 volts AC, two-pronged round-pin plugs.



Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

245,374

Currency

Euro, €1 = 100 cents

Opening hours

Monday to Friday 9am-12:30pm and 2pm-6:30pm. Saturday 9am-1pm. Most of the larger stores and retail outlets in the main tourist areas may remain open through lunch hours. Most shops are closed on Sundays.

Shopping centres: Sunday to Thursday 10am-10pm. Friday and Saturday 10am-11pm

Banks: Monday to Friday 8:30am-3pm

Newspapers

Açoriano Oriental

Diário Insular

Expresso das Nove

Ilha Maior

A União

Emergency numbers

112

Tourist information

Information number: 1820