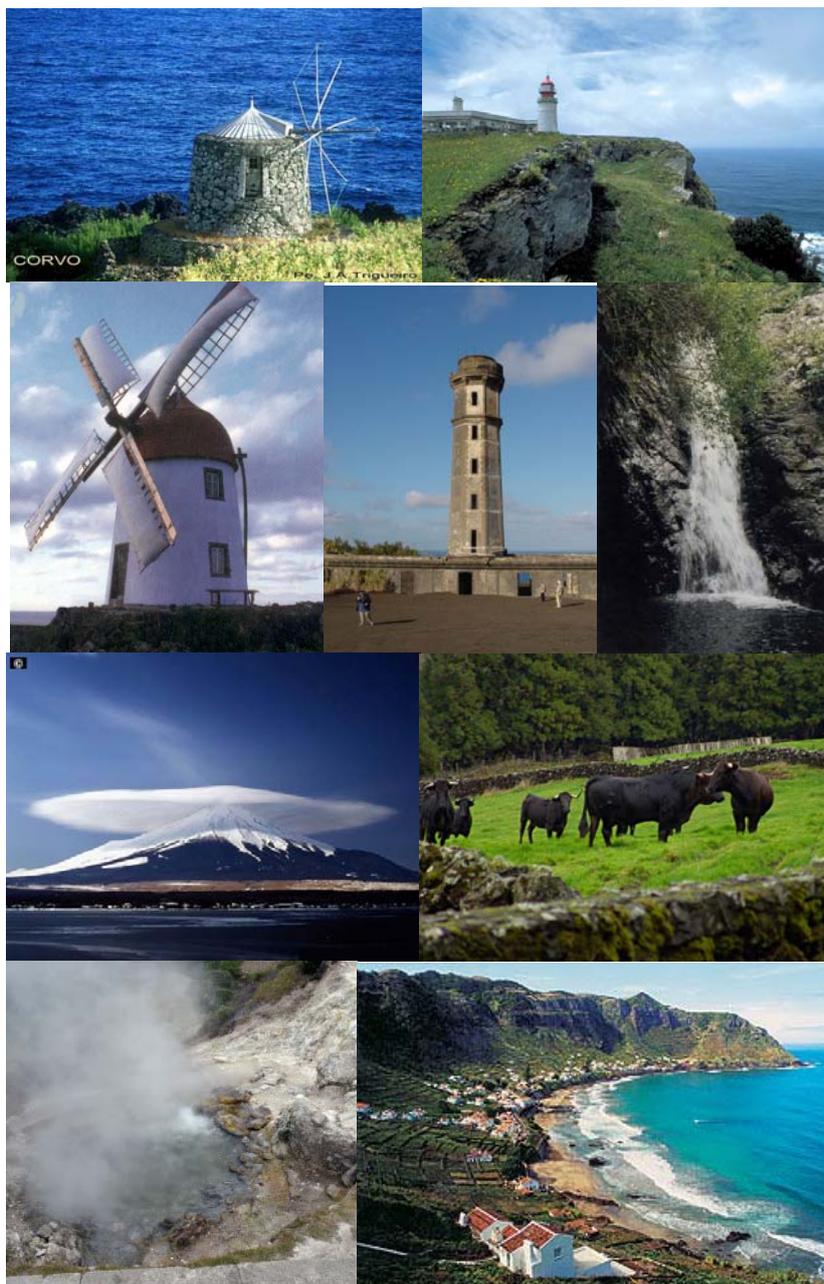


Mini Travel Guide on the Azores



Localization

Located approximately between the coordinates 37° N and 40° N of latitude and 25° W and 32° W of longitude, the archipelago of the Azores is constituted by nine small volcanic islands and some islets. The islands are divided in Western Group (Flores and Corvo), Central Group (Faial, São Jorge, Pico, Graciosa and Terceira) and Eastern Group (São Miguel and Santa Maria).



Entrance

To arrive at the Azores, the most usual way is air transportation. The linkings are through the airports of Ponta Delgada (island of São Miguel), Lajes (Terceira Island) and Horta (island of Faial).

The linking of the Azores with Europe and other Continents is guaranteed with daily flights from Lisbon. There are also regular flights with direct links to Madeira, U.S.A. and Canada. Charter flights also bind the Azores with the North of Europe, U.S.A. and Canada. Due to its excellent geographic position, the Azorean ports are scaled by yachts and cruise ships that cross the Atlantic Ocean.

Language

The spoken language is Portuguese, but with a different accent from island to island. But a large number of people can speak English and French.

Currency

The monetary unit is euro (€). There are coins of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 cents. 1 and 2 Euro coins also exist. There are notes of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 Euros. The Banking institutions are the only ones able to do the exchanges. They are open from 8:30 to 15:00, except on Saturdays, on Sundays and holidays. The visitor can use credit cards in several establishments. The ones that accept them have stickers that indicate it.



Transports

All of the islands of the Azores are connected by the regional operator SATA Air Azores. Linking between all the islands is assured in the months of May until October by Azorline navigation. The islands of Faial, Pico and S. Jorge have during all the year regular linkings effected by TransAçor and Express of the Triangle. In all the islands the tourist disposes of a service of buses that allows one to dislocate himself/herself in an economic and comfortable way. Besides this transport, there are also services of taxis and rent-a-car.

Holidays

- 1st of January (New Year)
- 14th of April (Saint Friday)
- 1st of May (Worker Day)
- 5th of June (Autonomy Day)
- 10th of June (Portugal Day, Camões and Community Day)
- 15th of June (Day Of Christ's Body)
- 15th of August (Nossa Senhora da Associação)
- 5th of October (Day Of The Implantation Of The Republic)
- 1st Of November (All The Saints Day)
- 1st of December (Day Of The Restoration Of The Independence Of Portugal)
- 8th of December (Day Of Nossa Senhora da Conceição)
- 25th of December (Christmas)

Climate

The climate of our archipelago is calm and tempered, it does not have great variations of temperature, it varies between 11° C in the Winter and 26° C in the Summer.

Animals

Because of its geographic localization in the Atlantic, theoretically half way between Europe and America, the Azores are a place of obligatory stopping for many migratory birds that in their long transatlantic passages use the islands to rest, not only in the lagoons and coasts of the Azorean islands, but also in the majority of islets that encircle the archipelago.



Cagarro

Animals that can be found in the Azores are wild rabbits, woodcocks, partridges, pigeons and ducks, among others.

In the ocean, there is a great variety of fish and mammals such as dolphins, whales, albacores, big eye tuna, skipjack tuna, locus lobster, and swordfish, among others.



Cachalot



Dolphin

Plants

Beautiful vegetation and a huge variety of trees, normally endemic species like field cedar grow in the fertile soil of the Azores.

There are a great number of flowers, but the most popular are the azaleas and hydrangeas.



Azaleas



Hydrangeas

Sports

In the Azores the most common sports are football, athletics, hand-ball, volley-ball, basketball, surf, body board, golf, fishing and hunting.



Geomorphology

Each of the nine islands presents proper natural characteristics that distinguish them from the remain, but that contributes to place the Archipelago in the national and international tourist route. From the highest rise of Portugal (the Mountain of Pico with 2.351 m of altitude, in the island of the same name), to



São Jorge Island

the coasts that are constantly kissed by the blue waters of the ocean that bathe them, the islands are a set of beauty and mystery that attracts whoever passes through them.



Pico Island

History

The Azorean islands were discovered between 1317 and 1339. Nevertheless some historians argue that the archipelago was discovered by Diogo de Silves in 1427. The settlement began in 1439 in the island of Santa Maria.

The Azores had an important part as a port that supplied the vessels from India to America.

The islands were also a bastion of resistance against the Spanish domain over the Portuguese territory.

The archipelago gained international importance due to the aid that it gave through its ports and airports during the two world wars.

The Portuguese constitution guaranteed to the Azores, after April 25th 1974, the status of autonomous region with a regional assembly and government.

Culture

Our archipelago presents a rich culture in the form of handicrafts:

Flowers made of maize leaf and fig tree filth, pottery, wood, basaltic stone, whale tooth and whale bone, fish scales, wickers, weaving.



Scrimshaw

Leisure

- Natural beaches and swimming pools of limpid waters and landscape of great beauty.



Beach in Santa Maria Island



"Caldeiro" in Corvo Island

- Nature Tracks (walks on foot in the island)



"Sete Cidades" in São Miguel Island

- Sight seeing



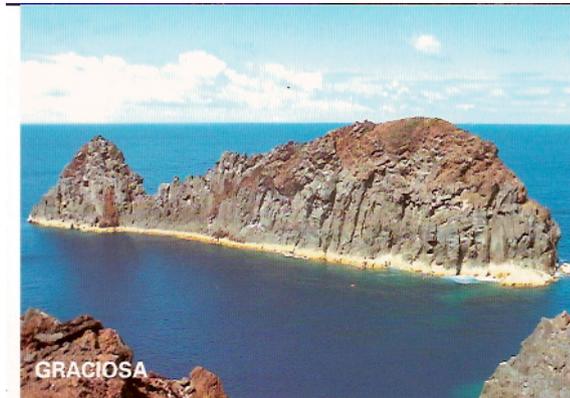
"Caldeira Negra" in Flores Island

- Horse Riding
- Clubs
- Festivities

➤ Whale Watching



- Diving, for the passionate ones of the submarine observation, in the coast of the islands.



Islet in Graciosa Island

➤ Cinemas

➤ Boat rides

Index

Localization	1
Entrance	2
Language	3
Currency	4
Transports	5
Holidays.....	6
Climate	7
Animals	8-9
Plants	10
Sports	11
Geomorphology	12
History	13
Culture	14
Leisure	15-17

Word done by :

João Pacheco

Nuno Nunes

Dário Aguiar

Nuno Amorim

2006

Information from the Internet as well as some pictures. Other pictures were taken by Lino Borges and Marilyn Almeida.