

On the tracks of bubbling sources; volcanism and geology (guesthouses)

Overview

It's boiling and steaming in the Azores. All Azores islands are of volcanic origin, some of them are still active. The eruptions left unique traces to explore during this journey on the islands of Terceira, Pico and Faial: lava caves, rare rock formations and the "New Land" on Faial, created during the eruption in 1957/58. The island of Terceira not only provides the historic Renaissance town of Angra do Heroísmo (an UNESCO World Heritage Site), but also the volcanic vent "Algar do Carvao", which is almost 100m deep and certainly worth a visit. Visitors descend through a lava chimney, stalagmites and stalactites at their side. Pico awaits you with the "Gruta das Torres", the longest lava tube in Portugal, and rare lava rock formations on the northwest coast of the island. Horta, the lively sailor town on the island of Faial and the modern, informative underground volcanic museum (next to the "New Land" and its unique lunar landscape) invite visitors to enjoy and to marvel.

On Terceira your accommodation (a guest house) is situated in the center of the main town of Angra do Heroísmo. On the island of Pico your accommodation is in a cozy familiar pension in Prainha, an idyllic village on the north coast. On Faial you'll stay in a small guest house in Horta. This travel component can be individually modified according to your wishes and can be combined with other modules, or with an individual journey.

This tour is not suitable for people with reduced mobility. Please contact us for further information.

Details

1. DAY



Arrival on Terceira

Acquire your rental car directly at the airport and drive across the island to the Renaissance town of Angra do Heroísmo, the main town of Terceira. Your accommodation, a guesthouse or small city hotel will be located centrally in Angra's beautiful historic old town, nominated as UNESCO World Heritage.
2 nights including breakfast, guesthouse in Angra do Heroísmo

2. DAY



Explore the island with a rental car

After a leisurely breakfast, set off on your individual tour of the island in your rental car. Whether along the coast or inland, there are various enchanting hidden spots and villages to be discovered. The island's capital Angra do Heroísmo is definitely worth an extended visit. Another attraction of the island is the town of Praia da Vitória on the east coast, which provides one of the longest sandy beaches in the Azores.

Recommendations for your stay on Terceira:

Island tour: Get to know the third largest island in the archipelago on an island tour. Recommendable is a drive past green landscapes to the mountain lake Lagoa do Negro, next to which is a grotto worth visiting. In the village of Biscoitos on the northern coast of the island, a wine museum awaits you (but it's only open at the owner's whim). Nearby, the natural swimming pool "Piscinas Naturais" invites you to marvel at the mighty Atlantic Ocean - and perhaps take a refreshing dip. We'd also highly recommend to pay a visit to the Algar do Carvão, a really impressive volcanic vent in the center of the island. The vent is around 100 meters deep and was nominated a regional natural monument. Visitors descend the lava tube via a staircase, past stalagmites and stalactites, surrounded by mosses, lichens and ferns. This cave, which hosts a small lake at its bottom, is thought to have been created around 2,000 years ago.

Angra do Heroísmo: Visit the unique island capital, the Renaissance town of Angra do Heroísmo, whose city centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It impresses with its extraordinary architecture, manor houses, palaces, parks and a picturesque bay. The city's history is very interesting and a visit to the city museum is definitely worthwhile. Go for a hike or drive by car, up to the 205 metre-high local mountain "Monte Brasil". It provides a great view of Angra do Heroísmo and the south coast of Terceira.

3. DAY



Onward journey to Pico

It's time to say goodbye to Terceira. Drop-off of your rental car at the airport, after by domestic flight to the island of Pico. There you'll receive your rental car at the airport, directly after arrival. A drive along the north coast will take you to your cozy, familiar guesthouse, which is located in the idyllic village of Prainha.

3 nights including breakfast, guesthouse in Prainha

4. - 5. DAY



On the tracks of lava formations; individually with your rental car

Pico, also known as the Black Island due to its many widely visible lava rocks, offers excellent opportunities to explore volcanism and geology. A visit to the lava cave Gruta das Torres is an absolute must. It's the largest and longest lava tube in Portugal and also one of the longest ones in Europe. Various lava formations and structures can be explored during the approximately 1-hour guided tour through the cave. An informative film about Pico and its volcanism will be shown before visiting the cave. A walk through the wine-growing area of the island (a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its ancient traditions) is very recommendable. In past times, the wine of the Verdelho grape was exported to the tsars of Russia. On the coast, next to the wine-growing area, impressive old lava rocks can be found. The former lava flow is very well visible. Since Pico is one of the world's best destinations for whale and dolphin watching, a half-day whale watching trip should not be missed. And how about an ascent of the Pico Mountain, with its 2.351 meters the highest mountain in Portugal? Majestically, he towers over the island.

6. DAY



Take the ferry to the neighboring island of Faial

Enjoy a few last impressions of the island of Pico during your drive to the ferry terminal. After handing-in the rental car, approximately half hour ferry trip to Horta, the main town of the island of Faial. Right after arrival at the ferry terminal you'll receive your new rental car; short drive to your guesthouse in the center of the town. Explore the town of Horta with its cosmopolitan atmosphere and its marina, which is accessed by sailors from all over the world. The harbor walls have been decorated by many unique and colorful pictures, painted by the sailors. Also very special is the atmosphere in the "Peter Café Sport", probably the most famous bar in the Atlantic, and far more than just a meeting place for sailors from all over the world. A visit is undoubtedly worthwhile.

2 nights including breakfast, guesthouse in Horta

7. DAY



Capelinhos and the Caldeira – discover the highlights of Faial

After a leisurely breakfast a drive to Capelinhos could be on the schedule, the site where the volcanic eruption of 1957/58 took place. Even today, the bizarre lunar landscape and the old lighthouse, which has been dug up again from the second floor, are reminiscent of that time. A visit of the impressive underground volcano museum, which includes an ascent of the restored lighthouse, provides a lot of information about volcanism in general and about Faial in particular. The lighthouse and other viewpoints around it provide spectacular views of the New Land. A walk on the grounds of Capelinhos, paved with dark ashes, is worthwhile. Also highly recommendable is a visit of the large Caldeira, an impressive collapsed crater, situated in the center of the island. Its highest spot has an altitude of about 1,000 meters. The collapsed crater is one of the most imposing craters of the Azores, with a diameter of about 1.4 km, and with almost vertical walls. We recommend a circular walk along the crater (approx. 3 hour walk), which starts and ends at the parking lot. When the view is clear, it provides fascinating views. Don't forget to explore the world-famous sailing destination Horta with its marina.

8. DAY



Departure from Faial

It's time to say goodbye. With your rental car you are free to explore until the very end of your stay. Drop off your rental car either at the airport or the ferry port, adaptable to your onward journey.

Dates & Prices		
from	until	Price
01.04.2024	31.05.2024	589 €
per person with 2 travelers in a double room		
01.04.2024	31.05.2024	937 €
one person travelling in single room		
01.06.2024	30.09.2024	726 €
per person with 2 travelers in a double room		
01.06.2024	30.09.2024	1.184 €
one person travelling in single room		
01.10.2024	31.10.2024	589 €
per person with 2 travelers in a double room		
01.10.2024	31.10.2024	937 €
one person travelling in single room		

Included services

- 7 nights with breakfast in pensions in a double room with shower/WC (2 on Terceira, 3 on Pico and 2 on Faial)
- 7 days rental car category A small car (example models Citroen C1, Toyota Aygo or similar), from arrival/to departure on the respective island: unlimited free kilometers, including fully comprehensive insurance with reimbursement of the excess; second driver possible at no extra charge; 24-hour assistance from the rental car company
- Domestic flight Terceira-Pico
- Pico-Faial ferry ticket
- Detailed travel documents and 24-hour emergency telephone number (always in English, often also in German) on site

not included services

- International arrival and departure to Terceira/from Faial (possible with TAP Air Portugal and Azores Airlines)
- Fuel for the rental car
- Additional meals, personal expenses and activities
- Travel insurance