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Family holiday in the Azores: 15-day individual rental car tour

Overview

On this family-friendly journey, you´ll experience the diversity of the Azores archipelago in a personalized way. You´ll be travelling to the islands of Terceira, Faial and São Miguel. Each island is different from the others and has its own charm and peculiarities. With your rental car you are flexible to explore the islands at your own pace. Still, we´ll provide you with tips on how to organize your day.

The three main islands of the archipelago provide the perfect combination of relaxation and adventure: Unspoiled nature, lush greenery, volcanoes and crater lakes., idyllic villages, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, interesting museums, beautiful hiking trails, cave tours, whale watching and the longest sandy beach in the Azores await you. It's a large variety to choose from and to explore at your own pace. Most of your activities and your daily planning can be decided spontaneously on the spot.
Your holiday begins on the island of Terceira in the idyllic town of Praia da Vitória. Your child-friendly and comfortable hotel is situated close to one of the longest sandy beaches in the Azores. From your hotel, you can easily head inland, venture to the picturesque town of Angra do Heroísmo, or plunge straight into the clear water of the Atlantic Ocean.

On the island of Faial, you will be accommodated in a cozy holiday home in the north-west of the island. Although breakfast is not provided, you`ll be provided an extensive welcome basket with local products (such as bread, fruits, cheese, jam, milk, coffee, tea, eggs from your hosts own chickens...). Organize your days according to your wishes and explore the small island, which is particularly popular with sailors from all over the world.
Finally, you`ll spend a full week on the largest and most diverse island of São Miguel. You`ll be accommodated in a self-catering holiday apartment (breakfast can be booked for an extra fee), from where you can set off on day trips around the volcanic island at your own pace. During these two weeks, you`ll experience both the breathtaking diversity and magnificent nature of the archipelago as well as moments of relaxing tranquility. Whilst your children enjoy building sandcastles on the beaches, you might sit back and relax with a good book - imagining a tasty, traditional dinner in the old town.

Whenever it suits you, set off on beautiful hikes with breathtaking volcanic landscapes that you won't forget so soon. Or explore the small but diverse towns of the islands. Adventure and relaxation are well balanced on this journey.
The itinerary/the order of the islands and the accommodations can, of course, be customized to suit your individual wishes. This trip is designed as an example holiday for a family with two adults and one child, or two adults with two children. The trip can, of course, also be booked in other family constellations; prices on request.

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

Details

1. DAY

Arrival on Terceira

International arrival on the island of Terceira. Acquire your rental car directly at the airport and drive to your accommodation, a comfortable 4-star hotel with pool. The hotel is located on the east coast of the island, close to the beach of the town of Praia da Vitória. Let the stress of everyday life slip away and enjoy your time by the pool and on the beach. Take a stroll through the charming coastal town with its small alleyways and colorful house facades.

3 persons: 4 nights with breakfast, Junior Suite Sea View 3 persons, 4-star Hotel Atlantida Mar
4 persons: 4 nights with breakfast, Suite Sea View 4 persons, 4-star Hotel Atlantida Mar

2. - 4. DAY

Explore the island with your 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.

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.

5. DAY

Flight to Faial

Drive back to the airport, return of your rental car and flight to the beautiful island of Faial. The flight approx. takes about 40 minutes. Acquire your rental car directly at the airport. Drive to your accommodation, a beautiful holiday home. It`s situated on the north-west coast of Faial in the village of Ribeira Funda. Go on your first excursion along the coast or settle in comfortably in your accommodation.

3 or 4 persons: 3 nights, Casas d`Arramada, self-catering holiday home with 2 bedrooms

6. - 7. DAY

Capelinhos and the Caldeira - discover the highlights of Faial

Capelinhos and the Caldeira - discover the highlights of Faial
During your stay on Faial, explore the highlights of the island at your own pace. Also visit the main town`s sandy beach, situated in a secluded bay. Wonderful holiday relaxation is pre-programmed.

Recommendations for your stay on Faial:
Capelinhos: After a leisurely breakfast, head to Capelinhos, 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.
Caldeira: 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.
Discover the cosmopolitan yachting town of Horta: Horta has a number of museums worth a visit that you can take a day to visit: the Whale Museum, a former whale processing factory on the bay of Porto Pim; the Scrimshaw Museum, displaying art on sperm whale teeth, on the 1st floor of the Peter Café Sport; and the Town Museum (in a former monastery building together with the main church), in which filigree artwork made from fig tree marrow, as well as filigree paper cuttings are particularly interesting. The island's small botanical garden, located between Horta and the town of Flamengos, provides detailed information about the island`s endemical plants. Why not take a stroll through the picturesque town with its many historical buildings or visit the fascinating marina with its sailors' paintings - both absolutely worthwhile!

8. DAY

Domestic flight to the island of São Miguel

Drive back to the airport, return of your rental car and flight to the island of São Miguel. The flight will take about 50 minutes. Acquire your new rental car directly at the airport and drive to your accommodation, an apartment complex with a beautiful garden near the north coast of the island. The beach is just a few minutes away and the fruit trees in the apartment`s garden invites you to take a stroll. The apartments are self-catering, but breakfast can be booked on site for an additional fee.

3 or 4 persons: 7 nights, Quinta de Santana, 2-bedroom apartment, self-catering

9. - 14. DAY

Explore the island of São Miguel and the city of Ponta Delgada

Explore the beautiful spots of the island at your own pace with your rental car. It’s recommendable to set out to the east, the central area and the west. In addition to the suggestions below, there are many beautiful little sandy beaches and natural bays on the island; ideal if you travel in summer.

Recommendations for your stay on São Miguel:
Discover the west of the island and it’s highlights, the legendary crater lakes near Sete Cidades:
Enjoy the great view of the lakes Lagoa Azul and Lagoa Verde from the viewpoint of Vista do Rei, which is located at an altitude of 550 meters. On your way back to Ponta Delgada, have a look at a very remarkable pineapple plantation. There, delicious pineapples are grown in greenhouses, the only pineapple greenhouses in the world.
Also explore the enchanting city of Ponta Delgada: It’s historic old town presents over 500 years of history. It’s recommendable to make a tour through the historic old town with its many historic buildings, beautiful black and white patterned sidewalks, its decorated balconies, the colorful market, lively squares, winding streets, beautiful gardens and a variety of churches.
The lake Lagoa do Fogo. The secluded "lake of fire" is situated in about 600 m height in a crater, in the uninhabited interior of the island. From several viewpoints, you can marvel at the impressive lake and the beautiful colors of nature. The crater lake is considered to be one the most beautiful ones of the entire Azores.
The east of the island – Nordeste: On your way to the northeast it’s recommendable to make a detour to the Chá Gorreana tea factory, which looks back on 125 years of tradition. Heading along the north coast towards the east, you’ll reach Nordeste, a nice little town at the eastern end of the island of São Miguel.

15. DAY

SPECIALLY INCLUDED FOR YOU: WHALE- AND DOLPHINWATCHING.

A holiday in the Azores is, in some ways, “incomplete” without a trip to the world of giant marine mammals. They pass the Azores on their migration routes and they like to take a (long) break in the Azores, due to the abundance of fish. The most common whale is the sperm whale. Like other whale and dolphin species, the sperm whale is native to the area and lives all year round in the waters around the Azores. A male sperm whale grows up to 20 meters long. It’s very likely to get to see dolphins, who like to accompany the excursion boats and play with the waves those create. Commercial whaling on the islands came to an end at the beginning of the 1980s. Today, fortunately everything "only" revolves around observing the giants of the oceans. The half-day excursion takes place from/to Ponta Delgada in a larger catamaran/excursion boat, which is also suitable for small children.

16. DAY

Return journey

It's time to say goodbye to the Azores. Drive to the airport, return of your rental car and flight home.

Dates & Prices		
from	*until*	*Price*
01.04.2027	31.05.2027	4.230 €
Gesamtpreis für eine Familie mit 2 Erwachsenen und 1 Kind bis 12 Jahre		
01.04.2027	31.05.2027	5.911 €
Gesamtpreis für eine Familie mit 2 Erwachsenen und 2 Kindern bis 12 Jahre		
01.06.2027	30.09.2027	5.918 €
Gesamtpreis für eine Familie mit 2 Erwachsenen und 1 Kind bis 12 Jahre		
01.06.2027	30.09.2027	7.533 €
Gesamtpreis für eine Familie mit 2 Erwachsenen und 2 Kindern bis 12 Jahre		
01.10.2027	31.10.2027	4.230 €
Gesamtpreis für eine Familie mit 2 Erwachsenen und 1 Kind bis 12 Jahre		
01.10.2027	31.10.2027	5.911 €
Gesamtpreis für eine Familie mit 2 Erwachsenen und 2 Kindern bis 12 Jahre		

Included services

○ 4 nights including breakfast on Terceira (3 persons: Junior Suite Sea View for 3 persons // 4 persons: Suite sea view for 4 persons)
○ 3 nights excluding breakfast (but with welcome basket) on Faial (3 or 4 persons: holiday home with 2 bedrooms)
○ 7 nights excluding breakfast on São Miguel (3 or 4 persons: holiday apartment with 2 bedrooms)
○ 3 persons: 14 days rental car Rental car category C larger small car (example models Opel Corsa, Toyota Yaris or similar) // 4 persons: 14 days rental car category G family car (Fiat Tipo, Citroen C-Elysee or similar), from arrival/to departure airport on respective island: unlimited free kilometers, including fully comprehensive insurance with reimbursement of excess*; second driver possible at no extra charge; 24-hour emergency service of the rental car company
○ *Reimbursement of the excess: In the event of damage, you must pay the amount for the damage incurred to the rental car company on site (maximum excess amount: €700). If you submit the damage report, photos, proof of the deductible and the rental vehicle contract to the ALLIANZ insurance company in Germany on time after returning the car/after your vacation, the amount will be refunded to you. This is because vista verde azores has taken out this additional insurance for all travelers there. The additional insurance reimburses the contractually owed and charged deductible of the comprehensive insurance for passenger vehicles in the event of accident and theft as well as the contractually owed and charged necessary costs due to damage to the underbody, tires, windshield, side and rear windows, exterior mirrors and roof of the rental vehicle in the event of an accident.
○ Domestic flights Terceira-Faial and Faial-São Miguel
○ Half-day Whale Watching tour from/to Ponta Delgada (São Miguel)
○ 24-hour emergency telephone number (always English-speaking, often also German-speaking) on site.

not included services

○ International arrival and departure to and from São Miguel (possible with TAP Air Portugal and Azores Airlines)
○ Fuel for the rental car
○ Additional meals and personal expenses as well as other activities
○ Travel insurance