

NOBLE CALEDONIA

# ULTIMATE AZORES

A 14 night escorted tour of  
the beautiful Azorean islands

18<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019



Sete Cidades Lakes, Sao Miguel



Morro Grande stone tower, Sao Jorge



View of Monte Brasil from Angra do Heroismo, Terceira

Tired of the Mediterranean? Not interested in the West Indies or further afield? Then take a moment to consider the attractions of the Azores. After many years of offering successful cruises to this region, to allow for a more in-depth exploration and for those who prefer terra firma, we are delighted to have introduced this island hopping adventure by land and air to our portfolio.

Far out in the Atlantic, some 800 miles from the Portuguese coast, the nine islands of the Azores are known for their spectacular volcanic scenery, abundant flora and peaceful lifestyle. But, the appeal of this remote and unsophisticated archipelago is difficult to define in words. If you appreciate dramatic scenery, exploring islands where time appears to be standing still, watching for passing whales and learning about the local people and their customs, then this could be the tour for you. The islands are also perfect for walking enthusiasts with paths through verdant mountain landscapes and we are offering some hiking opportunities which, weather permitting, will be a joy for the keen walkers in our group.



Mount Pico

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel, Azores.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the Hotel Marina Atlantico for our four night stay.



**Day 2 Sete Cidades.** Enjoy a morning at leisure and this afternoon we head towards the Sete Cidades volcano where we have excellent views over the Lagos de Canarias. With a perimeter of 12 kilometres, it is the largest extinct volcano crater in the Azores. Meet this evening for a Welcome Dinner. (B, D)

coastline stopping at a local tea plantation. (B, L)

**Day 3 Furnas.** Sao Miguel, also known as Ilha Verde, the Green Island, is home to some of the most stunning viewpoints in the Azores. This morning we will drive along the southern coast before arriving in the Furnas Valley, an enormous valley and luxuriant garden in the east of the island. The stunning lakes are surrounded by beautiful trees and vegetation and the smell of sulphur in the air reminds you of the volcanic activity that lies beneath. We will visit the Furnas Hot Springs and Terra Nostra botanical gardens, with its array of colourful and exotic flowers, where we may have an opportunity to swim in the thermal pools. Afterwards enjoy a typical 'cocido' lunch, using traditional clay pots the food is lowered into the ground and slowly cooked for five hours using the thermal heat from the hot springs. After lunch, we travel back along the northern

**Day 4 Fire Lake & Ribeira Grande.** Lagoa do Fogo, also known as Fire Lake, is surrounded by lush, green vegetation which lends to the magnificent views enjoyed by all who visit this natural site. In the morning we will visit the lake before continuing to Ribeira Grande, a picturesque town in the north of the island with beautiful Baroque architecture and flora throughout. Return to the hotel this afternoon with time to explore independently or join an optional excursion returning to Sete Cidades to hike around the crater. (B)

**Day 5 Sao Miguel to Velas, Sao Jorge.** Enjoy a morning at leisure before transferring to the airport for an afternoon flight to Sao Jorge. Arrive late afternoon at Hotel Sao Jorge for our two night stay and this evening we will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

**Day 6 Sao Jorge.** This largely rural island is of geographical interest with its cliff shoreline marked with flat fajãs sweeping to the sea. This morning we depart for a full day tour of the island. From the hotel we travel towards the western part



Windmill, Pico



Angra do Heroismo, Terceira



Faial Island



Common dolphins



Church, Terceira

of the Island, Ponta dos Rosais, visiting a Forest Park and cheese factory. As we move to the north we enjoy the view over the Fajas, an area of flat land at sea level resulting from the erosion of cliffs, and where people live in the micro-climate. As we make our way to the south side towards Calheta we will stop for lunch at a local restaurant before continuing on to Urzelina to visit the remaining tower of a church buried under lava from the eruption of 1808. Now it is surrounded by fruit trees and vegetation. Upon our return to Velas we will take a walking tour of this charming old-world harbour town. Dinner this evening will be at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

**Day 7 Sao Jorge to Angra do Heroismo, Terceira.** After breakfast we take a flight to Terceira Island and make our way to Terceira Mar Hotel, our base for the next three nights. This afternoon we explore Angra do Heroismo, a charming UNESCO heritage town with a distinct Mediterranean flavour of cobblestone streets with a certain quiet charm. Enjoy a walking tour that takes in the Misericordia Church, Convent do Sao Francisco, the public gardens and museum. Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening. (B, D)

**Day 8 Terceira.** Terceira is a vibrant place of colour and culture. The islands rugged interior is a haven for Azorean flora whilst its coastline is a mix of charming villages, vineyards and

natural swimming pools. In the morning we will visit a number of these towns. After lunch at a local restaurant we travel to Biscoitos, a small town on the northern coast with a very long wine growing tradition, stopping en route at Monte Brasil. We end the day with a visit to the wine museum and a tasting of the locally produced wines. Dinner this evening will be at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

**Day 9 Angra do Heroismo.** Spend today independently exploring this quaint heritage town. Stroll among the cobblestone streets and enjoy the coastal views the town has to offer. Or maybe join an optional excursion and hike up Monte Brasil to take in the dramatic landscapes in the background. Meet for dinner in the hotel this evening. (B, D)

**Day 10 Terceira to Horta, Faial.** We begin our day with a flight to Faial Island and spend the morning exploring the stunning view points and parks on offer. Explore the fairly recent volcanic activity at Ponta dos Capelinhos and see how a 1957-1958 volcanic eruption transformed the area and created a new land mass. Stop for lunch at a local restaurant before checking in to Hotel do Canal for the next three nights. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant this evening. (B, L, D)

**Day 11 Pico.** Today we will take a ferry to explore the island of Pico. This distinctive island is home to Portugal's highest peak

and numerous black lava flows. The UNESCO designated island tells the story of early winemakers who used the volcanic soil for the grapes and on a visit to a vineyard we will enjoy a tasting of the local product. We will then learn about whaling life in the Azores at the Museum of Lajes. After a typical Azorean lunch we will take an island drive, observing the beautiful rugged coastline of rapidly cooled lava flows and the villages that have used this natural resource to build their communities before we return to Faial Island by ferry. (B, L)

**Day 12 Whale Watching & Caldeira.** The Azorean archipelago naturally offers great conditions for observing whales in the wild. The deep waters closely surrounding the islands harbour several resident and migrating species. The attraction is the abundance of food found in these waters and as such, this is the sperm whales mating and nursery ground with a high concentration in this area. This morning we will join a locally operated whale watching excursion to try and spot these beautiful creatures and, if we are lucky, we may see a short-finned pilot whale or the majestic blue whale. Enjoy some time a leisure for lunch and this afternoon continue to the impressive Caldeira, an enormous crater 400 metres deep and nearly 1500 metres in diameter, that is now a nature reserve. Meet this evening for dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

**Day 13 Horta to Ponta Delgada.** Enjoy a morning at leisure before transferring to the airport for an afternoon flight back to Sao Miguel. We arrive late-afternoon at the Hotel Marina Atlantico for our two night stay. This evening at leisure. (B)

**Day 14 Ponta Delgada.** Enjoy a final day to explore independently. We will meet this evening for our Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

**Day 15 Ponta Delgada to London.** Transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to London. (B)

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£3795**

Single: **£4595**

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Internal flights • 14 nights accommodation as described • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • Excursions with local guide • Meals as indicated (B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner) • Gratuities • Entrance fees • Transfers • Airport taxes.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance, optional hiking excursions to Sete Cidades & Monte Brasil.

*NB. The internal flight schedules are yet to be released at the time of going to press and, as a result, the above itinerary is subject to change.*



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Ports subject to change.  
Cover: Pico

