



THE AZORES & MADEIRA: PORTUGAL'S ISLAND GEMS - A MARCO POLO JOURNEY (2024)

Explore the Azores for their amazing scenery and wildlife and discover the vital role Madeira's volcanic terrain played in the development of its namesake wines.

Small Group Journeys, Marco Polo Small Group Journeys



Europe, Portugal



8 days from AU\$16,755 pp



18 Guests

Journey Overview

From whale watching and wine tasting to tea plantations and botanical gardens, experience the best of two remote Atlantic Ocean island chains as you explore the Azores for their amazing scenery and wildlife and discover the vital role Madeira's volcanic terrain played in the development of its namesake wines.

Journey Highlights

- Go whale watching in the Atlantic waters around the Azores accompanied by resident biologists who share their deep understanding of the region's marine life
- Explore the São Miguel "tea route" and stop by a plantation to sample teas, grown in the Azores since the early 1800s
- Visit a winery in Madeira to learn the storied history of the islands' fortified wines and stay for an A&K-exclusive tasting of their heritage 1920 vintage
- Explore Funchal's bustling farmer's market, which has been held weekly since 1940
- Visit Madeira's vibrant tropical gardens, including an introduction from a botanist at the Botanical Garden



Itinerary

Day 1: Ponta Delgada, Portugal

Arrive in Ponta Delgada, Portugal — located on São Miguel Island in the Azores — where you are met and transferred to your hotel. Set amid dramatic volcanic scenery, the city combines a rich maritime tradition with an unhurried pace of life.

Octant Ponta Delgada | Meals: D

Day 2: Ponta Delgada | Whale Watching & Sete Cidades

Embark on a morning cruise to watch for whales and dolphins. As you behold these magnificent mammals, learn about them and other Azorean marine life from the experienced resident biologists who accompany you throughout the experience. Return to Ponta Delgada to enjoy lunch time at leisure before visiting splendour-filled Sete Cidades. From the crater rim absorb breathtaking views over the mystical Blue and Green Lakes, then walk a path lined with hydrangea bushes, taking in their colours and scents, in this lush volcanic caldera. Tonight, toast your journey with a Scenic Sundowner before dining at a local restaurant.

Octant Ponta Delgada | Meals: BD

Day 3: Terceira | Volcanic Chimney

Rise early and fly to Terceira, your next island experience. Visit UNESCO-listed Angra do Heroísmo, considered the most beautiful town in the Azores, where you enjoy lunch. Then, view the island's stunning volcanic landscape, especially Algar do Carvão, an astonishing volcanic chimney left behind from an eruption around 2,000 years ago. Later, fly back to Ponta Delgada.

Octant Ponta Delgada | Meals: BL

Day 4: Ponta Delgada | Tea Plantation Visit

Today explore São Miguel's verdant eastern region, where you stop at one of the few tea plantations in Europe. Sample a variety of teas, some of which have been grown here since the early 19th century. Break for lunch in a restaurant in the delightful village of Furnas, sampling a traditional local dish cooked by natural volcanic heat. Return to Ponta Delgada with the rest of your day at leisure.

Octant Ponta Delgada | Meals: BL

Day 5: Madeira | A&K-Exclusive Wine Tasting

Fly to Madeira, landing in the city of Funchal. Proceed to a local winery for an A&K-exclusive experience. Visit the old cooperage, aging rooms, museum and private family collection, finishing in the vintage room, where you sample the winery's products paired with dried fruits, cheese, dark chocolate and madeira cake. A tasting of their iconic 1920 Bual completes this sublime Chef's Table experience. Learn how each bottling of this 1920 vintage is unique, owing to variations in heat, humidity and cask size. Later, check in to your hotel and dine at a local restaurant.

Reid's Palace, A Belmond Hotel, Madeira | Meals: BLD

Day 6: Madeira | Market Visit & Lush Gardens

Explore the food and wine of Funchal, led by a local guide, starting at the Mercado dos Lavradores (Farmers' Market), where locals gather to buy and sell fresh exotic fruits, vegetables, spices and herbs as well as leather and wicker goods. Take in the colours, aromas, sounds and traditions on display around you and enjoy time at leisure for lunch. This afternoon, Ride Like a Local by cable car up to Monte Palace Tropical Garden to admire the breathtaking views. Enjoy the option of a thrilling descent aboard a traditional wicker toboggan, then discover Madeira's natural splendours as you roam Funchal's magnificent Botanical Garden with a professional botanist.

Reid's Palace, A Belmond Hotel, Madeira | Meals: B

Day 7: Madeira | Clifftop Panoramas

Venture west of Funchal to Cape Girão, site of the highest sea cliff in Europe, from which you take in the captivating vistas. Afterward, hike along one of the island's many levadas — manmade water channels that gently slope down the mountainside — before heading to Porto Moniz for the opportunity to swim in the natural rock pools. Enjoy time at leisure in Porto Moniz before heading back to Funchal. This evening, celebrate your journey over a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Reid's Palace, A Belmond Hotel, Madeira | Meals: BD

Day 8: Depart Madeira

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your departing flight.

Meals: B

Journey Details

Internal air included: Ponta Delgada/Lajes/Ponta Delgada; Ponta Delgada/Funchal

This journey contains some active elements.
Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 6:00 p.m. on Day 1.
Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:30 p.m. on Day 7.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Program Note: Travel in this remote region entails walking over steep, uneven terrain, and visits to sites with limited accessibility for those with mobility challenges.

Included with every Marco Polo Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations (Where Available)
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy Luggage Handling
- Breakfast in Bed on Select Days
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Traveller's Valet Laundry Service
- Internet Access (Where Available)
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

Customise this Journey

Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke Tailor-Made Journey based on this itinerary.

Map



Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

Sep 23, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,755 pp	AU\$4,455	Included	Call for Availability

Oct 7, 2024 - Oct 14, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,755 pp	AU\$4,455	Included	Call for Availability

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