



5 Days

The Azores

Volcanoes, Craters and Lakes

The Azores are a hidden gem in the mid-Atlantic; an archipelago of volcanic islands they are the perfect destination for geography students boasting a startling array of geo thermal features and fabulous wildlife. This 5 day geography itinerary has been designed to showcase the best elements the island of São Miguel has to offer. A visit to a geo thermal power plant, hiking tours in stunning volcanic scenery, cooking local delicacies in steaming craters and kayaking in a crater lake.



Recommended tour itinerary

Day
1

Arrival in The Azores

Upon our arrival on the beautiful island of São Miguel we will be met by our local Trip Leader at the airport and transferred to our accommodation at Pousada da Juventude de Ponta Delgada. After some time to freshen up and relax, the rest of the day will be free to spend at our leisure.

Day
2

Walking Trail of Salto do Cabrito (7km, easy walking)

Today we will embark on the walking trail of Salto do Cabrito – a small circular route beginning and ending in the area of Caldeiras of Ribeira Grande.

This trail will lead us to the Geothermal Power Plant where we will learn about the sustainable processes involved in generating electricity, which represents as much as 40% of the total energy of the island. We will take in the stunning Salto do Cabrito waterfall as well as explore the ruins of one of the oldest, disused hydroelectric central stations built on the island of São Miguel.

We then follow the path of the infamous ancient water tubes and learn about their history. The hillsides along the stream are densely forested with a diverse selection of interesting vegetation including Japanese cedar, acácias, eucalyptus, incense, kahili ginger and the violet yellow berry shrub.

At the end of the trail we come the stunning “Salto do Prego” waterfall where we will enjoy our picnic lunch. We then continue on to the Caldeira Velha, where we will experience the warm iron-rich waterfall and pool. Later, we will pay a visit to the Environmental Interpretation Centre which provides fascinating geological information on the islands.

Our next stop is the amazing natural reserve of Lagoa do Fogo where we enjoy nature at its best; astonishing views from the top of the crater’s border are a must to photograph! Finally, we then descend to the north coast where we find the Volcanic Geothermic Observatory.

Day
3

Gruta do Carvão, Mountain Bike Tour, Sea Kayak in Sete Cidades and Ferraria

Our first activity of today will be a visit to Gruta do Carvão, the longest lava tunnel of São Miguel Island located in the western part of town of Ponta Delgada.

We will then have a good explore of the west side of São Miguel, starting with the Sete Cidades lake, one of the most famous and legendary lakes of the island. Here we will have the opportunity to circle the bottom of the crater on our bikes and kayak in the beautiful lake, definitely the best way to enjoy Sete Cidades, allowing us to really connect with the amazing scenery.





Afterwards we will drive along the south coast and pass by Ferraria where we find a wonderful hot water bathing area that was created by the formation of a small crater and volcanic fissure from which the surrounding ocean water is heated. A perfect way to end our adventurous day and sooth any aching muscles!

Day 4

Thematic Tour of Furnas

Today will be all about the magical of Furnas – a town awash with thermal baths. It is hard to visit Furnas without becoming immersed in its volcanic history. We will start by visiting the Caldeiras da Lagoa das Furnas (Furnas Lake Calderas), where we will cook the famous “Cozido das Furnas” a special meal cooked in the steaming craters of the Caldeiras das Furnas.

We then continue with a gentle walk taking us around the lakeside, during which we have the opportunity to appreciate a variety of endemic flora species. A picnic lunch will be served on our visit to the Terra Nostra botanical garden, which is famous for its extraordinary collection of native plants, as well as others from all over the world that have adapted to the local garden conditions.

At the end of the visit we will be invited to bathe in an iron-rich hot water swimming pool that has a temperature of 35-40°C, an exquisite experience! On the way back to Ponta Delgada we will stop at several beautiful viewpoints on the North Coast. Later we will enjoy a Cozido meal at a local restaurant.

Day 5

Return to UK

Today, depending on your flight time you may have a chance for a final walk in the countryside before we transfer to the airport for our return journey back to the UK.

Further information

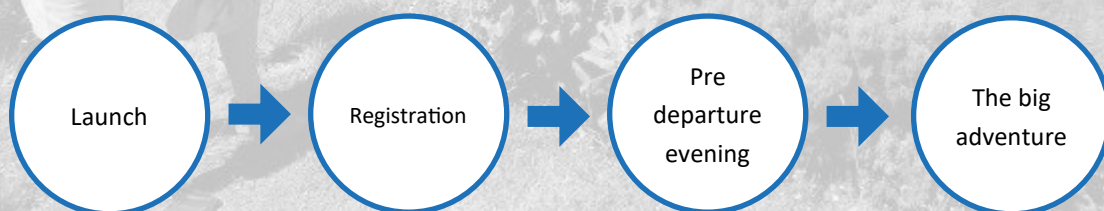
Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch evening
- Pre-departure preparation evening
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

What's excluded?

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Cancellation and personal effects insurance

Your educational journey timeline



Physical journey rating:



Some low level physical activities included in your trip, including walking on uneven terrain, maybe a morning/afternoon trek of two to four hours. That said, no physical preparation is required to make the most of the tour. High humidity and temperatures can occur at certain times of the year.

Culture shock rating:



Expect to find local life broadly familiar to that in the UK, however aspects of the trip are likely to be in remoter areas where differences are more profound. Whilst English may not be the native language, you can expect it to be widely spoken. There may be some cultural differences and although western pallets should be well catered for there will be the opportunity to try new dishes.



A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your educational journey.



1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your educational travel itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an itinerary just for you. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

3 Arrange a trip launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with a comprehensive information evening and an opportunity for questions.



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