

Craig travel

AZORES
Islands of Wonder

Sep 19 - 30, 2027 • 12 Days • 24 Meals
SMALL GROUP • LED BY JANET WILLIAMS
Book Early and Save $200 pp



ANGRA DO HEROISMO

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

HERITAGE & UNESCO TREASURES
Stroll the historic streets of Angra do Heroísmo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983, and explore Pico's UNESCO-listed vineyards, where vines grow within walls of black volcanic stone.

LIFE ON THE AZORES
Learn firsthand how Terceira's dairy farmers tend to their herds, share a meal and stories at a family-run farm in São Miguel, and meet heritage growers at a traditional pineapple plantation and tea fields, and discover Azorean community life with insights from a dedicated local guide on each island.

AZOREAN FLAVOURS
Savour organic coffee ice cream, slow-cooked Alcatra, Pico's volcanic wines and Cozido das Furnas, a hearty stew cooked underground by the natural heat of the island's volcanic earth.

VOLCANOES, THERMAL POOLS & GARDENS
Descend inside Algar do Carvão, walk among the steaming fumaroles of Furnas, gaze over the crater lakes of Sete Cidades and soak in thermal waters amid Terra Nostra's lush botanical gardens.

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE
Limited to 25 members

CT RATING: 3/5

MODERATELY CHALLENGING:
This tour is designed as a leisurely, in-depth experience, with multiple-night stays at most hotels. There will be extensive touring across the islands. A number of walks include navigating hills, cobblestones and steps. The islands themselves have rolling landscapes and this may affect those with limited mobility. All members need to be physically fit to fully enjoy this journey, and be capable of managing their own luggage if required.



Visit craigtravel.com/86 to learn more!

ITINERARY

SEP 19 | DEPART CANADA
Group members across Canada gather in Toronto for our overnight flight bound for the Azores.

SEP 20 | TERCEIRA ISLAND, ANGRA DO HEROÍSMO
Welcome to the Azores! Named *Terceira*, meaning 'third' in Portuguese, this island is traditionally considered the third island in the archipelago to be discovered by Portuguese explorers. We meet our local guide and transfer to our hotel for an early check-in and time to rest. In the afternoon, we visit an organic plantation where coffee, bananas, and exotic fruits thrive, concluding with a tasting of the estate's own coffee, tea, seasonal produce, and coffee ice cream. A welcome dinner at our hotel eases us into island life. ***Hotel Torel - 3 nights*** (BD)

SEP 21 | MILK ROUTE / ANGRA DO HEROÍSMO
Accounting for nearly 30 percent of Portugal's dairy production, Terceira's rolling green pastures tell a story of deep agricultural roots. We experience this heritage firsthand along the island's Milk Route, visiting a working farm to see how the herds are cared for and learning how milk travels from pasture to table. A tasting of regional specialties follows, featuring local cheeses, savoury sausages, and massa sovada, a traditional sweet bread. In the afternoon, a guided walk through Angra do Heroísmo reveals why this Atlantic port of call earned UNESCO World Heritage status in 1983. We will see the Palace of the Captains General, the Convent of São Gonçalo, public gardens, and the cathedral, leaving the rest of the day free for independent exploration. (B)

SEP 22 | MONTE BRASIL / ALGAR DO CARVÃO
A morning hike takes us through the volcanic landscapes of Monte Brasil. Following lunch featuring alcatra, Terceira's signature slow-cooked beef pot roast, we descend into Algar do Carvão, a remarkable volcanic chimney with a serene subterranean lake at its base. On the way, we stop at the Serra do Cume viewpoint, looking out over a vast patchwork of agricultural fields divided by stone walls. Heading to the north coast, we admire the natural swimming pools carved into black volcanic rock at Biscoitos. (BL)

SEP 23 | FAIAL ISLAND, HORTA
Today we fly to Horta for a full-day excursion. Our first stop is Caldeira do Faial, a volcanic crater surrounded by dramatic landscapes that offer a glimpse into the island's origins. We then continue to Capelinhos to explore its underground interpretation centre and learn how a volcanic eruption in 1957 permanently expanded the island's landmass. In the afternoon, a guided walk through Horta leads us to the historic marina. Long a strategic mid-Atlantic refuge, Horta's harbour features walls covered in colourful artwork left by sailors passing through. We finish at Peter Café Sport, a legendary mariners' meeting place operating since 1918. ***Hotel Azoris Faial Garden - 1 night*** (BLD)

SEP 24 | PICO ISLAND, MADALENA
A ferry carries us across the channel to Madalena on Pico Island for a walking tour of the town. Then, we explore the landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where black basalt walls enclose small plots known as *currais,* protecting the vines from harsh winds and sea spray. A tasting of local wines follows, complemented by a visit to the Wine Museum, housed in a former 17th-century Carmelite convent, which showcases a winemaking tradition dating back to the 15th century. ***Pico Terramar - 2 nights*** (BLD)

SEP 25 | LAJES DO PICO / SÃO ROQUE
We dive into the maritime legacy that defines Pico Island, tracing a history deeply shaped by the Atlantic. Our scenic drive passes the revered shrine of Bom Jesus Milagroso in São Mateus, followed by a stop at a local crafts house and lunch in Lajes do Pico. As the island's first settlement, Lajes shares its past at the Whaling Indistry Museum, housed in former boat sheds where crews once launched in pursuit of whales. Then, we take in panoramas of Mount Pico, Portugal's highest peak at 2,351 metres. (BL)

SEP 26 | SÃO MIGUEL ISLAND, PONTA DELGADA
Known as the Green Island for its lush calderas, thriving agriculture, and dramatic crater lakes, São Miguel welcomes us today as we fly in and meet our local guide. We begin exploring Ponta Delgada on foot with a peaceful stroll at Jardim António Borges, a 19th-century garden featuring ponds, lava-stone grottoes and centuries-old trees. From here, we walk into the historic centre to view the 18th-century Portas da Cidade and the landmark Igreja Matriz de São Sebastião. The remainder of the day is at leisure. ***Grand Hotel Açores - 4 nights*** (BD)

SEP 27 | SETE CIDADES / FARM VISIT
Driving west, we journey toward Sete Cidades to witness one of the island's most iconic natural wonders. We pause at Vista do Rei viewpoint to admire the striking contrast between its emerald-green and sapphire-blue lakes. Heading down into the crater, we stroll along the peaceful lakeshore beside the village. Then, we visit a family-run farm for an authentic look at rural Azorean agriculture, followed by a tasty lunch prepared right on the property. We end the day with a stop at a pineapple plantation, where the sweet fruit is cultivated inside traditional glasshouses. (BLD)

SEP 28 | FURNAS / TEA PLANTATION
Today we uncover the volcanic heart of São Miguel in Furnas, beginning at the historic Terra Nostra Botanical Garden. Established in the 1780s, the park features a vast collection of endemic flora and an inviting thermal pool. Lunch highlights cozido das Furnas, a regional specialty of meats and vegetables cooked slowly underground using natural geothermal heat. After walking among the steaming fumaroles and bubbling mineral springs of the nearby caldeiras, we visit Gorreana, the oldest operating tea plantation in Europe. Here we tour the terraced fields, observe traditional processing methods, and sample some tea before returning to the hotel. (BL)

SEP 29 | LAGOA DO FOGO
Our final full day brings us to Ribeira Grande, where we stroll through the historic centre to admire its architecture. Nearby, we visit Caldeira Velha, a forest sanctuary where warm thermal springs cascade into natural pools beneath towering trees. We continue to Lagoa do Fogo, a pristine nature reserve where crystal-clear waters fill a crater surrounded by green mountains. Tonight, we gather for a farewell dinner to toast our wonderful journey through the islands. (BLD)

SEP 30 | SÃO MIGUEL / DEPARTURE
We enjoy a morning at leisure in Ponta Delgada before our return flight to Canada. (B)

B: BREAKFAST (11) L: LUNCH (7) D: DINNER (6)

DID YOU KNOW?

From Horta, Mount Pico often appears to float above the Atlantic, with clouds gathering around its middle slopes and sometimes leaving its summit visible above a blanket of white. On clear days, the view across the blue water reveals Portugal's highest peak in full dramatic glory.



CRAIG TRAVEL INCLUSIONS

- International and domestic flights, plus airport transfers, with air-inclusive packages
- Carefully selected accommodation as listed, or similar
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as described
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Dedicated journey leader, national guides, and local specialists where applicable
- All gratuities, surcharges, fees, and taxes
- International eSIM to keep you connected
- Visa support for Canadian citizens as required
- Free insurance quote (contact us for details)

TOUR & AIR COST

Land Only	$6,985
Toronto	$8,395
Ottawa / Montreal	$8,595
Halifax / Winnipeg	$8,795
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver	$8,845
St. John's	$8,895
Saskatoon / Regina	$8,895
Victoria	$8,895
Single Supplement	***$2,085***

Deposit is $800 per person
Final payment is due June 16, 2027



YOUR JOURNEY LEADER

Janet Williams - a retired educator and vice principal, will be leading this thrilling journey. According to her, being a tour guide is the perfect retirement activity! It combines her passion for travel and love of new experiences and cultures with the enjoyment of sharing all of this with passengers from all across Canada. She has done extensive personal travelling and has also led successful trips on our behalf to many parts of the world. This includes Myanmar, China, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, Tunisia, and Madagascar; as well as many parts of South America and Europe.



Visit craigtravel.com/86 to learn more!

Prices are in Canadian dollars per person. Land only excludes all flights and members join at the hotel in Angra Do Heroismo and leave at the hotel in Ponta Delgada. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Tour price is based on sharing a twin-bedded room. Prices are based on a minimum of 20 members and on rates, taxes and fees effective October 2026 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Group to be escorted with a minimum of 20 members. For full terms and conditions, visit our website: craigtravel.com/terms-conditions. Canadian passport holders may require an ETIAS travel authorization prior to departure. Comprehensive travel insurance is strongly recommended.

Contact us or visit our website to learn more and reserve your place.

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