



A Tour of the Azores Islands

A JCCNS Travel Experience
September 26 - October 6, 2026



ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

- 3 nights in Ponta Delgada at [Octant Ponta Delgada](#) (5*)
- 3 nights in Horta at [Azoris Faial Garden Hotel](#) (4*)
- 3 nights in Angra do Heroísmo at [Azores Book Hotel](#) (4*)

For more information about the trip details, please contact Group Leader Diane Knopf
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For trip registration, please contact Sara Ewing at sewing@jccns.com or 857.285.7913 or
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Day 1 - Saturday September 26

Azores Airlines Flight #4280 to Ponta Delgada departs Boston at 6:15 PM.

Day 2 - Sunday September 27: Arrival in Ponta Delgada

Driving Distances: 45 mins airport to Sete Cidades, 45 mins back to hotel

Arrive in Ponta Delgada at 6:20 AM. Upon arrival, meet our tour director, who will be with us on our island-hopping adventure. We will start with a half-day tour of Sete Cidades, one of the Azores' most breathtaking natural wonders. Explore the famous blue and green lakes and peaceful volcanic landscape. Visit a traditional pineapple plantation to learn about the unique cultivation process of Azorean pineapples and enjoy a tasting. Lunch is at a local restaurant. Check into our hotel and rest. Enjoy a welcome dinner at our hotel. (L,D)



Day 3- Monday September 28- Furnas & Tea Plantation

Experience the very best of São Miguel on a full-day Furnas adventure filled with nature, culture and flavors. The day begins with a scenic drive to the iconic Gorreana Tea Plantation, the oldest tea estate in Europe. Learn about traditional tea-making processes and enjoy a taste of their aromatic local teas. Continue to the Furnas Valley to visit Furnas Lake. For lunch, you will first watch traditional 'cozido' being cooked underground using natural geothermal heat. Afterwards, visit Terra Nostra Park, one of the most beautiful botanical gardens in the Azores. Wander through the pathways and swim in the mineral rich thermal pool. Lastly, stop at the charming seaside town of Vila Franca do Campo, where you'll taste the famous local queijada (custard tart). This evening, explore Ponta Delgada on your own for dinner and shopping. (B,L)

Day 4 - Tuesday September 29- Lagoa do Fogo & Jewish Heritage



In the morning, we will depart to Lagoa do Fogo, one of the island's dramatic crater lakes with sweeping viewpoints. After lunch in a local restaurant, continue to Ponta Delgada, where the island's vibrant history unfolds through its diverse cultural landmarks. Visit the Gates of Heaven Synagogue, a meaningful symbol of the once-thriving Jewish community of the Azores. Learn about their legacy, traditions and the role the Jewish community played in shaping the identity of the city. Nearby, it's the Jewish Cemetery of Santa Clara (**currently closed for visits*). Your cultural journey continues at the Ponta Delgada

Public Library and Regional Archive. Wander through its elegant halls, where centuries-old documents, rare books and beautifully preserved records tell the story of São Miguel's evolution through time. To conclude the day, visit a Pottery Factory to witness the process of making pottery. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening. (B, L)

Day 5 - Wednesday September 30- Ponta Delgada to Faial Island

Travel Times: Ponta Delgada to Horta Flight 55 mins.

Check out of our Ponta Delgada hotel and head to the airport for a short flight to Faial Island. Flight departs at 12:20pm and arrives at 1:15pm. Upon arrival, discover the highlights of Horta on a city tour with a special focus on its Jewish heritage. Explore the historic center, learn about the Jewish families who once shaped local trade and visit the Jewish Cemetery. Along the way, enjoy the city's iconic viewpoints, charming streets and maritime atmosphere that make Horta one of the Azores' most captivating towns. Check-in to your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the evening. (B,L)



Day 6- Thursday October 1- Horta

After breakfast at the hotel, you will take part in a full-day exploration of Faial. First visit the Capelinhos Volcano, where the 1957-58 eruption reshaped the island and created a lunar-like terrain you can walk through. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. Throughout the day, discover Faial's charming towns, stunning coastal vistas, and the colorful Horta Marina — a famous stop for sailors crossing the Atlantic. This day offers the perfect balance of nature, geology and Azorean culture. (B,L)

Day 7 - Friday October 2- Pico

Travel Distances: The Horta to Madalena ferry has a crossing time of 30 minutes.



Experience the best of Pico on a full-day tour that reveals the island's volcanic beauty, rich traditions, and unique cultural heritage. Travel by boat from Faial to Pico and enjoy seamless transport throughout the day with a knowledgeable local guide. Visit the Pico Wine Museum, where centuries-old vineyards shaped by lava rock walls tell the story of the island's winemaking traditions and is a UNESCO World Heritage landscape. Continue to the Whalers Museum, to understand Pico's deep connection to the sea and the history of whaling in the Azores. After

lunch in a local restaurant, it's time to have a wine experience and tasting. Return to Faial by boat. The evening is at leisure. (B,L)

Day 8 - Saturday October 3 Faial to Terceira Island

Travel Distances: Horta to Terceira Flight 35 minutes.

Check out of the Horta hotel and transfer to the airport for a short flight to Terceira Island. The flight departs at 10:10 AM and arrives at 10:45AM. Upon arrival, enjoy a half-day tour that highlights its rich history and the lesser-known legacy of the Jewish community on Terceira Island. Stroll through the elegant cobbled streets, admire unique architecture and learn how

Jewish families contributed to local commerce and cultural life during the 19th and early 20th centuries. (B)

Day 9 - Sunday October 4 -Terceira

Experience the best of Terceira on a full-day island tour that blends scenic landscapes, coastal beauty, local flavors and authentic Azorean culture. Begin with panoramic views over Angra's bay from Monte Brasil, followed by a stop at the Ilhéus das Cabras viewpoint, where the twin islets create one of the island's most iconic views. Continue to the charming village of Porto Judeu, rich in heritage and oceanfront scenery, before heading to Porto Martins Natural Pools, where you can enjoy a refreshing swim in crystal-clear volcanic waters. Enjoy a delicious lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, taste artisan cheeses at the Queijo Vaquinha dairy, before visiting the fishing village of São Mateus, known for its lively harbor and maritime traditions. (B,L)



Day 10 - Monday October 5- Whale Watching



Experience the thrill of the Atlantic on a Whale & Dolphin Watching Tour in Terceira, where the ocean becomes your front-row seat to some of the world's most magnificent marine life. This afternoon is at leisure. Our Farewell dinner is at a local restaurant with an Azorean folklore performance celebrating the island's cultural heritage. (B,D)

Day 11 - Tuesday October 6 - Azores / Boston



Driving Distance: 30 min to airport

Enjoy a slow and leisurely last morning in the Azores. There are nice shopping opportunities within a short walk of our hotel - local boutiques selling Azorean wool and linens, ceramics, gourmet shops selling jams, liqueurs, and cheeses, jewelry stores featuring volcanic stone pieces, and other charming gift shops. This is the perfect last stop to pick up some souvenirs. Check out is around noon. We'll visit an organic cafe with their own coffee plantation. After learning about the interesting history behind this coffee plantation, we'll enjoy a tasting of their coffee with delectable homemade pastries. Arrive at the airport late afternoon. Flight #4233 departs at 6:05PM and arrives in Boston at 7:50 PM. (B, Snack)