PORTUGAL’S HIDDEN GEM • JULY 18-26, 2023
LISBON PRELUDE • JULY 26-29, 2023

Discover the exotic natural wonders of the Azores, Portugal’s hidden gem. Situated in the north Atlantic 930 miles directly west of Lisbon, this lush and untamed archipelago offers visitors an unexplored paradise replete with natural and culinary treasures. Explore a variety of terrains with impressive rock formations, caves, thermal pools, steam holes, and hot springs. As stunning as the Azores geography can be, their cuisine is equally rewarding. Please your palette with local wine, cheese, famous cozido, local pastries and tea - savor the wide range of Azorean tastes and traditions.

COST OF ADVENTURE:

PORTUGAL’S HIDDEN GEM: $5,995 PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY  SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: $1695
EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT BY JANUARY 31, 2023: SAVE $400 PER COUPLE DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
LISBON EXTENSION: $TBD PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: $TBD

AIRFARE NOT INCLUDED • GUIDANCE PROVIDED

Contact Cary DeWitt Allyn / Director, Vanderbilt Travel Program at the VANDERBILT TRAVEL OFFICE
615.322.3673 or alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu
TUESDAY, JULY 18: DEPART USA
Depart USA on your overnight flight(s) to Ponta Delgada, Azores.

ALDEIA DA FONTE NATURE HOTEL

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19: PONTA DELGADA / PICO ISLAND
Upon arrival to Ponta Delgada, connect to your internal flight to Pico Island. The landscape features an eponymous volcano, Ponta do Pico, the highest mountain in Portugal. This evening, gather for a Welcome to Azores Dinner. (D)

ALDEIA DA FONTE NATURE HOTEL

THURSDAY, JULY 20: PICO ISLAND
Begin in Porto de Cachorro, an old, traditional town with narrow streets along a rugged coastline created by cooled lava flows. Explore the impressive rock formations of Arcos do Cachorro (Arches of the Puppy!) in 4X4 vehicles. Visit the charming Adega Buraca winery for a private tasting and luncheon of local specialties. Stroll the scenic walking trails of Lagoa do Capitão and Mistério de São João. (B,L)

ALDEIA DA FONTE NATURE HOTEL

FRIDAY, JULY 21: PICO ISLAND / SÃO JORGE ISLAND
Morning ferry ride to São Jorge Island. The culinary star here is the tangy world-renowned São Jorge Cheese and you will indulge in this delicacy at a private tasting. A ferry ride to Fajãs and the ancient settlement of Velas is also part of your experience. A stop at the beautiful baroque Church of Santa Barbara will be followed by a tour and coffee sampling at the famed Fajã dos Vimes cafe and coffee plantation. Return to Pico via ferry for an evening at leisure. (B,L)

ALDEIA DA FONTE NATURE HOTEL

SATURDAY, JULY 22: PICO ISLAND / SÃO MIGUEL ISLAND
Explore the amazing Grutta das Torres (Torres Cave). Enjoy a lunch of Portuguese specialties before heading to the Pico Airport for your internal flight to the island of São Miguel. Nicknamed “The Green Island”, it is the largest and most populous island in the Portuguese archipelago. The late afternoon and evening is yours to relax at leisure. (B,L)

GRAND AÇORES ATLÂNTICO HOTEL

SUNDAY JULY 23: SÃO MIGUEL & PONTA DELGADA
The exciting and thriving Ponta Delgada market is a fun way to start the day. Later, venture to Sete Cidades (Seven Cities), a small town on the western end of Sao Miguel Island. The town, with a population of less than 1000 residents, sits at the base of the Green and Blue Twin-Lakes, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Portugal. According to legend, the lakes were formed from the tears of a shepherd and a princess who shared a forbidden love. See the island’s most breathtaking views from Vista do Rei (King’s View) Lookout. The balance of the afternoon is free for independent exploration, or take an optional kayaking tour along the Sete Cidades Lake. (B,L)

GRAND AÇORES ATLÂNTICO HOTEL

MONDAY, JULY 24: SÃO MIGUEL & FURNAS
Head to the nearby town of Furnas, known for its natural volcanic fumaroles. The entire Furnas valley is a giant crater which last erupted in 1630. The volcano is now dormant, but you can still feel it everywhere in the form of thermal pools, steam holes and hot springs. There are magnificent views of the entire Furnas Caldera from Pico do Ferro. Your luncheon today is the unique Cozido, the Portuguese specialty of meats and vegetables prepared in volcanic fumaroles. Underground sealed clay pots simmer in the steam of the hot springs for six hours. Scrumptious! Visit Terra Nostra Park, one of the most lovely gardens in Europe, featuring more than 2,000 different trees. End your afternoon savoring local pastries at Vila Franca do Campo Islet. (B,L)

GRAND AÇORES ATLÂNTICO HOTEL

TUESDAY, JULY 25: SÃO MIGUEL - LAGOA DO FOGO
Visit Lagoa do Fogo, a beautiful crater lake in the center of São Miguel Island. Continue to Riberia Grande, a small, but wealthy seaside town situated on the north coast of the island. The narrow wandering streets of the historic city center are lined with impressive baroque architecture from the 17th and 18th centuries. Try a sip of the locally famous Passion Fruit Liqueur at a private tasting. Continue to the belvedere of Santa Iria featuring stunning views of the northern coast line. Along the way, there is an exclusive time with tea at the Chá Gorreana Farm, Europe’s largest and oldest tea plantation founded in 1883 by the Gago de Camara family. This evening’s Farewell to Azores Dinner features lyrical folk music paired with fine local fare. (B,L,D)

GRAND AÇORES ATLÂNTICO HOTEL

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26: DEPART PONTA DELGADA
Transfer to the Ponta Delgada airport for your international return flight to the USA. Welcome Home! (B)

EN ROUTE