



Trip Details



Azores Islands - Portugal Hiking the Azores

Small Group Trip

For Questions or Booking Information:

info@walkingconnection.com / (800)-295-WALK



Azores - Hiking Trip Details

Trip Dates: October 1 – 7, 2020

Length of Trip: 7 days / 6 nights

Pre- and Post- Trip Optional Extension: Ask about options!

Activity Level: Moderate

Azores – Hiking Trip Details - Itinerary

Itinerary:

Please note that the details of this itinerary are subject to change. Many of the planned activities are organized according to availability, events or seasonal dates, appropriate weather conditions or the discretion of our guides. We make every effort to provide the experience described in the itinerary with the understanding that some things may change.

Day 1 – Arrive Flores Island

Located at the western most point of Europe, you will find a plateau overlooking the ocean where sits what was once an ancient village. Abandoned in the 1960s, its stone houses have been rebuilt over time establishing the link between past and present.

On arrival, you will transfer (about 30 min) to our trip base, Aldeia da Cuada, in the western zone of Flores Island. We will have a short briefing on the days ahead before a welcome dinner.

Meals Included: Dinner

Accommodation: Aldeia da Cuada

Day 2 – Four Villages Hike

Our first day of hiking takes us to 4 villages in the Western part of Flores Island. Between extensive open valleys over the sea and beautiful vegetation corridors – and always in the company of roaming cows – we will learn the history of these settlements originating in the 19th century.

As we arrive at the last village, we will get a taste of local life with a visit to its beautiful church and stops at the local cheese factory and water mill. The afternoon is free for you to enjoy the beautiful oceanic pools or relax in Aldeia da Cuada. Dinner will be in a family restaurant where the traditional centennial cuisine from Tras-os Montes, in the northeast of mainland Portugal and typical Azorean delicacies combine. All complimented by a delightful Portuguese wine.

Hike Distance: 6 mi (9.5 km)



Total Ascent: 2150 ft (650 m)

Total Descent: 2150 ft (650 m)

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Aldeia da Cuada

Day 3 – The Dramatic Western Shore

Today we start in a nearby village, Ponta da Fajã, with a spectacular trail on the cliff near the sea.

With a view of the Fajã Grande village to our back, we begin a long ascent in a dense foliage corridor. At the top of the cliff, the views are wider and we will glimpse the island of Corvo, the smallest of the whole archipelago. We make our way to the end of the path, surrounded by colorful Cedars, Sanguinhos and many Hortenses.

This is an area where the coastline is particularly exposed to the strength of the Atlantic Ocean, and a perfect place to appreciate the force of the waves that have shaped the basaltic rock for more than 2 million years. We will see the great islet of Maria Vaz and the Promontory of Albarnaz, with its impressive lighthouse that has guided sailors for more than 80 years.

Hike Distance: 3.5 mi (5.5 km)

Total Ascent: 1800 ft (550 m)

Total Descent: 1725 ft (525 m)

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Aldeia da Cuada

Day 4 – The Island of the Crow

The day begins with an exciting boat trip along the coastline of Flores Island. We take in the various cascades and cliffs on our way to Corvo, also known as Crow Island, watching for dolphins, flying fish and Minke whales along the way. It is the smallest islands and perhaps the most beautiful volcanic caldera in the world.

After docking, we will visit the Interpretation Center in the tiny village of Corvo to get a better understanding of the topography and history of the island. We will then transfer to the trailhead, from which we will hike down into the great volcanic Caldera where we will enjoy our picnic lunch. We return to Flores and dock in the village of Santa Cruz das Flores. There we will dine in a simple local family restaurant, savoring the taste of a homemade meal.

Hiking Distance: 2.75 mi (4.25 km)

Total Ascent: 1500 ft (475 m)



Total Descent: 1500 ft (475 m)

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Aldeia da Cuada

Day 5 – Plateau of Four Lagoons

Today we will trek through several endemic ecosystems, beginning on the central plateau of the island. Starting at Lagoa Funda (Deep Lagoon), we will hike through this humid area, passing Lagoa Comprida (Long Lagoon) and Seca (Dry Lagoon), where fog is frequent and mosses abound.

Continuing on to the last of the lagoons, the Lagoa Branca (White Lagoon), we will face numerous water courses. It was here that the first bird watching structure was erected on the island, as it is regularly populated with migratory birds.

From here we proceed up the Morro Alto, the highest point on the island, and come across a wider perspective of the whole plateau. The various deep valleys covered with forests of *Cryptomeria* on our right and the villages of Fajã Grande and Fajãzinha, far below.

What goes up, must come down with a steep descent first on open ground and then through the middle of a dense corridor of Incense, which covers vast areas of the island. Returning to sea level, there are several ruins of old water mills from the 19th century and in front of us, we find the waterfall of Poco do Bacalhau (Codfish Well). At about 90m high, its crystalline waters land in a small pond, perfect for a dip and a picnic lunch, before continuing back to the trailhead.

Hike Distance: 4.5 mi (7 km)

Total Ascent: 1250 ft (375 m)

Total Descent: 2650 ft (800 m)

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Aldeia da Cuada

Day 6 – One Last Amazing Hike

One last day – and one more hike! We will begin on a huge promontory on the northeast coast of the island, where the village of Ponta Ruiva (Redhead Tip) is located. With spectacular views, we hike along a slope but quickly dive into a forest of *Cryptomeria* where we will cross several bridges over streams and waterfalls.

Climbing up, we will follow a levada (man-made water channel used to pipe highland waters). The oceanic pools of Santa Cruz village will be our next destination. The various concrete platforms integrated in the basaltic rock create several bathing areas where you can enjoy the remainder of the afternoon.

Walking Connection

Tonight's farewell is with a magnificent dinner at a local restaurant known not only for the delicious sweets typical of this region, but also for the beautiful sunsets over the Atlantic.

Hike Distance: 3.75 mi (6 km)

Total Ascent: 1250 ft (400 m)

Total Descent: 1800 (550 m)

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Aldeia da Cuada

Day 7 – Goodbye Azores

Time to say goodbye to the remarkable landscapes and the wonderful people that you met along the way. Since ancient times they have carved out a humble and rugged existence and their customs and culture live on.

Meals Included: Breakfast



Azores - Hiking Trip Details - Inclusions

This Walking Connection trip includes:

- Expertly planned itinerary designed and delivered in partnership with Walk Hike Portugal
- 6 nights premium accommodations as indicated in itinerary
- Daily meals, as indicated in itinerary, and drinking water, tea & coffee
- Experienced resident local interpretive and naturalist guide throughout
- All activities as listed in itinerary
- All park fees, sanctuary fees, government taxes and statutory charges
- Detailed *Know Before You Go* information, including recommended website, reading lists, packing list, and weather forecast

This Walking Connection trip DOES NOT include:

- Local guide gratuities
- All international and domestic airfares with tax (not listed in the above inclusions)
- All items of a personal nature, including beverages and shopping
- All passport and visa application fees
- All international departure taxes collected at airport of departure
- Additional hotel stay pre- or post- scheduled itinerary
- Early check-in or late check-out of rooms
- Optional tours
- Photographs or phone calls
- Discounts/Refunds on any unused portion of the tour
- Travel Insurance
- Anything that is not expressly stated in the itinerary or on the inclusion list above



Azores - Hiking Trip Details - Price & Payments

Price: From \$2298 per person/double occupancy

Deposits:

An initial deposit of \$500 USD per person is required to reserve your space. No space will be held without a complete deposit. Deposits are non-refundable.

Payments:

Payments must be made according to the schedule & are subject to cancellation and penalty policy. Final payment is due on or before 90 days prior to the trip. We request that all final payments be made by check, wire transfer or credit card/PayPal. Credit card and PayPal payments for final amount due are subject to a 3% surcharge of total due. Canadian (or other non U.S. Credit cards) are subject to a 4.5% surcharge. Payments can be made online or by phone.

Price Variation:

Prices are based upon the current government fees for park, camping, concession fees and sanctuary entry and all taxes at the time of publication of this information. Should the government impose any new taxes, raise the current tax or increase the entry cost to any park or sanctuary, the price increase will be passed along and charged to you. You will be notified of this increase at the time that Walking Connection is notified. All payments received by Walking Connection are subject to the cancellation policy already published and in effect.

Cancellation, Penalty & Refund Policies:

Should you have to cancel your tour the following terms will apply:

Due to the exclusive and small group nature of this adventure, all cancellations requests will forfeit the initial trip deposit (\$500.) After that:

- For cancellations 61-90 days prior to the trip, 50% penalty of the total trip cost.
- For cancellations and no shows 60 days or less prior to the trip, no refunds.

No refunds will be made for any unused portion of the tour.

All cancellations must be made in writing and delivered to Walking Connection via e-mail and/or US Postal Service. Your cancellation date is the date your notice is received and confirmed by Walking Connection, not the date of postmark.



Azores – Hiking Trip Details - Travel Arrangements

Portugal Passports/Visas:

Valid passports must have 3 blank pages and a minimum of 6 months remaining before expiration. Visas are NOT required for all US and Canadian citizens to enter Portugal.

For passport applications and renewals:

<http://www.passportvisasexpress.com/?affId=992183579f5e584ff2a965b511618cc9>

Air Arrangements:

BEFORE you make your international airline arrangements, please contact Walking Connection by phone – (800)-295-9255 to reconfirm the details of the trip. Walking Connection will provide you with recommended arrival and departure airports, times and any additional information you may need BEFORE you book your flights.

Inter-island flights between Sao Miguel and Flores can be booked on your behalf, please contact for details.

Travel Roommates and Single Supplements:

If you have registered for double occupancy but don't have a travel roommate, you may be charged for a Single Supplement for any portion of the trip where you will be rooming as a single.

Azores – Hiking Trip Details - Final Details

Trip Grading – Moderate:

- Each day usually consists of 3-5 hours of activities, most centered around walking over various terrains
- Terrain includes city streets, village cobblestone walkways, well-worn countryside paths with uphill and downhill components
- Achieving a specific destination (point A to B) is not usually the goal and alternative transportation of participation level is generally available
- Other activities may include a river float, smooth water kayaking or mountain biking
- Your day pack will include a liter of water, snacks, rain jacket, sunscreen, personal items, and a camera



Gear & Personal Items:

We will provide a detailed list of personal items you will need that will make your journey safe and convenient. There is no special gear required for this trip though you will receive a list of recommended items, including supportive hiking boots and socks. We can help with information on types, brands and what to look for if you are purchasing new gear items for the trip.

Special Supplier Gifts & Items:

As a local custom, vendors, suppliers, ground operators, restaurants and hotel properties may offer complimentary beverages that may or may not contain alcohol. Should you elect not to accept this gift, complimentary water may not be offered as a replacement and may only be offered for sale. This is a local custom beyond the control of Walking Connection.

Your Personal Guides:

At Walking Connection, our philosophy is simple: each trip is designed in partnership with locals and delivered by local legends. We work with a small number of trusted travel partners to deliver the best experiences in the safest way possible. During this trip, you and your small group will be accompanied and led by one of our professional guides.

CONTACTS:

Christine Reed – Christine@WalkingConnection.com

Gene Taylor - +1 602.451.9086 Voice/Text/WhatsApp gt@WalkingConnection.com