



UC SANTA BARBARA
Alumni

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA BARBARA

AZORES PARADISE FOUND

2024 YOUNG ALUMNI JOURNEY

US DEPARTURE DATE: JUNE 8, 2024
LAND TOUR START DATE: JUNE 9, 2024
RETURN DATE: JUNE 15, 2024

LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$2,225

START YOUR ADVENTURE.



Dear Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow University of California Santa Barbara Young Alumni?

The UCSB Alumni Association young alumni travel program, designed for grads ages 22 – 35, offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed, hassle-free tours of the world.

These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning enrichment and enjoying a connection back to the University of California Santa Barbara. Our journeys are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 46 years of experience in the young travel market. In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing.

If you have any questions about this tour, please contact our tour operator AESU Alumni World Travel by calling 800-638-7640 or email alumni@aesu.com. To make an online booking, please visit our young alumni tour landing page www.aesu.com/ucsb and select this tour to be directed to the tour web site.

We are looking forward to traveling with you this coming season.

Sincerely,

Alumni Affairs Office
University of California, Santa Barbara

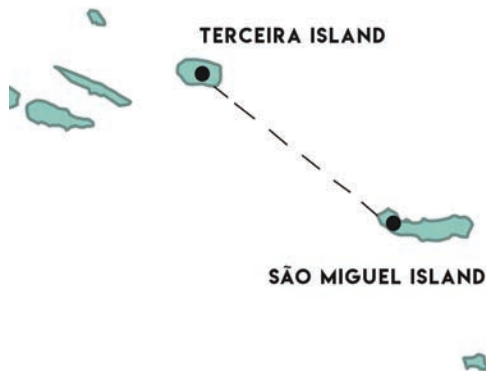
Visit our website www.aesu.com/ucsb for more details and to book.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is compulsory. UCSB offers travel insurance through the link below.

<https://select.travelinsure.com/?pcode=32408>

AMAZING AZORES



8 DAYS | 6 NIGHTS

COUNTRIES VISITED:
TERCEIRA ISLAND | SAO MIGUEL ISLAND

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

8-Day Land Package Transportation and Lodging

- 6 nights in superior tourist class hotels with private bath/shower, 2-share rooms
- All ground transportation by private vehicles as per itinerary
- Airport transfers included with purchased AESU group airfare

Meals

- 10 meals: 6 breakfasts, 1 picnic lunch, 3 specialty dinners

Activities and Admissions

- Sao Miguel Island, The Green Island of the Azores
- Guided tours of Ponta Delgada and Angra do Heroismo, led by a local expert
- Sete Cidades caldera and lakes, Mythical Kingdom of Seven Cities
 - Nature hike at Sete Cidades
 - Pineapple plantation visit
- Ponta da Ferraria geothermal hot springs
 - Gorreana organic tea plantation
 - Ribeira dos Caldeirões Natural Park
 - Biscoitos Wine Museum
- Casa Agricola Brum winery visit and tasting
 - Biscoitos natural swimming pools

Plus

- Private tour director for the duration of the land tour
 - All service charges and local taxes

Optional Activities (not included in land package price):

- Day 4: Nature hike at Lagoa Do Fogo and Furnas incl. lunch, led by a local expert
- Day 7: Whale & dolphin watching excursion

Tour Highlights

- Welcome to the Azores dinner & orientation
 - Sao Miguel Island
 - Terceira Island
 - Sete Cidades lakes
 - Nature hike
 - Pineapple plantation
 - Geothermal spas
 - Organic tea plantation
- Ribeira dos Caldeiros Natural Park
 - Biscoitos Wine Museum
 - Wine tasting
 - Natural swimming pools
 - Breathtaking landscapes



AZORES PARADISE FOUND ITINERARY

ABOUT THE TRIP:

There are very few places on the planet where you can find the topmost spots for so many different adventures packed so close together – The Azores is one of them. This remote archipelago of nine islands in the mid-Atlantic features stunning lush landscapes, colorful plants, dormant volcanoes, hot springs, all surrounded by pristine waters. São Miguel, the largest island, is the perfect destination for nature lovers and those looking for an off-the-beaten-path getaway. Visit the only tea plantation in Europe, taste delicious locally grown pineapples, and discover the historical city of Ponta Delgada with its cobbled streets and black and white mosaic pavements. Terceira Island is known as the Lilac Island for the lilacs and hydrangeas found all over the countryside, as well as the violet-colored houses of the capital, Angra do Heroísmo. This island is considered the amusement park of the Azores, due to its traditional celebrations throughout the summer including street parties until the wee morning hours. Explore both islands and marvel at their natural beauty, hike down a dormant volcano, and relax on the sandy lake beaches. Get ready for an amazing adventure in paradise.

DAY 1 TRAVEL TO THE AZORES

Board your overnight flight to Ponta Delgada on Sao Miguel Island today.

[Meals: In-flight](#)

DAY 2 LAND TOUR START DAY: PONTA DELGADA

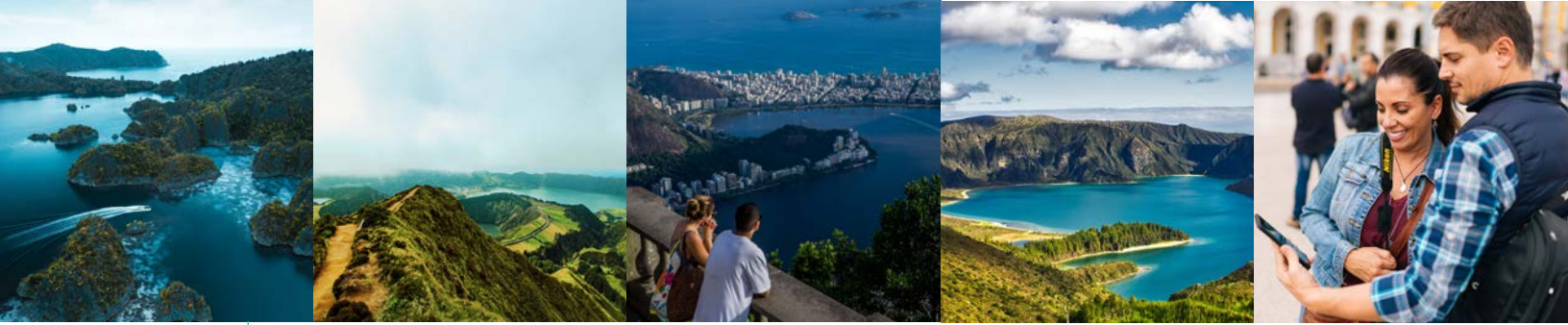
Welcome to Sao Miguel Island in the Azores, nicknamed “The Green Island” because of its lush environment with beautiful lakes, sparkling beaches, and mountains. Transfer to your hotel upon arrival and enjoy leisure time before our walking tour of Ponta Delgada. See historic sites like the Matriz Church, Portas da Cidade town hall and Fort Sao Bras. Tonight, meet fellow travelers and your tour director for a welcome orientation followed by a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

[Meals: Dinner](#)

[Inclusions: Airport transfer included with purchased AESU group airfare, Guided walking tour of Ponta Delgada, Tour orientation and welcome dinner](#)

DAY 3 SETE CIDADES | PINEAPPLE PLANTATION | FERRARIA HOT SPRINGS

This morning we pass green pastures, dotted with grazing cows busy mowing the grass on our way to Sete Cidades. The first glimpse of this enormous caldera with its sparkling twin lakes might just take your breath away. The landscape seems to have been taken straight out of a fairy tale, so it comes as no surprise that Sete Cidades (Mythical Kingdom of Seven Cities) is the source of an Azorean legend in which the blue and the green lakes were formed from the tears of a green-eyed shepherd and a blue-eyed princess who shared a forbidden love. These lakes are considered one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Portugal. Our professional guide will take us on a 5-mile, 3.5-hour hike around the lakes with stunning panoramic views of Sete Cidades Lake, Canário Lake, Empadadas and more. Learn about local geology, history, culture, and discover the hydrographic basin of Sete Cidades volcanic complex. At 2800 feet, the highest point on our hike is Pico das Éguas. If you prefer to opt out of this experience, consider a kayak or SUP rental or take in the views at the Sete Cidades lakes until the hikers return. We continue to the westernmost point of São Miguel where the therapeutic hot springs have enticed swimmers and wellness seekers since the Portuguese first populated the archipelago in the 15th century. As a volcanic island chain still bubbling with geothermal activity, the Azores - especially São Miguel - have always been known for their hot springs and mineral water spas. Locals say that the hot springs at Ponta da Ferraria have special healing



powers, so how about taking a dip? Before returning to Ponta Delgada, we visit a traditional greenhouse where the Azorean pineapple has been cultivated for more than 150 years. Consider tasting some local delicacies made from pineapple, such as delicious natural juices, cocktails, chocolate fondue or artisan ice cream. Enjoy a free evening in Ponta Delgada with new-found friends.

Meals: Breakfast, Picnic lunch (box)

Inclusions: Guided tour of a local pineapple plantation, Nature hike of Sete Cidades, guided by a local expert, Ferraria, geothermal hot springs

DAY 4 PONTA DELGADA | OPTIONAL LAGOA DO FOGO AND FURNAS HIKE

Enjoy a day at leisure to explore Ponta Delgada on your own. Our optional excursion takes us along the southern coastline to Furnas, home to more volcanic landscapes and geothermal wonders. 'Lagoa do Fogo' or 'Lake of Fire,' is a crater lake within the volcanic complex of Água de Pau Massif and is a protected natural reserve. We start our hike at Miradouro da Lagoa do Fogo and walk down a steep trail taking us to the lake. This circular 2.5-mile trail with a difficulty level of easy to moderate takes us to the edge of the lake. Take some time to explore the accessible parts of the lake, sit and take in the scenery before we climb back to the top and continue to Furnas Village to enjoy a traditional 'Cozido das Furnas' lunch--a traditional stew placed in a pot and slow-cooked in a hole in the ground heated by volcanic activity. In the afternoon we visit Furnas Lake, known for its bubbling mineral-rich geothermal pools and the island's most ancient volcanic crater. The Fumarolas da Lagoa das Furnas are located on the northern tip of Furnas Lake and are easily the lake's biggest attraction. While the Furnas has plenty of geothermal activity, the fumaroles on the water's edge are one of the most impressive examples of just how active the area really is. A series of boardwalks lead visitors through the billowing clouds of sulfuric smoke emanating from the mud pools and fumaroles. We return to Ponta Delgada for an evening at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Today is free to explore at leisure)

Optional Activities: Excursion to Lagoa Do Fogo and Furnas, incl. hiking and lunch

DAY 5 RIBEIRA DOS CALDEIROES NATURAL PARK | ORGANIC TEA FARM | FLIGHT TO TERCEIRA

For almost 200 years tea has been grown on Sao Miguel Island, making the Azores Europe's secret tea capital. We visit the Gorreana tea factory, a family-run business since 1883, producing a world-class tea brand that includes a variety of 100% organic green and black teas and tea infusions. The facilities are located on a sloping mountain ridge on the north side of the island, with sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean. We continue to Ribeira dos Caldeirões Natural Park, a large expanse of varying vegetation, a number of waterfalls and watermills (some still functional), fountains and walking trails. Observe an abundance of various Macaronesian flora, highlighted by the large-sized tree ferns, massive Hortensia and large cedars. You might even spot the endangered Azorean bullfinch, an endemic passerine bird. We continue to the airport to check in for our flight to Terceira Island. Join us for an island dinner at a local restaurant in Angra do Heroísmo tonight.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Gorreana tea factory and plantation tour, Ribeira dos Caldeirões Natural Park, Flight to Terceira Island, Terceira island dinner



DAY 6 **TERCEIRA ISLAND | ANGRA DO HEROISMO**

Enjoy a walking tour with a local expert this morning and explore the downtown area of Angra do Heroísmo, a UNESCO World Heritage city since 1983. Sights include the Convento São Gonçalo Palácio dos Bettencourt, Azores Cathedral, the Old Square, Marina de Angra do Heroísmo with a view to the Fortress of St. John the Baptist, and a stop at an Embroidery House. This afternoon consider joining us on a whale and dolphin-watching trip led by a marine biologist. We will be briefed on the whale-watching code of ethics and hear which species of the Atlantic Ocean's most magnificent mammals we expect to see in their natural habitat based on their location and current weather conditions.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Guided walking tour of Angra do Heroísmo, led by a local expert

Optional activities: Whale & dolphin watching excursion

DAY 7 **TERCEIRA | BISCOITOS WINERY | NATURAL SWIMMING POOLS**

The Casa Agrícola Brum represents the history of five generations of an Azorean family. For 130 years this family has been dedicated to wine production in the Biscoitos Region and to the management of the Biscoitos Wine Museum, an ethnographic space dedicated to the culture of the Vine and Wine in the Azores. The Verdelho grape comes from the typical volcanic soil of the islands. It is rich and perfumed, with a great balance of acidity and soft pear and spice. After a tour of the vineyard and museum, showcasing the old wine press, ancient utensils and tools used in winemaking, we enter the large tasting room, filled with old barrels. After savoring these samples, we go for a dip in the natural swimming pools of Biscoitos, formed along the black rocks created by ancient volcanic eruptions. We return to town with free time for explorations on our own. Consider climbing Mount Brasil or relax on the beach located next to the town's marina. Enjoy tasty treats at our farewell Azores dinner while exchanging contact information and bidding a fond farewell to new-found friends.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Biscoitos Wine Museum, Casa Agrícola Brum winery visit and tasting,

Biscoitos natural swimming pools, Farewell Azores treats

DAY 8 **TRAVEL HOME**

Our land travel ends with breakfast this morning. Adeus Azores. With memories to last a lifetime, board your flight bound for home.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Airport transfer included with purchased AESU group airfare

PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS



Hello Eco Travelers!

If you are ready for the adventure of a lifetime - listen up, because you absolutely have to check out the Azores off the coast of Portugal! This place is a true paradise that's just waiting to be explored, especially on the islands of Sao Miguel and Terceira. The outdoor scenery is stunning, with crystal-clear lakes, towering mountains, lush forests, and breathtaking waterfalls that are perfect for all kinds of outdoor activities. Whether you are into hiking, biking, swimming, or even whale watching, there's something for everyone! And the best part? The Azores are still relatively undiscovered. Oh, and let's not forget about the food – it's seriously amazing, with fresh seafood and local specialties that will make your taste buds sing. So, to all our fellow young adventurers out there, don't waste another moment – book your trip to the Azores today!

This trip has been carefully designed and features fantastic inclusions and highlights.



Culinary



Culture & Heritage



Leisure & Free Time



Landscapes & Wildlife



Outdoor & Adventure



Educational



Wellness



Eco Friendly

For a glossary of these key aspects, visit: www.aesu.com/aspects-awt



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE/ACTIVE

For more details, please visit: <https://www.aesu.com/activity-levels-awt/>

TOUR DIRECTORS

Your tour includes the services of a professional tour director throughout the land package. We are very proud of our tour directors. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major universities. They are eager to show you the world through the eyes of an adventurer. Our tour directors know this is a trip of a lifetime for you and will share their knowledge as well as interesting little-known facts. Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel.

HOTELS

Our hotels offer superior tourist class accommodations, with private bathrooms. Hotels are centrally located and many offer great extra amenities such as pools, gyms or roof-top bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If a single room is desired, a supplement of \$445 applies. If traveling solo and not wanting to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If a share cannot be arranged the single supplement will apply.

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**SUCH AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE.
I ABSOLUTELY LOVED EVERYTHING!**

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- past traveler

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

EXCLUSIONS: These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own.); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested \$5 per day for tour director, \$2-3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; any vaccinations, pre/post trip testing/screening, airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. Cancellation from time of booking until 120 days prior to departure will result in a \$300 cancellation fee. Cancellation between 119-90 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 25% of tour cost; between 89-60 days 35% of tour cost; between 59-30 days 50% of tour cost. Cancellation within 30 days of departure or a "no-show" at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. Processing of cancellation refunds takes approximately 6-8 weeks.

AIRFARES are highly restrictive, **NON-REFUNDABLE**, **NON-ENDORSABLE** and **NON-TRANSFERABLE** once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable. Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Travel insurance, including medical health and accident coverage, is compulsory. **PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.**

AIRPORT TRANSFERS AND BAGGAGE: All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 3:00 p.m. on program start date. **FLIGHT DELAYS - ALL AIRPORTS:** In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Many shuttle services are available as well as taxi or train options. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. If you purchase your own airfare, book your overnight flight from the USA one day earlier than the land tour start date listed on our website. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline's website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract.

RESPONSIBILITY: The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, epidemic health risk, any force majeure event, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/ herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond the Operator's control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. **TRAVEL INSURANCE** is compulsory in the event of tour cancellation for any reason, medical expenses, personal accident, baggage and other personal items, liability and 24-hr emergency assistance. Trip insurance may be offered directly by your Alumni Association. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, the Operator's liability shall be limited to a refund of land payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. If the change or cancellation is due to force majeure or other similar events beyond Operator's control, a refund of land payments received from applicants will be made less reasonable expenses incurred by Operator in respect to applicant's land booking. Baggage and personal injury are at owner's risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. The Operator reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/ or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour, or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our web site at www.aesu.com.