



## TOUR ITINERARY

RIDING  
LEVEL

3

Europe / Portugal / Azores

# Azores Bike Tour

São Miguel Island: Discover the Cycling Paradise of the Atlantic

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Encounter the island's myriad landscapes by bike, including volcanic vistas, tropical waterfalls, vibrant wildflowers, and lush coastal roads
- Go whale- and dolphin-watching on a Zodiac boat ride with a marine biologist
- Taste tea grown and harvested by Europe's only organic tea plantation, a family-owned production since 1883
- Join our expert friend for a tasting to discover the unique profiles of Azorean wines



## ARRIVAL + DEPARTURE

### Arrival Details

- ✈ **Airport City:**  
Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Portugal
- 📍 **Pick-Up Location:**  
Grand Hotel Açores Atlantico
- 🕒 **Pick-Up Time:**  
8:15 am

### Departure Details

- ✈ **Airport City:**  
Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Portugal
- 📍 **Drop-Off Location:**  
Ponta Delgada airport or your Ponta Delgada hotel
- 🕒 **Drop-Off Time:**  
🕒 Ponta Delgada airport (10:30 am), Ponta Delgada hotel (10:45 am)

**NOTE:** DuVine provides group transfers to and from the tour from the pick-up and drop-off locations stated on the itinerary. In the event your train, flight, or other travel falls outside the arrival or departure times or locations, you may be responsible for extra costs incurred in arranging a separate transfer.

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### Emergency Assistance

For urgent assistance on your way to tour or while on tour, please always contact your guides first. You may also contact the Boston office during business hours at +1 617 776 4441 or [emergency@duvine.com](mailto:emergency@duvine.com).

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### Travelers Take Note

The Azores is an emerging destination, which is a key part of its charm and appeal. As a result, local service at boutique-style hotels may be more relaxed, on par with the overall disposition of the island.

The Azorean islands enjoy a year-round mild climate. However, hour-by-hour weather can be unpredictable—it's said that all four seasons are sometimes seen in a single day. Therefore, the itinerary as planned may be subject to change depending on weather conditions, and we recommend dressing in layers.

When packing swimwear for use in natural volcanic pools, choose something that is disposable or replaceable. The high iron oxide content may discolor or stain swimsuits. We also suggest that you pack a sturdy pair of sneakers.

Due to limited bike availability in this destination, guests will be asked to provide bike information and requests upon booking.

## TOUR ITINERARY

### Tour By Day

PRE-  
TOUR

## São Miguel Pre-Tour Package

Welcome to São Miguel, the largest of the lush islands that comprise the Azorean archipelago. Your home base is the Grand Hotel Açores Atlantico, one of the most iconic properties in Ponta Delgada. Celebrated for its prime location, the hotel is close to the island's old town and faces the marina—which means ocean views to lull you to sleep tonight. Get settled, explore the historic center of town at your leisure, and start tomorrow's bike tour completely refreshed. In the morning, enjoy an included breakfast before your bike tour begins right at the hotel. *The amount listed is the starting price and subject to availability.*

**Inclusions:** Hotel, Breakfast

**Accommodations:** [Grand Hotel Açores Atlantico](#)

**Price per person in double occupancy:** \$150

**Price in single occupancy:** \$275

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DAY  
1

## Having a Whale of a Time

Our guides will greet you at the pre-tour hotel in Ponta Delgada. We begin the week aboard a boat in search of dolphins. If we're lucky, we may even spot a sperm whale; our local guide is a marine biologist who sheds light on these aquatic residents of the Atlantic (and a few visiting species, too). Back on land, enjoy a light lunch of local flavors before a bike fitting and safety review. Our first ride leads us out of the city on a bike path that follows the shoreline to Vila Franca do Campo. The town of Vila Franca was the original capital of São Miguel until it was destroyed by an earthquake (and subsequent landslide) in 1522—today, it's prospering once again thanks to banana plantations and the fishing industry. After a coffee break, continue riding to our first hotel nestled in the volcanic village of Furnas, or transfer by van. Tonight, we dine together at the hotel's restaurant.

**Meals:** Lunch / Dinner

**Destinations:** Ponta Delgada, Vila Franca do Campo, Furnas

**Accomplished:** 16 miles / 26 km, elevation gain: 1,253 feet / 382 meters

**Longer Option:** 29 miles / 47 km, elevation gain: 3,044 feet / 928 meters

**Accommodations:** [Octant Furnas](#)

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## TOUR ITINERARY

DAY  
2

### Fumaroles and Furnas Stew

After a breakfast of island-grown fruit, Azorean tea, and *bolo levedo* (an airy Azorean muffin) we'll be properly fueled for a spin around the volcanic caldera of Furnas. Since the day's theme is all things volcanic, our midday meal in the local village is São Miguel's most famous dish: *Cozido das Furnas*, a stew cooked by volcanic steam in an underground oven. For those who wish to explore the area on foot, take an optional hike around the volcano's geologic features—trek past gurgling springs of steaming hot water and Furnas Lake before finishing at the steaming fumaroles. Or stroll over to the hotel and spend the rest of the afternoon at the spa. Tonight's dinner is a nourishing feast of locally caught seafood and vibrant salads at a family-run restaurant.

**Meals:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

**Destinations:** Furnas

**Accomplished:** 22 miles / 35 km, elevation gain: 2,375 feet / 724 meters

**Longer Option:** 5 miles / 8 km hiking

**Accommodations:** [Octant Furnas](#)

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DAY  
3

### The East Coast Road

This morning, begin riding from the hotel or transfer to a starting point further down the road—either way, we're embarking on an epic loop ride along the island's eastern coastline. Described by DuViners as one of the most beautiful rides of their lives, the roads are lined with subtropical forests, blooming azaleas, blue hydrangeas, and fragrant Belladonna lilies. We'll pass the waterfalls at Caldeirões Natural Park and pause at lookout points over the Atlantic, imagining the 15th-century sailors who also gazed eastward towards mainland Portugal. Weather permitting, break for a picnic lunch prepared by your guides. Hop in the van after lunch, or keep riding right to the mouth of the volcano and into the caldera before looping back to the hotel. This evening, dine on your own in the village of Furnas—our guides can readily recommend a few favorite restaurants.

**Meals:** Breakfast / Lunch

**Destinations:** Furnas, Provoação, Nordeste, Achadinha

**Accomplished:** 28 miles / 45 km, elevation gain: 2,696 feet / 822 meters

**Longer Option:** 56 miles / 90 km, elevation gain: 6,485 feet / 1,977 meters

**Accommodations:** [Octant Furnas](#)

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## TOUR ITINERARY

DAY  
4

### Le Tour du Tea

First planted on São Miguel in the 16th century, oranges were the island's principal export until 1842 when a blight wiped out the industry. It was a watershed moment that led to economic reinvention: dairy farming became a new mainstay, and crops like pineapples, passionfruit, tobacco, and tea also thrived. This morning, we'll take a short transfer to see one of the island's "new" trades: one of Europe's only tea plantations. Since the last quarter of the 19th century, the Porto Formoso Tea Factory is one of two plantations in all of Europe that continues to produce commercially. Enjoy a fascinating history lesson and a refreshing cup of tea on the terrace overlooking the plantation. Then start riding west along the coast, passing through fishing villages en route to a lunch of chicken in *piri-piri* sauce. We'll cross from the north side of the island to the south and check in to our next hotel with time for poolside cocktails or an afternoon massage. This evening, meet our friend and sommelier Joao for a masterclass in Azorean wines and dine on an organic feast.

**Meals:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

**Destinations:** Ribeira Grande, Fenais da Luz, Mosteiros

**Accomplished:** 32 miles / 51 km, elevation gain: 2,404 feet / 733 meters

**Longer Option:** 42 miles / 68 km, elevation gain: 3,480 feet / 1,061 meters

**Accommodations:** [Sensi](#) or [Santa Bárbara Eco-Beach Resort](#)

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DAY  
5

### Sete Cidades

Today's route starts with Sete Cidades, the island's enigmatic volcano which derives its name from a folk story about star-crossed lovers. Start riding from the hotel before a steady climb up its southern slope until we reach the Vista do Rei, a lookout point with magnificent views of the lakes and village below. Descend into Sete Cidades for a coffee break, then choose to catch a lift back to the hotel or spend your last full day in the saddle. For those who wish to keep riding, we'll climb to the top of the crater for some spectacular ocean views, followed by a glorious downhill that brings us along the coastal road. This picture-perfect ride finishes at our hotel with a light lunch. Tonight we meet for an apéritif heading to a restaurant lovingly adorned with antiques from the owners' past life in Macao. Our memorable final meal features sustainable and locally sourced ingredients paired thoughtfully with wines from the Azorean island of Pico.

**Meals:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

**Destinations:** Sete Cidades, Ginetes

**Accomplished:** 24 miles / 38 km, elevation gain: 2,568 feet / 783 meters

**Shorter Option:** 16 miles / 26 km, elevation gain: 2,020 feet / 616 meters

**Accommodations:** [Sensi](#) or [Santa Bárbara Eco-Beach Resort](#)

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DAY  
6

### Adeus São Miguel

Your guides will transfer you back to the island capital of Ponta Delgada. You may wish to stay a little longer in order to experience São Miguel a few other ways—perhaps diving, hiking, or golfing.

**Meals:** Breakfast

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