



SUMMER CAN'T GET ANY MORE COLOURFUL - AZORES SAILING CRUISE

Embark on an unforgettable voyage under full sails to the flowering islands in the Atlantic, immersing yourself in the natural beauty and cultural splendor of the Azores, Angra do Heroísmo, Horta, and Madeira. The Azores will greet you with its natural paradise, offering a serene escape with its thermal springs, enchanting crater lakes, and meadows adorned with colorful flowers. Explore the sunny flair of Angra do Heroísmo, a World Heritage city, where baroque palaces, colorful churches, and a sense of heroic pride create a captivating ambiance. In Horta, be inspired by the artistic world explorers, as brightly colored outdoor artworks on the quay walls reflect the island's adventurous spirit. Lastly, venture to Madeira, a green oasis in the Atlantic, where you'll encounter the island of flowers and majestic mountains, with mysterious Levadas weaving through the laurel forest, creating a truly enchanting experience. This sailing journey promises a harmonious blend of natural wonders and cultural treasures, providing an unparalleled escape to the flourishing beauty of the Atlantic islands.



ITINERARY

DAY 1 | PONTA DELGADA/SÃO MIGUEL/AZORES

Departure 07.00 pm The lively capital of Sao Miguel receives its guests at the trefoil-shaped city gate and invites them in on mosaic-like cobbled pavements through narrow lanes leading to whitewashed houses with black facade decoration made from basalt. The historic old city of Ponta Delgada is covered by a preservation order. Two large lakes are picturesquely set in the crater of Sete Cidades - the sapphire blue Lagoa Azul and the



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emerald green Lagoa Verde. At the edge of the crater the view widens out and exposes a spectacular panorama. On one side ebony sand and by the azure Atlantic, on the other side turquoise crater lakes amidst green rolling hills and blue flowering hydrangea bushes.

DAY 2 | MADALENA/PICO/AZORES

Arrival 02.00 pm At 2,351 meters (7,713 foot), Ponta de Pico volcano is the highest mountain in Portugal and magnificently epitomises the island's personality. Dominated by the mountain, Pico has only a small amount of flat coastal land, but this only makes it all the more beautiful. Many small harbours and walled fields create a contrast with the wildly dramatic mountains in the background. Laurel, juniper, tree heath and wine grow on this green island, protected by kilometre (miles)-long walls of lava. The island's viniculture has even been designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Pico, once a whaling centre, now has two whaling museums and is the starting point for whale watching, as numerous sperm whales inhabit the sea around the island.

DAY 3 | MADALENA/PICO/AZORES - HORTA/FAIAL/AZORES

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DAY 4 | PRAIA/GRACIOSA/AZORES

Arrival 08.00 am, Departure 01.30 pm Graciosa, the second smallest island in the Azores, has the most unusual natural phenomena in the archipelago. Furna do Enxofre, the huge sulphurous cave in the dark centre of the caldera, lets you take a glimpse into the underworld. A large steaming lake, 15 metres (49 foot) deep, stretches across an 80-metre (262 foot)-high volcanic cave and is bewitchingly lit by daylight shining in. On the island's fertile soil, only slightly protected from the wind by walls of lava rubble, cereal crops, fruit and vines flourish. Red-crested windmills are now the emblem of this charming island.



DAY 5 | ANGRA DO HEROÍSMO/TERCEIRA/AZORES

Arrival 08.00 am, Departure 06.00 pm Two fortresses standing guard over the harbor, splendid Renaissance facades, colorful little houses, churches and palaces - the old city of Angra do Heroísmo is a shining example of Portuguese Renaissance architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Taking a stroll is like a journey back in time. As the oldest town in the Azores, it received city status in 1474 and was even the capital of Portugal for three years from 1580. In its heyday as a center for overseas trade, for centuries it was an important hub between three continents.

DAY 6 | VILA DO PORTO/SANTA MARIA/AZORES

Arrival 02.00 pm, Departure 07.00 pm Santa Maria, with its tiny capital Vila do Porto, is the third smallest and most southerly island in the archipelago and, in contrast to the other islands in the Azores, is not a volcanic island. Like all the islands in the Azores it is lush green, but has its own softer, almost Mediterranean character. Nature is more gentle here, the land seems hillier and is characterised by green swathes of forest, steep terraced vineyards, banana plantations, lush meadows and a sea of flowers. With its perfect weather, Santa Maria is the only island in the Azores that has broad, white sandy beaches.

DAYS 7 - 8 | DAY BENEATH FULL SAILS

Climbing the rigging, untying ropes, setting sails - today is all about sailing. Time to lean back and relax in the deck chair and

watch the passionate crew hoisting the sails by hand.

DAYS 9 - 10 | FUNCHAL/MADEIRA

Arrival 01.30 pm The island of eternal spring, with its mild climate all year round and entire network of man-made irrigation channels, is a garden of flowers with green mountains, charming valleys, rugged coastlines and breathtaking views over the sea. Hydrangeas bloom in abundance on the streets, creating hedges of flowers, and in the capital Funchal every balcony has a colourful floral display. Houses, palaces, churches and monasteries nestle in steep winding lanes on the towering mountain slopes. The picturesque Monte, where high society used to reside, is set high up in the hills and sends its famous wickerwork toboggans down the steep Caminho hill all the way to Funchal.

Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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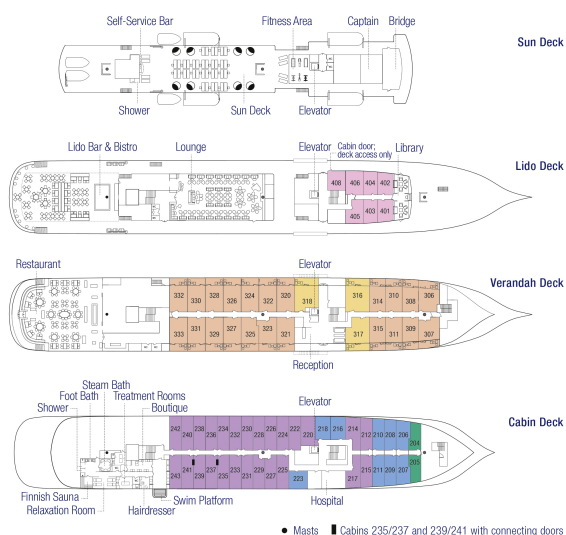
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