

IANNAZZI ENTERPRISES

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450 Smith Road - Pittsford - NY - 14534 - phone: 585-624-1285 email: travel@icdestinations.com

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THE AMAZING AZORES

May 3-12, 2026

1 room available!

Why plan a vacation in the **Azores**? It's the amazing lush green islands nearly in the center of the Atlantic rising dramatically out of the ocean waves. Add the promises of the very special pineapples and a cup of the island's tea might entice you, as well as the spring bloom of flowers, the waterfalls, and the jagged shorelines.

When you first look through the airplane window and down at the Azores, you might think you're in the South Pacific. Just a quick glimpse will explain why so many call this Portuguese archipelago the "Hawaii of Europe" and the "Islands of Colors. Set in the middle of the Atlantic halfway between the US and continental Portugal, the nine major Azores islands – São Miguel, Santa Maria, Terceira, Graciosa, São Jorge, Pico, Faial, Flores and Corvo – are impossible not to adore.

Expect green fields spotted with free-roaming local cattle (referred to locally as "happy cows") and lagoons in extinct volcanoes. Thermal pools offer the chance for a hot dip (the warmth coming from deep within the earth), while ultra-fresh ingredients make for uniquely savory local cuisine. You'll know you're atop a cluster of volcanoes when you see the dark-gray stone used in old buildings, and black sand on the beaches. When visiting São Miguel, you can even feel the volcanic activity on your skin: the water at iron-rich thermal springs is warmed by heat emanating from the island's inner depths. That same heat cooks the traditional cozido dos Açores (Azorean stew) in the Furnas area, where chefs place vegetables and meat in the earth for up to seven hours, before it emerges steaming hot and with a sulfur-y kick. Terceira and São Jorge also have natural pools that are carved in stone by the rough Atlantic and simultaneously heated by volcanic rock.

If you want to immerse yourself in nature and experience the rawness of gorgeous landscapes, you're in luck. All the islands have **hiking trails** that bring you deep into their wild heart, revealing lagoons formed inside extinct volcanoes or waterfalls that cascade from the tops of mountains. Exploring outdoors is far from the only activity in the Azores. On São Miguel, you can join a whale-watching cruise, visit cheese factories, see spiky fruit grow at **pineapple plantations** or spend an hour or two at the famous **Gorreana Tea Factory**, the oldest (and arguably only) tea plantation in Europe. Staff members offer free tours of the factory and museum, which feature plenty of vintage machinery (some still in use); toast to your visit with a cup at the end of the tour.

A trip to the Azores is an amazing value and simply a must-do for savvy travelers – and one you'll never forget. Contact me for more information and join us in our small group journey to the Azores next May! I have just one room left!!