

AN APPOINTMENT WITH HISTORY, TRADITION AND FLAVOURS



ACORES
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UNIAO EUROPEIA
Fundo Europeu de Desenvolvimento Regional

TURISMO DE
PORTUGAL
azores

36° 55' 44" N, 25° 01' 02" W - Azores, PORTUGAL

TANGIBLE HERITAGE

The volcanic phenomena that have always affected the Azores led the population to find shelter in religiousness and to search for divine protection. Therefore, small churches and chapels began to appear in all the islands. These buildings are deemed the first manifestations of civilisation and art in the Azores, around which the first houses were built, as the areas where the chapels and churches were built were considered to have a divine presence. Some of the churches existing today were built from houses of prayer, while others were built from scratch. One should stress the Mother Churches of Ponta Delgada and Praia da Vitória, of Manueline Style, or Portuguese late Gothic, as well as the Cathedral of Angra.

The population's devotion to religion also led to the construction of small houses in honour of the Holy Spirit, called impérios. These houses comprise an altar where the crown and the flag with a white dove, the symbol of the Holy Spirit, are placed. From the 16th century on, shelters and convents were also built, such as the Convent of São Boaventura, on Flores Island.

Simultaneously, and with a view to strengthen the defensive system during the Spanish rule, fortresses were built. Military architecture can also be seen in castles, as in the Castle of St. John the Baptist, on Terceira Island. This is the archipelago's most important fortress, since it was built during the Spanish rule as a defence strategy. Later on, with the end of the absolute monarchy, liberalism suffered some breakthroughs and some setbacks, which led to a liberal government whose seat was established in Angra. At that time, some important monuments were built, namely the Obelisk of Memory, on Terceira Island, which pays tribute to liberalism.

With regards to civil architecture, there are different types in the Azores, such as: windmills, which are more common on Graciosa Island, but are spread out a bit through all the islands, namely in Corvo; technological



facilities, namely the Whale Factory of Boqueirão, on Flores Island, the Old Whale Factory of Porto Pim, on Faial Island, and the Environmental and Cultural Information Centre of Corvo Island, which is located in the village's historic centre and which displays information on the way of living of Corvo's people.

As for public buildings, there are theatres, palaces and manor houses where historic figures have lived. It is the case of Casa das Tias, on Terceira island, where the writer Vitorino Nemésio acquired a taste for studying, reading and writing, as well as the House of Manuel de Arriaga, in the city of Horta, and several museums, namely the Museum of Whaling Industry, in Pico Island, and many others spread throughout the nine islands, telling a bit of the Azores history.

On some islands there are particularly interesting structures. On Graciosa Island, due to the lack of water, several examples of "water architecture" were built, as tanks, reservoirs, wells and fountains, along the rural paths. In fact, these constructions were powerful systems of water catchment and storage. On Corvo Island, there are the so-called Covas de Junça, which are underground constructions built to hide cereals from the pirates and corsairs who attacked the island frequently, as it was easy to access.

In Santa Maria, houses are especially interesting, as they are painted in white with colourful stripes, reminiscent of the houses in Algarve or Alentejo, which are in fact the regions from where the first settlers came. But the city of Angra do Heroísmo soon took on a particularly important role, since it was the first European Atlantic city to be developed in order to broaden its horizons during the Discoveries Era. In 1983 it was recognised as an UNESCO World Heritage Site, considering the city's development around its bay and especially its contribution to the discovery of the New World.

Similarly to the city of Angra, the Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture was also recognised as World Heritage Site, in 2004, stating the importance of the vineyard culture in the Azores. This heritage site displays fascinating rectangular plots, called currais, which are surrounded by man-made lava stone walls, built to protect the vineyards from wind and seawater.

The heritage of the Azores sends us back in time, in memory and in history, and has always left its mark in the Azorean people.

INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

Azorean people have a peculiar way of being and living due to the geographic and climate conditions of each island, in addition to volcanism, insularity and the influence of several settlers, who did all they could to adjust to these constraints. By doing so, they created a cultural identity which expresses itself through traditions, art, shows, social habits, rituals, religious manifestations and festivities, in which brass bands and folk dance groups are a mandatory presence. Azorean festivities and festivals are essentially characterised by lively evening gatherings, the streets full of people enjoying typical food and drinks, as well as live music concerts.

Among the main festivities, the Feast of Senhor Santo Cristo dos Milagres, on the island of São Miguel, is the largest religious feast in the region, followed by festivities of São João (Saint John), which take place all over the archipelago. Nevertheless, the festivities that take place on Terceira Island, the Sanjoaninas, are the most famous, being well-known for their parades in the main streets of Angra do Heroísmo.

On the other hand, natural disasters led Azoreans to cling to their faith in the Holy Spirit, which resulted in several religious festivities in its honour, but which have also gained a profane side. These festivities take place in a 7-week period and take different forms from island to island. At the centre of the Espírito Santo Festivities (Holy Spirit) there is a silver crown with a dove, a sceptre and a silver tray. In the same context, other manifestations appeared, such as the romarias (Lent pilgrimages). This old tradition of a group of men walking around the island in pilgrimage, praying all the way, exists only on São Miguel Island. The religiousness of Azoreans entails the need of materialising the existence of God and faith itself, which resulted in processions and ornamented streets and

balconies.

Azorean traditions, characterised by their festive and cheerful spirit, take several forms. The street bullfight tradition, which is especially important on Terceira Island, goes back to the islands' first settlers and the Spanish presence in the Azores. Carnival is another relevant tradition in the Azores, varying from island to island. There is typical season food and music and, on São Miguel Island, there are gala events. Carnival is also intensely celebrated in Graciosa and Terceira, where people of all ages dress, sing and dance vividly.

On Terceira Island, in particular, there are some typical dances, called bailinhos, which aim not only at entertaining the public, who is very enthusiastic about them, but also at engaging in political and social criticism through a theatrical performance. In Graciosa, traditional carnival balls take place all over the island, which is one of the liveliest and most recommended to spend this time of year, offering loads of music and fun.

Therefore, every tradition passes on from generation to generation, preserving the collective memory of the great intangible heritage of the Azores.





FOOD AND WINE

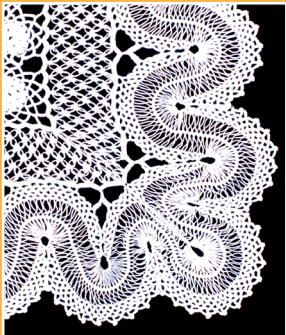
The Azores have been influenced by external factors since their settlement, in the 15th century. Therefore, the Azorean traditional cuisine is quite rich in flavours. Although some recipes share their name, each one is unique and special. The weather conditions of the Azores favour the growth of green pastures that feed the animals. Therefore, the archipelago offers excellent meat, particularly on the islands of São Miguel, Pico and Terceira, which is famous for its rump stew. In Santa Maria one can enjoy the well-known turnip broth with pork. Yams and homemade bread complete this recipe, whose flavour is so unique. The sea and its products are constantly present in Azorean cuisine. A great variety of fish gives origin to many delicious recipes, such as the famous fish broths and fish stews of Graciosa, Terceira and Pico, and the octopus cooked in red wine of Faial and São Miguel. Seafood is also very popular, namely the clams of Caldeira da Fajã de Santo Cristo, in São Jorge, or the limpets with special Afonso sauce, in Faial. Grilled limpets are also often requested, as well as slipper lobsters, spider crabs, crabs and whelks. On the other hand, the most common dish in the Azores is definitely the Espírito Santo soup (“Holy Spirit Soup”: bread and meat stock), which also varies from island to island. In São Miguel, the most famous dish is the Furnas stew, as its cooking is quite peculiar: the pot with meat and vegetables is buried into the ground, where they cook very slowly, for about six to seven hours, in the fumaroles existing in the Furnas lake area. There are several kinds of bread to eat with these delicious recipes, including sweetbread (massa sovada, bolos de véspera, bolos lêvedos) and cornbread. These also make a great snack, especially with delicious Azorean cheeses, such as the artisanal Flores cheese, Pico cheese and the

internationally renowned São Jorge cheese. Pastry is also an Azorean attraction, especially the Queijadas da Graciosa (small custard cakes typical of Graciosa Island), named after the island, and of Vila Franca, on São Miguel Island. Other famous sweets are typical from São Jorge, the so-called Espécies, and Terceira, the so-called Dona Amélia cakes, which celebrate the visit of Queen Dona Amélia to Terceira Island. These pastries are made of eggs and almonds, or of spices brought to the Azores through the sea routes of the East from the 16th century onwards. The sweet and juicy pineapple of São Miguel, the melon of Santa Maria and Graciosa, the coffee of Fajã dos Vimes and the tea of São Miguel, which are unique in Europe, are the perfect ending for a perfect meal. Both the weather and the respect for the naturally grown give a unique flavour to the Azorean products, namely quality certified jams and canned tuna, which is produced according to traditional methods. The wine culture, grown in lava stone fields, is also very important in the Azores and it is centred in three islands: Pico, Graciosa and Terceira. These wines are quality certified table wines, to be enjoyed with delicious Azorean dishes. But there are also high quality liqueurs, from which the verdelho wine produced in Pico and Terceira should be stressed. The Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a great example of the authenticity of the wine and vineyard culture in the Azores. In fact, currently there has been a tendency to value and use Azorean products in contemporary cuisine, reinventing and innovating old typical dishes and flavours.



HANDICRAFT

The settlers of the Azores, who came from several European regions, brought with them techniques, concepts and objects that they ended up combining with natural resources. This resulted in works made from the most diverse materials: fabric, pottery, vegetables, wood, metal, stone, bone, ivory, fish scales, glass and synthetic materials. Therefore, there are unique handicraft objects in the Azores, such as earthenware, fish scale objects (in which the scales are coloured and combined with other materials) and jewellery, in which lava stone is also used together with gold and diamonds.



The linen and cotton embroideries of Terceira and São Miguel islands also stand out, namely the symmetric pieces embroidered around the statue of Senhor Santo Cristo dos Milagres, patron saint of São Miguel Island, with coloured feathers, paper and silk. Santa Maria Island is famous for its handicraft made of red clay, wool, wicker and straw. On



Annual | Regular Festivities

Santa Maria Island
• Festivities of São João (Saint John) - June
• *Espírito Santo* Festivities (Holy Spirit) - June/August
• Maré de Agosto Music Festival - August

São Miguel Island
• Feast of Senhor Santo Cristo dos Milagres - May
• Feast of Corpus Christi and *Espírito Santo* Festivities (Holy Spirit) - May/June
• *Cavalhadas de São Pedro* (Saint Peter) - June
• *Espírito Santo* Festivities (Holy Spirit) - July
• Great Folklore Festival of Relva/ Atlantic Folklore Exhibition - July/ August

Terceira Island
• 1st and 2nd Offering - June
• *Sanjoaninas* - June
• Praia Festival - August
• International Folklore Festival - August
• Atlantic Gastronomy Fair - August
• Vineyard and Wine Festival of Biscoitos - September

Graciosa Island
• Procession of Our Lady of Guadeloupe - May
• *Espírito Santo* Festivities (Holy Spirit) - June
• Feast of Senhor Santo Cristo dos Milagres/Ilha Branca Music Festival - August

São Jorge Island
• *Espírito Santo* Festivities (Holy Spirit) - June
• *Festival Semana Cultural das Velas* - July
• *Festival de Julho* - July

Pico Island
• *Espírito Santo* Festivities (Holy Spirit) - May and June
• Cais Agosto Festival - July
• Santa Maria Madalena Festival - July
• Festival *Semana dos Baleeiros* - August
• Feast of *Bom Jesus Milagroso* - August
• *Vintage Feast* - September

Faial Island
• Celebration of *São João Baptista* (Saint John the Baptist) (at Caldeira) - June
• Festival *Semana do Mar* - August
• Nautical Parade of *Nossa Senhora da Guia* - August

Flores Island
• Holy Spirit Festivities - July
• Emigrant's Festival - July
• Festival *Cais das Poças* - August

Corvo Island
• *Espírito Santo* Festivities (Holy Spirit) - July
• Feast of the Sacred Family - July
• Feast of Our Lady of Miracles/ Windmill Festival - August

Visiting suggestions

Santa Maria Island
• *Tangible Heritage*
Community Library
Chapel of Our Lady of Fátima / Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes
Chapel of Our Lady of the Pillar
Convent of Saint Anthony
Convent of Saint Francis
Chapel of Our Lady of the Angels
Fortress of São Brás
Tile Ovens and Valverde Lime Kilns
Church of Saint Peter
Church of Our Lady of Assumption
Church of Our Lady of Purification – Santo Espírito
Church of Our Lady of Victories

Museum of Santa Maria
• *Food and Wine*
Santa Maria Handicraft Cooperative, C.R.L.
Loja Azul (AGROMARIENSECOOP)
• *Handicraft*
Santa Maria Handicraft Cooperative
Handicraft Workshop of Aida Bairos

São Miguel Island
• *Tangible Heritage*
Sant'Ana Palace
Coliseu Micaelense
Convent and Chapel of Our Lady of Hope
Fortress of São Brás
Church of St. Joseph
Mother Church of St. Sebastian
Senhora da Paz
Religious Art Museum - Igreja do Colégio
Maia Tobacco Museum
Ponta Delgada City Gates
• *Food and Wine*
Pineapple Plantation A. Arruda
Gorreana Tea Factory
Porto Formoso Tea Factory
Quinta do Jardimete
• *Handicraft*
Vieira Pottery Factory
Ribeira Chã Ethnographic Museum

Terceira Island
• *Tangible Heritage*
House of Vitorino Nemésio
Quinta do Martelo Ethnographic Centre
Angra do Heroísmo Historic Centre – World Heritage Site
Convent of São Gonçalo
Fortress of Saint John the Baptist
Cathedral
Church of St. Sebastian
Mother Church of Praia da Vitória
Terceira Island Agricultural Museum
Museum of Angra do Heroísmo
Carnival Museum
Ramo Grande Ethnographic Museum
Altars Ethnographic Museum
Angra do Heroísmo City Council
Palácio dos Capitães Gerais

• *Food and Wine*
Fruter
Quinta dos Açores
Biscoitos Wine Museum
Artisanal Cheese Factory – Queijo Vaquinha
Soterlac
• *Handicraft*
Açorbordados
Azulart
Bordados dos Açores
São Bento Pottery

Graciosa Island
• *Tangible Heritage*
Church of Our Lady of Light
Church of Our Lady of Guadeloupe
Church of St. Christ
Mother Church of Santa Cruz
Mother Church of São Mateus
Senhora da Ajuda
Fontes Windmill
Graciosa Museum
• *Food and Wine*
Wine cellar and Farmer's Cooperative of Graciosa Island
Terra do Conde Wine cellar
Pastry Factory *Queijadas da Graciosa*
• *Handicraft*
Associação de Artesãos da Ilha Graciosa (Handicraft association)

São Jorge Island
• *Tangible Heritage*
Chapel of Fajã de São João
Church of Urzelina or Old Tower
Church of Our Lady of Conception
Church of St. Barbara
Church of St. Catherine
Church of St. George
Church of Topo (Our Lady of the Rosary)
Urzelina Windmills
Religious Art Museum
• *Food and Wine*
Santa Catarina Canning Industry S.A. (tuna)
Uniqueijo – Agricultural and Dairy Cooperative of São Jorge, UCRL
Finisterra – Dairy Cooperative of Topo

• *Handicraft*
Handicraft Cooperative *Senhora da Encarnação*
Handicraft of Carminda e Alzira Nunes

Pico Island
• *Tangible Heritage*
Vineyard Landscape Information Centre
Fortress of St. Catherine
Ponta Rasa Windmill
Whaling Industry Museum
Whalers Museum
Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture: Criação Velha, Bandeiras and Santa Luzia
Diocesan Sanctuary of Senhor Bom Jesus Milagroso (São Mateus)

• *Food and Wine*
Wine Cooperative of Pico Island
Wine Museum
• *Handicraft*
Regional Handicraft School of Santo Amaro

Faial Island
• *Tangible Heritage*
House of Manuel de Arriaga
Dabney's House
Centro do Mar, old Whale Factory
Casa do Cantoneiro
Church of Our Lady of Anguish
Church of Our Lady of Conception
Mother Church of the Holy Saviour
Império dos Nobres
Marina de Horta
Horta's Regional Museum

the islands of Graciosa, Faial and Flores wicker work is also very typical, especially wicker baskets. Craftsmen from Faial Island also make wheat straw embroideries over black tulle, as well as they work fig kernels from a native Azorean fig tree. In Flores, it is typical to paint over a piece of pure silk. In São Jorge, there are the famous loom quilts made of colourful sheep wool. Pico Island presents a well-known whaling tradition, also known as scrimshaw, which consists of sculpting or carving whale bones and ivory. In the smallest island of the Azores, Corvo, wooden locks, which date back to medieval times, when corsairs and pirates would rob the houses, are the island's most typical handicraft object. There are still some farmer houses featuring these locks, which are becoming ever more popular among the island's visitors. As regards traditional costumes, capes, cloaks, and linen skirts and blouses stand out. Today, these costumes are only worn by ethnographic and folklore dance groups, which keep this art alive. In conclusion, the usefulness of handicraft pieces has gone into decline. Therefore, currently, these pieces are just a souvenir of past times, representing the Azorean culture and the commitment of craftsmen to creating completely unique pieces.

