

AZORES TRAILS

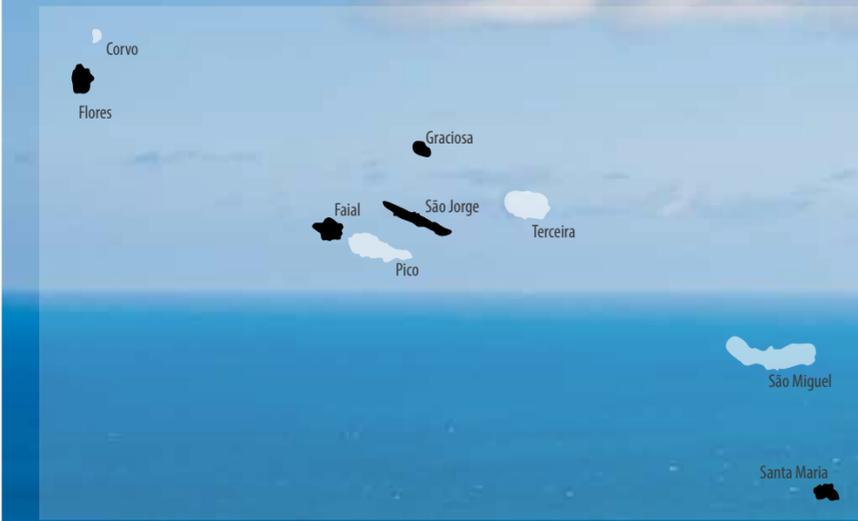
In the Azores, people have used footpaths in their daily life for centuries. Goods to be exchanged and people heading to festivities in neighboring villages have passed through them. This network of footpaths is being restored, allowing anyone to visit the most beautiful areas of each island, especially their impressive volcanic landscapes and mystical natural woods.

trails.visitazores.com



ETHICS AND SECURITY

- Carefully check the course map and additional instructions to see if a given trail is adequate for your physical condition.
- Check the weather forecast so you can better assess the conditions of a given trail.
- Inform someone of where you are going and what time you plan to return.
- Ensure that you have adequate clothing taking into account the weather and other conditions.
- On some trails, the mobile phone network may be intermittent or non-existent for most of the route. Please take this information into account if you plan to make any calls.
- Take plenty of drinking water. It is not safe to drink water from streams and ponds.
- Stay within the signaled track.
- Bring back with you all the trash and dispose of it in an appropriate container away from the trail.
- Do not collect bio/geological samples, and do not pick fruit from orchards. Do not disturb the cattle and close all the gates that you opened.
- Alert anyone that you come across to the hazards that you may have found.
- Contribute to the protection of the natural areas that you visit and help preserve their biodiversity through the conservation of these natural habitats.
- We recommend the local lodging and rural tourism for accommodation, in between stages, as wild camping is forbidden in the Azores.



CERTIFIED
AZORES
BY NATURE

[VISITAZORES.COM](https://visitazores.com)

LONG DISTANCE WALKING ROUTES
LONG LASTING ADVENTURES



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

GREAT ROUTE OF FLORES



This great route travels much of the beautiful coastal zone of Flores, classified as Biosphere Reserve. It begins in the eastern part of the island in the town of Santa Cruz and runs along the north coast, with the island of Corvo on the horizon, and part of the west coast, ending in the village of Lajedo. There are cobbled sections that may be slippery so caution is advised.

This route is divided into two stages. The first one covers 21 km, begins on the north side of the airport runway and stretches along the coast until reaching the village of Ponta

Delgada. The point Ponta das Barrosas, where you will find remnants of an old settlement, and the Luís Paulo Camacho Recreational Forest Reserve stand out along the way.

Stretching over 26 km, stage 2 passes through wooded areas that feature abundant endemic flora and Fajã Grande, an ideal spot for a swim, coming to an end in the center of the village of Lajedo. Along the way, you can see two of the island's most iconic tourism posters: the Poço da Alagoinha, a pond fed by several waterfalls, and the Rocha dos Bordões, a geological formation with huge vertical basaltic columns.



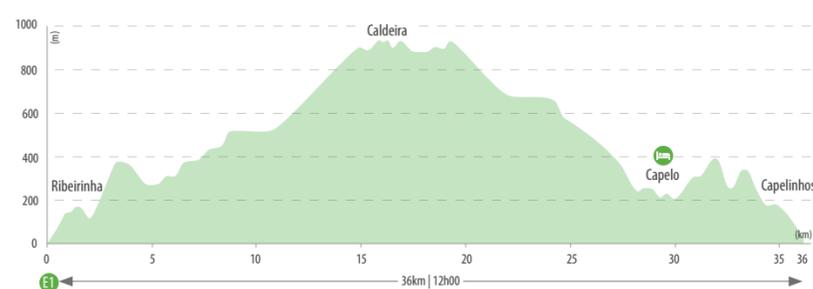
GREAT ROUTE OF FAIAL



This great route crosses the island of Faial from the east to the west coast and takes you back to the time when the island was formed, passing through volcanic cones, craters, caves and grottos, all of which are mysterious and typical places that you can find in Azorean landscapes.

This route begins at sea level at the point of Ribeirinha, where the first part of the island took shape about 800,000 years ago and rises up to 1,000 meters. It passes through the Caldeira do Faial, a 400-meter deep and 2-km wide crater of a dormant volcano, and returns to sea level, coming to an end

in what was one of the most important whaling stations of the Azores from 1940 to 1957, the Porto do Comprido. The last stage of this route goes across the Peninsula of Capelo, where there is a sequence of volcanic cones and one of the most famous geosites of the island, the Capelinhos volcano. The Capelinhos Interpretation Center, which won several prizes, allows the interpretation of the geologic features and preserves the memory of the volcanic event that took place in 1957/58, changing the geomorphology of the island.



GREAT ROUTE OF SÃO JORGE

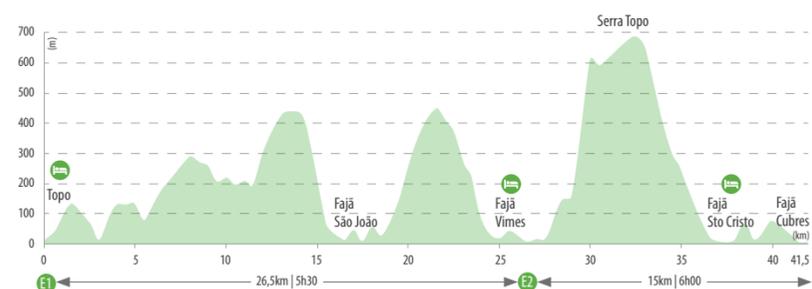


This linear great route connects Topo at the eastern end of the island and Fajã dos Cubres on the north coast. The route alternates between the interior plateau of the island and the emblematic fajãs (small, flat strips of land by the sea) and is divided into 2 stages.

Stage 1, covering 26.5 km, affords fantastic views over the islands of Pico and Faial. It starts next to the lighthouse in Ponta do Topo and ends at the recreational quay of Fajã dos Vimes. Along the way, you will pass by Fajã de São João, with its narrow streets and traditionally cobbled roads, and Fajã dos Vimes, where you can get acquainted with traditional handmade quilts and taste locally planted and brewed coffee. Stretching over 15 km, stage 2 connects Fajã dos

Vimes (south coast) and Fajã dos Cubres (north coast) and passes by the Santuário do Senhor Santo Cristo [Holy Christ Sanctuary] and by the Environmental Interpretation Center. Here you can visit the Caldeira de Santo Cristo Lagoon, which is listed as a Protected Landscape and a place of cultural and scenic interest. This stage ends next to the Igreja de Nossa Senhora de Lourdes [Church of Our Lady of Lourdes] in Fajã dos Cubres.

There are places where you can stay overnight (rural tourism establishments and hostels), since wild camping is not allowed. The Fajãs of São Jorge (70) are classified as Biosphere Reserves, because of the unique natural and cultural heritage in the Azores.



GREAT ROUTE OF SÃO GRACIOSA



This circular great route traverses much of Graciosa, classified as Biosphere Reserve for the environmental quality, alternating between coastal landscapes and volcanic ones in the interior of the island, and it is divided into 2 stages. The first one, covering 17.7 km, connects the area of Barra (Santa Cruz da Graciosa) and the village of Luz and allows you to admire the island's east and south coasts, especially the Nature Reserves

of the Islets of Praia and Baixo and the Furna do Enxofre, which is a 40-meter deep and 194-meter long volcanic cave.

The second stage, which connects the village of Luz to the starting point in Barra, stretches over 22.3 km. The Caldeirinha de Pêro Botelho, a 25-meter deep volcanic grotto, and the tracks left on the ground by old ox carts in the area of Fontes stand out in this stage.



GREAT ROUTE OF SANTA MARIA



This great route covers the whole island and passes through some areas of great geomorphological interest of the oldest island of the Azores (+/- 8 MY), allowing you to visit places with an incredible scenic, didactic and scientific beauty in the largest open-air fossiliferous deposit in the North Atlantic. The route is divided into 4 stages. The first one covers 16.5 km along the south coast of the island, connecting Vila do Porto and the rural area of Cardal. In this stage, you will be able to visit the Natural Monument of Figueiral and Prainha, as well as some geosites that showcase unique palaeontological and geological features, such as Pedreira do Campo and the Maloás Stream.

The second stage, connecting Cardal and Lugar do Norte, runs along the entire eastern coast of

the island, covering 21.5 km. In this stage, you will have the opportunity to visit the lighthouse of Gonçalo Velho and walk through the terraced vineyards of the Bay of São Lourenço.

The third stage, between Lugar do Norte and Lugar das Bananeiras, stretches over 16.6 km and unveils the interior of the island, passing through the highest point of Santa Maria, the Pico Alto, which sits at a height of 587 meters.

The fourth and final stage, covering 23.5 km, showcases the island's west coast, connecting Bananeiras and the historic center of Vila do Porto. During this stage, you will pass through the "Red Desert of the Azores" (Barreiro da Faneca) and Anjos, the first place of the archipelago where Portuguese navigators landed in the 15th century.

