

An aerial photograph of a scenic landscape. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills and a large, golden-brown field. A dense forest of green trees covers the middle ground, leading to a large, calm lake with a light greenish-blue hue. In the background, more green hills and mountains are visible under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the top portion of the image.

Things to do

São Miguel


The Dolphin & Whale connection





NATURE & WILDLIFE

GRUTA DO CARVÃO

Nestled in the western corner of Ponta Delgada city is the magnificent Gruta do Carvão, the grandest lava tunnel on São Miguel island. Stretching a whopping 1912 meters, this underground wonderland is split into three thrilling sections. It was classified as a Natural Monument of the Azores by the Regional Government in May 2005 and is a popular attraction. It can be a great rainy day activity, just make sure you call/email ahead to book!

 *R. do Paim, 9500-230 Ponta Delgada, Portugal*


 *Phone: 296284155 // 961397080*


 *E-mail: grutadocarvao@amigosdosacores.pt*


Min
Age: 7

GRENA WATERFALL & WILDLIFE PARK

Grená, the crown jewel of nature parks in the Azores! With cascading waterfalls, ancient trees, a mystical historic house nestled within, and panoramic vistas of Furnas Lake and hot springs, Grená stands tall as a top-tier natural wonderland in the Azores. It's now open for all to revel in nature's unspoiled beauty at its finest!

 *Lagoa das, 9675-045 Furnas, Portugal*


 *Tickets cost 10 EUROS (children under 5 go free)*


 *E-mail: info@parquegrena.pt*



POÇO AZUL TRAIL

If you have a free day to drive to the northern area of Sao Miguel then you can visit Poço Azul, here it is like entering another world. This clear-blue-water lagoon and its famous cave is a special landmark in São Miguel. There are even waterfalls and local towns to explore nearby if you fancy a spot of lunch!


 *Padrão Histórico de Alminhas, R. Direita 63 9630, Achadinha, Portugal*


 *There are 3 lengths of walk available from the above starting point, 1.3km, 4km or 5km options*

Your best chance to see the blue lagoon actually blue is to go on a sunny day.

JARDIM BOTANICO ANTONIO BORGES

Just a short walk from downtown Ponta Delgada lies the Jardim Antonio Borges, a botanical garden. This tranquil paradise in Sao Miguel welcomes visitors for free. Explore the vast grounds showcasing native plants, caves, and ponds. At the heart of it all, stands an ancient tree that seems right out of a fairy tale. With plenty of shade to offer, the Jardim Antonio Borges is a perfect retreat on a sunny Portuguese afternoon.

 *R. de São Joaquim 22, 9500-180 Ponta Delgada, Portugal*

 *Entry is free and there is a cafe within the gardens*







NATURE & WILDLIFE


PRIOLO ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Sao Miguel Island is the only habitat for the Azores Bullfinch (locally known Priolo). One of the most threatened birds in Europe and only found on the east of the island, this centre is dedicated to raising awareness and contributing to conservation. A great day out for nature and wildlife lovers, set in a beautiful location with knowledgeable guides and a chance to see these rare birds in their natural habitat.




 AM1038, 9630-186 Nordeste, Portugal


 <https://www.centropriolo.com/>

 Phone: +351 91 853 61 23

FURNAS MONITORING AND RESEARCH CENTRE

If you are heading over to Furnas and would like to know more about the fascinating geothermal volcanic history of the Azores then this research centre is worth a quick stop off. The entrance fee is 3€ – guided tours begin on the hour and last around thirty-minutes. Learn about the history and ongoing eco projects focused on conservation of this magical land. After your visit you can explore the lake and botanical gardens nearby.


 Rua da Lagoa das Furnas 1489, Furnas, Povoacao, Sao Miguel 9675-090, Portugal


 Phone: [+351 296 584 436](tel:+351296584436)



MOSTEIROS BEACH

To truly experience an Azorean beach, this particular one is a must-visit. Renowned as one of the most stunning sunset locations on the entire island, this black sand beach is also celebrated for its rugged charm, nestled among volcanic rocks and cliffs, making it an ideal destination for a leisurely afternoon with a picnic.

 R. da Areia 40, Mosteiros, Portugal


 Beware if planning to swim as this beach is on the Atlantic ocean, there can be riptides, currents and sometimes jellyfish




PONTA DA FERRARIA

Feeling adventurous? Take a drive to Ponta da Ferraria, home to a therapeutic hot water pool beloved by locals since the 15th century.

This unique pool is distinct as it sits in the ocean, warmed by an underwater volcanic vent current. Surrounded by striking cliffs and black volcanic rock formations, this free-to-visit spot offers a one-of-a-kind experience. Just a heads up, the road to Ferraria is not for the faint-hearted!

 Rua Ilha Sabrina, Ginetes, Portugal

 Best visited at quiet times as can get very busy






CULTURE


SANTUARIO DO SENHOR SANTO CRISTO DOS MILAGRES

You can visit the most important religious building in the Azores, still home to nuns of the order of Saint Francis. The exterior may look unassuming but do not be fooled, this church holds a treasure of religious art and craftsmanship.

Inside in the Ecce Homo image which is the centre of the religious festival Santo Cristo dos Milagres that transforms Ponta Delgada each year into an island full of festivity




 *Av. Roberto Ivens, 9500-238 Ponta Delgada, Portugal*


 <https://senhorsantocristo.com/>


PLANTACAO DE ANANAS DOS ACORES

The Azorean Pineapple Plantation is a delightful spot located just a few minutes from the centre of Ponta Delgada, on the island of São Miguel.

Here, you can explore the plantation and find out how the Azorean Pineapple is grown! A fascinating place for children and adults alike - here you will find Azorean Pineapple for sale as well some of the best local artisan products and crafts on display.

 *Rua das Laranjeiras 9500-317 Ponta Delgada*

 *Phone: +351 964 087 745*


 *E-mail: info@boafruta.pt*




GORREANA TEA PLANTATION

Did you know that the Gorreana Tea Factory in the Azores is like a time-traveling tea paradise? Since 1883, this family-run gem has been brewing up world class organic green and black teas thanks to the island's perfect conditions. As the only plantation in Europe tourists flock here to stroll through lush plantations and watch the magic happen with vintage British tea-making machines and a wealth of knowledge!

 *Plantações de Chá Gorreana, 9625-304 Maia*


 *Phone: +351 296 442 349*


 *E-mail: gorreanazores@gmail.com*



FORT OF SÃO BRÁS

Forte de São Brás in Ponta Delgada is a military fort by the sea, built in the 16th century and expanded in the 18-19th centuries. It houses the Azores Military Museum, showcasing WWII machinery, weapons, uniforms, and authentic tunnels. Visitors can explore the outside walls for free or pay a small fee to enter the museum for a historical experience.

 *São Brás Fortress, Avenida Infante Dom Henrique (Avenue), 9500-150 Ponta Delgada*

 *Phone: +351 296 308 634*


 *The Museum is open to the public from Mondays to Sundays, from 10:00am to 6:00pm, except for holidays.*





FOOD AND NIGHTLIFE

LAVA JAZZ

Crafted for jazz enthusiasts, embodying the concept of "Your Living Room away from home," this project was inspired by a passion for local artists and a desire to provide a luxurious experience for visitors. Featuring a resident jazz band, blues band, singer-songwriters, and more, this venue treats its guests to live music starting at 9:30 pm. Offering beverages and food, it's a delightful spot to unwind and enjoy an evening.

 *Av. Roberto Ivens, 9500-239 Ponta Delgada, Portugal*


 *Phone: +351 917 350 418*


 *website: lavajazzbar@atalhosdelava.com*




THE GIN LIBRARY

Welcome to The Gin Library situated within the Solar Branco Eco Estate, showcasing a collection of more than 1,400 gins, making it Europe's largest gin display. Explore a diverse selection of gins that rotate weekly, enjoy gin masterclasses, and tastings that feature Azorean, Portuguese, and premium British gins, all complemented with locally sourced garnishes.

 *The Solar Branco Eco Estate, 9500-604 Ponta Delgada, Portugal*


 *16+ only*


 *Phone: [+351 919 076 779](tel:+351919076779)*




A TASCA - RESTAURANT

If you would like to experience some traditional Azorean cuisine in a vibrant location then this tapas restaurant is for you. Take advantage of the local and fresh options available and try some of their special creations. Popular with locals and tourists alike, it is recommended to pre-book to ensure you get a table at this popular restaurant.

 *Rua do Aljube # 16, Ponta Delgada, São Miguel 9500-018 Portugal*


 *Phone: [+351 296 288 880](tel:+351296288880)*


 *€15-25 average meal*



MERCADO DA GRAÇA

If you enjoy exploring local Azorean produce then this farmers market is the place for you. The Azores is famous for many things, it's pineapple, cheeses and wines, amongst others. This local farmers market is the perfect place for foodies to pick up some souvenirs or sample local specialities. Best visited in the morning for the freshest produce!

 *R. do Mercado 15, 9500-349 Ponta Delgada, Portugal*

 *Closed on Sundays*

