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PORTUGAL HAS 7 REGIONS, WHICH MEANS THAT IT HAS A LOT TO VISIT AND DISCOVER, BUT THERE ARE MORE REASONS TO MAKE IT A GOOD CHOICE AND TO BE ON THE LIST OF TRIPS TO DO IN LIFE.

THE COUNTRY'S HISTORY AND CULTURE, gastronomy and wines, are among the main attractions, not to mention the beaches, surfing, golf, the varied landscapes and, above all, the Portuguese people, who are seen as affable, open and sincere. The awards from the World Travel Awards, which considered Portugal the World's Best Destination have confirmed the current trend, also acknowledged by many guides, travel writers, bloggers and the media from around the world specialising in travel and tourism. To travel around Portugal in safety, look for the Clean&Safe seal on

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If you need health care or need to take a COVID-19 test, you will find dedicated and professional assistance in Portugal. You can choose Portugal Health Passport or Portugal Travel Insurance.

Find out more at visitportugal.com.

Have a good stay!

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Minho

The vast green

*Mount of Santa Luzia
Viana do Castelo*

MARKED BY THE GREEN OF THE LAND AND THE BLUE OF THE SEA, MINHO IS A REGION RICH IN NATURAL LANDSCAPES, WHICH HAS KEPT PACE WITH MODERNITY, WITHOUT LOSING ANCESTRAL TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS.

REGION RICH IN TRADITIONS, where the profane and the religious give color to an ancestral culture, Minho is a witness of an attachment to life, joy and music. All this exuberance translates into folklore where vibrant colors swirl in joyful dances and where gold worked in filigree shines. This wealth is also revealed in the granite constructions and manor houses, where hospitality is the point of honor of a truly warm and welcoming people. Add to this a traditional cuisine with unmistakable flavors: try the green broth, the pica-no-chão rice, the sarrabulho, the barrosã steak, the sweet rice and many other delicacies.

VIANA DO CASTELO. With a strong connection to the sea, Viana is one of the most beautiful cities in the North. From the Mount of Santa Luzia, you can see the privileged geographical situation of the city, next to the sea and the mouth of the Lima River. This stunning view can be the starting point.

Walking through some of the streets in the historic center, you can easily reach Praça da República, the heart of the city. It is where the Misericórdia building and the fountain are located, as well as the old City Halls. Not far is the Cathedral or Mother Church.

Viana was enriched with emblazoned palaces, churches, convents and fountains, which constitute a heritage worth visiting. Known for its gold filigree, the city knew how to maintain its traditions, as can be seen in the Costumes Museum, the Municipal Museum or the Gil Eanes ship.

In the surroundings, you can take a stroll along the coastal or fluvial bike path, or on one of the many marked trails, as well as practice surfing, windsurfing, kitesurfing or bodyboarding on fine golden sand beaches. And jet-skiing, sailing, rowing or canoeing on the Lima River.



*Manor house
Viana do Castelo*



*Bom Jesus da Cruz Church
Barcelos*



Braga Cathedral



*Santa Barbara Gardens
Braga*



*Oliveira Square
Guimarães*



*Dukes Palace of Bragança
Guimarães*

BARCELOS. Crossing the old bridge over the Cávado River, we enter one of the most emblematic locations of Minho folk art, Barcelos. It is an ancient city, which started with the construction of the bridge, the wall (of which remains the Tower of Porta Nova), the Dukes Palace and the Mother Church. These are the monuments that constitute the historic center, which maintains a pleasant medieval environment, punctuated also by manors and historic houses, such as the Manor of Pinheiros or the House of Condestável.

A trip to Barcelos cannot do without the old Largo da Feira, today Campo da República, where the churches of Bom Jesus da Cruz and Nossa Senhora do Terço are located and where the largest handicraft fair in the country is held, every Thursday. If you miss the weekly fair, visit the Museum of Olaria (pottery) and the Centro de Artesanato de Barcelos (handicraft centre), where you will find the most representative article, the colorful Galo de Barcelos (a handpainted cock).

BRAGA. Administrative capital of the province that included Galicia and Minho, Braga is the beginning of one of the Ways of Saint James of Compostela. The Cathedral of Braga, the oldest in the country, was the largest religious reference in Portugal for centuries. The marked ecclesiastical action was reflected in the enrichment of the city, imposing the exuberant Baroque style. A good opportunity to get to know Braga is strolling through the Historic Center. Gardens, parks and manor houses from the 18th century complete the scenario, which gains a unique flavor in specialized kitchens, in traditional duck rice and cod. But Braga does not live only from the past. Its universities, spaces for large events, contemporary restaurants and lively bars envelop the streets in a youthful and vibrant aura. In the surroundings, we suggest the Route of the Marian Shrines and a visit to the unique Museum of Cordophones.

GUIMARÃES. Associated with the formation and identity of Portugal, the Historic Center of Guimarães, in the area that was within walls, was classified as World Heritage by UNESCO, based on the values of originality and authenticity with which it was recovered. The city still has a harmonious and well-preserved heritage set, which is shown in graceful iron balconies, granite balconies and porches, stately homes, arches connecting narrow streets, floor slabs smoothed by time, towers and cloisters.

It is there that you find the Padrão do Salado and the Church and Collegiate Church of Nossa Senhora da Oliveira, which houses the valuable Museum Alberto Sampaio. On the street of Santa Maria are the Convent of Santa Clara, Casa do Arco and other noble houses. Going up the Avenue Alberto Sampaio, you reach Paço, the Monument to D. Afonso Henriques, the Chapel of S. Miguel and, finally, the Castle, which dates back to the 10th century. Don't miss the Convento de S. Domingos Church, the Martins Sarmento Archaeological Museum and the Plataforma das Artes and the José de Guimarães International Arts Center. A little further from the center, it is worth visiting the Vila Flor Palace and Cultural Center and its hanging gardens. Reference also to the Baroque church of Nossa Senhora da Conceição and Santos Passos and to the Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora da Penha.





Alto Douro Wine Region

The Alto Douro cultural landscape combines the monumental nature of the Douro river valley, made of steep slopes and rugged soils, with the ancestral and continuous action of Man

SOME SAY IT IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE IN PORTUGAL. THE VINEYARDS THAT PRODUCE THE WORLD FAMOUS PORT WINE GROW ALONG THE GREAT DOURO VALLEY, RECOGNIZED AS A WORLD HERITAGE SITE.

ALTO DOURO VINHATEIRO is an area particularly representative of the landscape that characterizes the vast Douro Demarcated Region, the oldest regulated wine-growing region in the world. The cultural landscape of the Alto Douro combines the monumental nature of the Douro river valley, made of steep slopes and rugged soils, with the ancestral and continuous action of Man, adapting the space to his agricultural needs. Such intervention allowed to shape the valley in terraces and to transform those slopes into a unique and extremely beautiful landscape. Therefore, it is very worthwhile to immerse yourself in the natural, architectural and cultural heritage of the region.

THE IDEA IS TO DEPART FROM PORTO, where the Douro River flows, and discover the stunning region that extends to

the Côa Valley. You can do it in the style of “roadtrip” and go through some of the most beautiful roads in the North of the country or, if you prefer, take a tourist cruise. There are many ways to discover this cultural landscape, but none of them will leave you indifferent. Be sure to visit some of the century-old estates and spend the night in the wine-inspired hotels that exist along the valley.

FIRST SCALE: Peso da Régua. For the experience to be perfect, start by visiting the cellars in Vila Nova de Gaia, where Port wine ages, and participate in a tasting of this nectar, while enjoying the view punctuated by the old and typical rabelo boats. Arriving at Peso da Régua, visit the Douro Museum to discover another perspective of the culture of wine and the region. A must

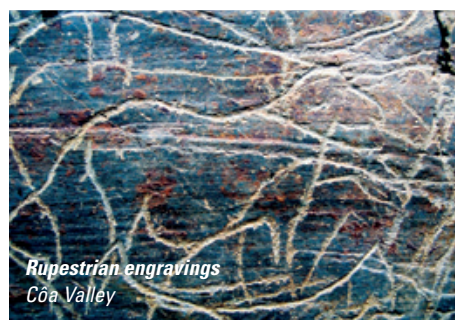




Peso da Régua



Vintage House
Pinhão



Rupestrian engravings
Côa Valley

stop in Peso da Régua is the Belvedere of São Leonardo in Galafura: the effort of the climb is highly rewarded by the view you can enjoy.

THE ROAD N222, which runs along the south bank of the Douro River, is rightly considered the “most beautiful road in the world” and is, in fact, charming, especially the section that connects Régua to Pinhão. So, do not miss the opportunity to visit it and let yourself be dazzled by the fascinating views to the terraces of the Douro. Considered the geographical center of the Douro Demarcated Region, it is in Pinhão that many of the producing farms are located, many with accommodation in the rural tourism modality. Noteworthy is the building of the Railway Station, built at the end of the 19th century, whose interior is

entirely covered with tile panels. One of the most beautiful stations in the country, it is one of the main points of interest.

OTHER PIT STOPS. There are many unmissable places, villages and towns in the Douro Valley region, but we leave some suggestions for visits. Located in the heart of Alto Douro Wine Region, the village of Provesende, in Sabrosa, is charming. The architecture of its granite manor houses and noble houses and its well-maintained rurality are worth a visit. As well as the small village of Pocinho, located in the municipality of Vila Nova de Foz Côa, where is one of the famous Douro dams; and São Xisto, a village located on the slopes of the Douro, in Vale de Figueira, municipality of São João da Pesqueira, adorned by traditional stone walls. With a very present religious culture,

we highlight the Chapel of São Xisto, the Belvedere Anjo Arrependido and the Fountain Centenária.

AS AN IMMENSE OUTDOOR GALLERY, the Côa Valley features over a thousand rocks with rupestrian manifestations, identified in more than 80 different sites, with Paleolithic engravings predominating, executed about 25,000 years ago. This magnificent outdoor complex, also classified as a World Heritage Site, can be enjoyed on visits organized by specialized guides. In the middle of the Archaeological Park, Quinta da Ervamoira is a complement to the visit of the engravings. Here you will find a museum that portrays the region and its ancestral customs, without forgetting the old bread cycle and the tradition in the production of Douro wines.



Rede Manor House
Mesão Frio



Buçaco Forest

Bairrada Tour

BETWEEN THE MAJESTIC FOREST OF BUÇACO AND THE THERMAL RESORTS OF LUSO AND CURIA, WE FIND A REGION THAT OFFERS US EVERYTHING TO TREAT OURSELVES WELL.

ON THIS TOUR TO BAIRRADA, we start with the beauty of the landscapes, whose highest exponent is Serra do Buçaco, a magical place, which in the 16th century was protected by papal decree and transformed into a monastic retreat, isolated from the rest of the world. Even today, scattered throughout the mountains, are the hermitages and chapels that form the Way of the Cross, and which can be visited following one of the trails to discover the National Forest. But there are other routes and guided tours that take us to visit centenary trees, such as the Caucasian Fir, Cedar-of-Buçaco or the redwood, and places that will remain in our memory, such as the Vale dos Fetos (Valley of the Ferns) or the Fonte Fria.

PALACE HOTEL DO BUÇACO.

Another unforgettable image will certainly be that of the Palace Hotel, which emerges from the leafy vegetation. In neo-Manueline style, the palace was built during the end of the 19th century for the last kings of Portugal, occupying part of the Convent of Santa Cruz, of which the cloisters and some cells still exist today. It is another enchanted place in this environment that invites you to romance and contact with nature.

LUSO THERMAL BATHS. Nearby, on the west side of the Serra do Buçaco, are the Luso Thermal Springs, whose source provides one of the most consumed table mineral waters in the country.



Curia Thermal Baths



Buçaco Palace

Buçaco Palace

The spa dates back to the end of the 19th century, although the therapeutic properties of the waters were already known a century earlier, and preserves the original buildings that, combined with an innovative spa, make it a privileged space for health and well-being.

The Grande Hotel of Luso is an emblematic hotel unit, which has been a privileged meeting point for 70 years. The building, designed by the architect Cassiano Branco, dominates the landscape of the village of Luso.

CURIA SPA. At about 15 kilometers, Thermal Baths of Curia rivals the offer of health and leisure. Here, one breathes a “Belle Époque” atmosphere, evoked by constructions from the first decades of the 20th century.

In addition to the thermal establishment, Curia is full of charming hotels, an artificial lake with about one kilometer of perimeter, a maintenance circuit, tennis courts and golf. Everything for a healthy life!

WINES AND GASTRONOMY.

In addition to the waters, wines and gastronomy give fame to the “Bairrada” region. Roast suckling pig is the most famous specialty and attracts a lot of people who travel on purpose to taste it.



Accompanying the piglet, the locally produced white, red or sparkling wines are the right choice. If you want to get to know them better, you can visit the museums dedicated to them, such as the Bairrada Wine Museum and the Aliança Underground Museum, or follow the Bairrada Route for tasting and shopping in the cellars of the producers.

THE ALIANÇA UNDERGROUND MUSEUM is an exhibition space that develops along the traditional cellars of the Aliança Vinhos de Portugal. With seven different collections, this museum equipment covers areas such as archeology, ethnography, mineralogy, paleontology, tiles and ceramics.



Buçaco Military Museum

The Military Museum of Buçaco was founded on September 27, 1910, at the time of the 1st Centenary of the Battle of Buçaco, in honor of the victory of the Anglo-Portuguese Army.

The building is located next to the Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Vitória e Almas, which during the period of the battle was used by the Barefoot Carmelite Friars of the nearby convent to host a blood hospital, where the wounded from the battle of both armies were assisted, without any distinction. Expanded and remodeled in 1962, the museum exhibits pieces of artillery, weaponry, equipment and uniforms related to the Peninsular Wars in general and the Battle of Buçaco in particular.



Luso Grand Hotel



Luso

Castelo de Vide

Jewish heritage

THROUGH TOWNS AND VILLAGES, WE SET OUT TO DISCOVER A HERITAGE RICH IN EVOCATIVE MEMORIES OF THE JEWISH PRESENCE IN PORTUGAL.

ALTHOUGH PREVIOUS REFERENCES ARE KNOWN, it was between the 5th and 15th centuries that the Sephardic Jewish community, or Jews from the Iberian Peninsula, settled in the territory that is today Portugal, contributing in the most diverse ways to Portuguese culture.

IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS.

Protected by monarchs, many of the members of this community, among whom were philosophers, humanists, scientists and merchants, but also more common professions such as shoemakers, tailors or weavers, actively participated in several important moments in Portuguese history. The moment of the foundation of the nationality and its contribution to the settlement of the territory and, later, the financial and scientific contributions during the Age of the Discoveries, stand out. Of note, the great mathematician and cosmographer of the

16th century, Pedro Nunes, creator of the nonius, a navigation instrument.

MULTIPLE TRACE ELEMNETS.

In 1496, the Edict of Expulsion of the Jews forced them to convert to Catholicism, making them new Christians. Many ended up leaving the country for fear of retaliation from the Inquisition, but many others stayed and kept their faith secret, giving rise to the so-called Marranos or crypto-Jews. The marks and symbolic inscriptions of those times can still be seen sculpted in the houses of the old Jewry, whose traces are preserved in places like Óbidos, Tomar, Trancoso, Belmonte, Guarda or Castelo de Vide. Rua Nova, Rua Direita, Rua da Estrela or Espinosa are examples of names that indicate the existence of a Jewish place. Looking at the houses, we will see on the ground floor a wide door to access the store and a narrower one, at the entrance to the house,





Synagogue
Óbidos



Synagogue
Belmonte



Jewry
Belmonte

located on the upper floor. They are proof of the important impulse that the Jews gave to the commercial activity. In some, you can still see the “Mezuzah” slot, a piece of parchment paper with words from the Bible, which in the Jewish faith was placed on the right side of the door frame.

ROUTE OF JEWRIES. With legal existence in Portugal since 1912, the Jewish community currently has synagogues in Lisbon, Porto, Trancoso and Belmonte. And there are several museums on the Jewish presence in our country, as in Castelo de Vide, Belmonte, Faro or Tomar, the latter installed in an old synagogue from the 15th century.

We can easily discover Jewish history in Portugal by following the Route of Jewries, a testimony of the meeting of peoples and cultures that we are proud to preserve. In addition to written documentation, ways and customs, the Jewries, synagogues, funerary tombstones and religious symbols are basic elements of the Jewish material heritage.

TRANCOSO. The presence of the Jewish community in Trancoso predates the reign of D. Pedro I. In the 15th century, the Jewish population grew and became more numerous than the community of Guarda. The same is confirmed by the need that the Jews had to expand the synagogue in 1481, during the reign of D. João II. Currently, Trancoso has the Isaac Cardoso

Jewish Interpretation Center, opened in October 2012 and located in the former Jewish quarter. Its name honors the Jewish doctor born in town in the beginning of the 17th century and its mission is to preserve the region’s Jewish legacy. The center includes exhibition rooms, a memorial for the victims of the Inquisition and a synagogue called Beit Mayim Hayim - Casa das Águas Vivas.

BELMONTE JEWISH COMMUNITY. For centuries, Belmonte’s “Marranos” have kept their traditions almost intact, becoming a paradigmatic case of the crypto-Jewish community. Only in the 1970s did the community establish contact with the Jews of Israel and make Judaism official as their religion. In 2005, the Jewish Museum of Belmonte was inaugurated in the city, the first of its kind in Portugal, which shows the traditions and everyday life of this community.

LUSO-HEBREW MUSEUM by Abraham Zacuto. With a very discreet facade, like almost all Jewish temples in the Christian world, the interior of the small synagogue in Tomar - which houses the museum - is a surprise. The ceiling is supported by 4 columns that represent the mothers of Israel: Sara, Raquel, Rebeca and Lea. Between the columns, 12 arches are connected, symbol of 12 tribes of Israel. The temple was ordered to be erected by Infante D. Henrique, to whom the Jewish community financed part of the work of the Discoveries.

Created in 1939, Abraham Zacuto’s Luso-Hebrew Museum presents an important collection of tombstones, from various parts of the country. Noteworthy are the funerary tombstone, from Faro, alluding to the death of Rab Ioseph of Tomar, in 1315, and the tombstone of 1308 that marked the foundation of the second Synagogue in Lisbon.



Isaac Cardoso Jewish Interpretation Center

For the love stories that are told there and for the medieval environment, Óbidos is an inspiring suggestion for a romantic or simply peaceful weekend

Enchanted Óbidos

ITS CASTLE, FLOWERED BALCONIES, THE SIDEWALK, THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE SINGLE-STOREY HOUSES AND THE SWEET AND ARTISTIC CHOCOLATES ARE CONSTANT INSPIRATION FOR ARTISTS AND LOVERS.

MEDIEVAL VILLAGE OF ÓBIDOS

is one of the most picturesque and best preserved in Portugal. Sufficiently close to the capital and situated on a high point, close to the Atlantic coast, Óbidos has already had great strategic importance. Within walls, we find a well-kept castle and a maze of streets and white houses, which enchant those who stroll around. Among Manueline porticoes, flowered windows and small squares, there are several reasons to visit, good examples of the religious and civil architecture of the golden times of the village. Any time is a good time to visit Óbidos. For the love stories that are told there and for the medieval environment, it is an inspiring suggestion for a romantic or simply peaceful weekend.

TO VISIT. The Great Church of Santa Maria, the Church of Misericórdia, the Church de São Pedro, the Pelourinho and, outside the walls, the aqueduct and the round plan Aqueduct and the Sanctuary of Senhor Jesus da Pedra, are some of the monuments that justify an attentive visit. As well as the Municipal Museum, where works by Josefa de Óbidos can be found. In the 17th century, she was a reference painter and a woman with an irreverent artistic attitude for her time. Then, stroll the castle walls from one end to the other, enjoy the roofs and porches of the white houses that have been protected there for centuries and feel like in the time of kings and queens.





RECREATION. In local gastronomy, the fish stew of the Óbidos lagoon stands out, even better if accompanied by wines from the Western Demarcated Region. Finish with a local dessert, the Moura pastries or the trouxas de ovos. Another attraction is the famous ginjinha, which can be enjoyed in several places, preferably in a small cup of chocolate.

Throughout the year, a vast program of events brings a lot of entertainment to this small town, but the most popular are, without a doubt, the International Chocolate Festival, the Medieval Market and Vila Natal (Christmas Village). Mention should also be made of the Seasons of Classical Baroque Music, of Harpsichord and the Opera Festival, which grant a special atmosphere to Óbidos, with open-air performances on hot summer nights.

INVOLVING AREA. The village is surrounded by an extensive rural area, close to beautiful beaches. Fifteen minutes away you will find Peniche, but Nazaré and São Martinho do Porto are also nearby. If you like cycling or walking, it is possible to go from Bom Sucesso beach to Vila de Óbidos by the Várzea da Rainha eco-route. If you enjoy birds, the walking path of Patos Reais will enchant you. If you prefer to walk through history, follow the path of the Ninho da Cegonha. Golf fans also have one of the best references in Europe in this destination.

Passing the city of Caldas da Rainha, there is the Foz do Arelho beach, a good place for a lunch of seafood and fresh fish or for a sunset by the sea.

FOZ DO ARELHO. At the confluence of the Óbidos lagoon with the sea, Foz do Arelho offers the possibility to choose between two different types of beach. On one side, the lagoon, a place of great beauty, ideal for children, due to the calm waters, but also for the practice of nautical activities, such as sailing, canoeing, stand up paddle, windsurfing and kitesurfing, as well as for the harvest

of bivalve molluscs. On the other side, the beach open to the sea, beaten and without great currents, offers excellent conditions for surfing and has a Blue Flag, confirming the quality of its waters. In addition to the beach, another of the main attractions of Foz do Arelho is the night time, when the town becomes one of the main nightlife spots in the West, especially in the summer. Around the lagoon, you will also find Covões beach (wild), Beach d'El Rei (surrounded by luxury real estate developments) and Bom Sucesso beach, ideal for those who like peace and quiet.



Foz do Arelho

Palácio da Vila

Magical Sintra

HERITAGE AND BEAUTY. Sintra is a charming and romantic city, offering a wonderful getaway, just 30 kilometers from the capital. It has a castle from the time of the Moors, stunning palaces and other great residences, all located in the center of the magnificent scenery of the Sintra-Cascais Natural Park. Elected as a summer resort by wealthy kings, nobles and bourgeois, Sintra preserves a remarkable architectural heritage that, due to the way it harmonizes with nature, led UNESCO to classify it as a World Heritage Site in the category of Cultural Landscape.

THE HISTORICAL CENTER is the starting point. In front of the Square Rainha Dona Amélia, stands the National Palace,

SINTRA IS A PLACE FULL OF MAGIC AND MYSTERY, WHERE NATURE AND MAN HAVE COME TOGETHER IN SUCH A PERFECT SYMBIOSIS THAT UNESCO HAS CLASSIFIED IT AS A WORLD HERITAGE SITE.

better known as Palácio da Vila, with its conical chimneys, so characteristic that they will serve as a compass to return to this meeting point. Dating from the end of the 14th century, it was the summer resort of many kings throughout the history of Portugal and its interior is an authentic tile museum. Then, we suggest a random walk through the narrow alleys and the stores selling regional products, where you will find souvenirs, handicrafts, liquors, wines and much more. It is a must to enter one of the pastries to taste the famous queijadas and

travesseiros, sweet specialties of choice for a moment of pure delight.

QUINTA DA REGALEIRA AND SETEAIS. Very close to the center, Quinta Regaleira is one of the most enigmatic places in Sintra. It is an extravagant neo-Gothic mansion from the 19th century, which was built by the richest man in Portugal at the time. The main attraction is the sophisticated gardens, with an elaborate tunnel system. Hidden throughout the property are secret religious symbols, hidden gardens and other



Quinta da Regaleira



Initiatic well
Quinta da Regaleira



Castle of the Moors



Monserrate Palace



Cabo da Roca

mysterious objects. A special highlight is the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, which allows you to go down to the crypt, and the monumental initiatic well, with a spiral staircase, which leads the visitor through a cave to an amazing lake in the middle of the gardens. Very close to Regaleira is Seteais, an 18th century palace that has now been converted into a hotel. It is worth visiting the gardens and going to the viewpoint, from where you can see the Pena Palace, the Moorish Castle and the sea in the distance...

A little further on, following the winding road, you will find one of the most beautiful architectural and landscape creations of Romanticism in Portugal: the Monserrate Park and Palace, unique testimonies of the 19th century eclecticism. The Palace combines Gothic, Indian and Moorish influences, as well as exotic and vegetal motifs that extend harmoniously abroad.

FROM THE MOUROS CASTLE TO THE PALACE OF PENNA. Before

entering the botanical refuge of Parque da Pena, 200 hectares that surround the palace, go through the Chalet of Condessa D'Edla and go up to the Palace that Richard Strauss nicknamed "Castle of the Holy Grail", it is mandatory to pass by the Castle of the Moors. It is a testament to the Islamic presence in the region, built between the 8th and 9th centuries and expanded after the Reconquest. Located in the middle of the forest, it offers visitors breathtaking views of the region.

Above, there is one of the most romantic palaces in Portugal, that of Pena, a fanciful and revivalist reconstruction to the taste of nineteenth-century romanticism, built by the king-consort D. Fernando II, husband of Queen D. Maria II.

SINTRA-CASCAIS NATURAL PARK. At the westernmost point of the European Continent, which the ancients believed to be the place "where the land ends and the sea begins", Cabo da Roca is one of the most spectacular places in the Sintra-Cascais Natural Park. Its vertical cliffs rise approximately 100 meters above the ocean, providing magnificent landscapes. Beach Praia Grande is one of many that follow on the Park's waterfront, such as Guincho, Adraga, Samarra or Praia das Maças, where you can find good conditions for windsurfing, surfing and bodyboarding or, simply, for some leisure moments by the sea. Inland, to the north of the mountain range, there is a rural area with small villages in which the landscape is marked by dry stone walls, which delimit the agricultural fields, protecting them from sea winds, and where the famous Colares wine is still produced.



Pena Palace



Alentejo

As far as the eye can see

IN THE NORTH, HORSES GRAZE IN THE FLATLAND; IN THE VAST INTERIOR, THE IMMENSE PLAIN, BLOND CORNFLOWERS WAVING IN THE WIND; ON THE COAST, WILD BEACHES, OF A ROUGH AND UNEXPLORED BEAUTY. IT'S THE ALENTEJO!

PLAINS FAR OUT OF SIGHT START TO UNFOLD NEXT TO THE TAGUS. The amplitude of the landscape is intersected by cork oaks or olive trees that resist time. Here and there, you'll find a town defended by walls, such as Marvão and Mansaraz, or the antiquity of a cromeleque to remember the magic of the place. In the hills, single-storey and white houses crown small elevations, the castles evoke struggles and conquests, while the patios and gardens attest to Arab influences. From the Alqueva basin, which forever shaped the face of the region, to the coast of high and steep cliffs, which hide almost deserted beaches, Alentejo lives with the rhythm of the land. In fact, the strength of the land marks the time and cities like Elvas, classified as World Heritage by UNESCO, show the tenacity of the people. Perhaps for this reason, culture and spirituality gain a particular character here.

ÉVORA IS A PORTUGUESE ART HISTORY BOOK. The best way to visit the city is on foot, walking through the narrow streets, with white houses, to discover the monuments and details that reveal the history of Évora and the richness of its heritage. For its peaceful and welcoming environment, it will be easy to see why this city, which originated in Roman times, was chosen by the kings of Portugal in the 15th century to live, a fact that contributed to the development and cultural importance that it had in the following centuries. In fact, it was its long history and the fact that a representative urban complex from the 16th to the 18th centuries was preserved that led UNESCO to classify Évora as a World Heritage Site. To start, Praça do Giraldo: it is the heart of the city and an excellent meeting point, with cafes, terraces, shops and the tourism office. At one end, there is the Santo Antão Church and the marble fountain with 8 spouts, representing the 8 streets that lead there.



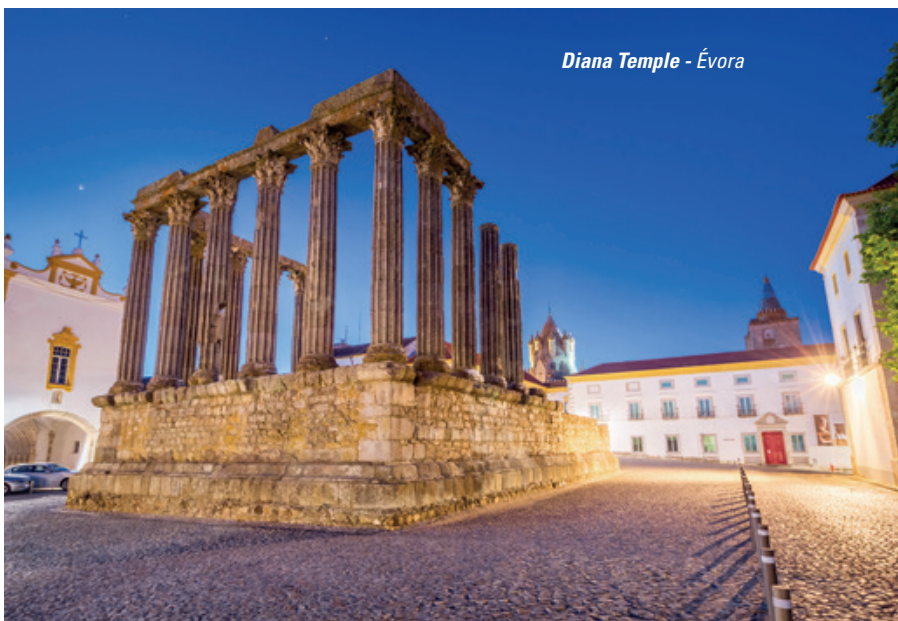
Amoreira
Elvas



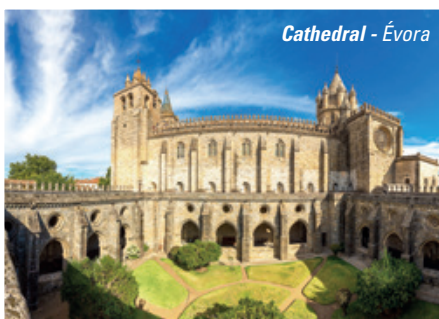


A surprise of flavors

Creativity and imagination in the use of very simple ingredients made Alentejo gastronomy a surprise of flavors and a proof of Alentejo hospitality. It is one of the tastiest cuisines in Portugal, in a gentle combination with aromatic herbs. Regional delicacies are immense and unavoidable. You will be able to try scrambled eggs with wild asparagus, greaves, migas, gazpacho, dogfish, cod or tomato soup with sausage, Alentejo açorda and the most varied pork specialties.



Diana Temple - Évora



Cathedral - Évora



Xerez Cromlech

THEN ADMIRE THE DIANA TEMPLE and the Roman baths, the medieval walls, the Cathedral, the Church of Graça and the Church of São Francisco, with its curious Chapel of Bones. If you have time, be sure to include the Évora Museum, the Eugénio de Almeida Foundation, and the old University, founded in the 16th century. It is also worth strolling through the romantic garden where the D. Manuel Palace is located and visiting the Chapel of São Brás, already outside the walls.

Outside the city, it is best to follow the secondary roads to enjoy the Alentejo landscape. If you like archeology, take the road EN114, towards Guadalupe and discover, 3 km away, the Almendres Cromlech, the largest in the Iberian Peninsula. There are 95 monoliths, thousands of years old and with a purpose yet to be unraveled.

RELAX IN ALQUEVA. To spend a few days relaxing and in good company, the large lake that became the Alqueva reservoir, over the Guadiana river, is the perfect excuse to relax.

There are hundreds of kilometers of coastline in the largest man-made reservoir in Europe. You can go water skiing, sailing, sleep on a boat or simply watch the stars, without the hassle of city lights. Since the place has

been recognized as a preferred place for observing the sky, the surrounding municipalities have come together to preserve this special feature and, therefore, at night, the public lights are turned down to a minimum, to enable a better use of this phenomenon of nature.

MONSARAZ ENCHANTS AND SURPRISES. The reservoir covers five regions: Portel, Moura, Reguengos de Monsaraz, Mourão and Alandroal. In all of them there are villages that are worth a visit. Be sure to go to the new Aldeia da Luz, the only village submerged by the waters of the dam

that had to be literally moved. Monsaraz is also a must. A preserved medieval village-museum, with walls and schist streets that enchants and surprises. Very close, in the Convent of Orada area, the square shaped Cromeleque of Xerez is a must visit. In Reguengos de Monsaraz, don't miss the Great Church of Santo António and the Homestead Herdade do Esporão. In an instant we arrived in the North of Alentejo to discover a haven of wide horizons and hospitable people, in the Natural Park of São Mamede. On a first visit, we suggest a car tour with stops in three essential places: Portalegre, Castelo de Vide and Marvão.



Monsaraz



Portalegre

WITH A LONG HISTORY, Portalegre was a prosperous and rich city in the 17th and 18th centuries, due to investment in the textile industry and is still known today for this tradition. Therefore, you should visit the Museum of Tapestries of the Manufacture of Portalegre, installed in an old noble manor. Tapestries are pieces of great value executed using a hand loom technique that allows to perfectly reproduce the gradations and shades of a painting or drawing. As we stroll through the city, we see many palaces and monuments that recall golden times: like the castle of medieval origin; the Cathedral, where you can admire a unique set of Portuguese painting from the 16th and 17th centuries and tile panels with biblical scenes; or the House Museum José Régio, where this poet lived, also a passionate collector of pieces of sacred and popular art. Before traveling on, visit the Church of the Convent of São Francisco, an area integrated in the area of the former Robinson Cork Factory, which is very important for the development of the city. Very close, 15 km away is Pico de São Mamede, the highest point of the Natural Park. If you have time, it is worth going to Alegrete, a traditional Alentejo village with white houses, between walls.

CLIMBING UP TO MARVÃO. This medieval town, protected by walls, is one of the treasures of our country. Marvão makes itself known in the narrow streets and pictur-



Marvão

esque corners, in the Manueline Pelourinho, in the Gothic windows and on the wrought iron balconies. We can visit the small Gothic convent of Senhora da Estrela and the churches of Santiago, Espírito Santo and Santa Maria. In the latter, where the Municipal Museum is installed, we can learn more about the history of this locality. Since it was conquered by Christians in 1116, until the Restoration of Independence wars between Portugal and Spain, in 1640, it came to be considered the "most unconquerable stronghold of the entire kingdom". But today it is a place of peace and quiet.

WHEN WE ARRIVE AT CASTELO DE VIDE we are surprised by the castle surrounded by white houses that stand out in the landscape. But the biggest surprise is inside the village, where we find one of the best preserved Jewish houses in Portugal. We easily let ourselves be enchanted by the charm of the medieval setting. We visited the old synagogue, now a museum, and strolled through the maze of streets, where we learned to see the Jewish presence in the names of the streets and the signs of the worship of Hebrew generations on the granite doors. After going up to the Castle, we return to the center where we enter the Great Church of Santa Maria. Here a part of the Easter ceremonies takes place where the two beliefs, Christian and Jewish, are mixed. There is still



Wine Route

Wine region of great tradition, the Alentejo has wines that are surprising for their excellence, aromas and colors, as unique as the landscape and the gastronomy itself. In addition to the Alentejo Regional Wine, which is found throughout the region, wine producers are distributed in 8 areas of Controlled Denomination of Origin - Portalegre, Borba, Redondo, Reguengos, Vidigueira, Évora, Granja / Amareleja and Moura, that allows a variety of choice anywhere in the Alentejo.

time to enjoy the fresh water in the sources you find along the way, well known for its thermal properties.

THE SÃO MAMEDE NATURAL PARK is a place of great biodiversity, where you can find wild boars, foxes, rabbits, badgers, wild cats and rare birds, such as Bonelli's eagles, the symbol of this protected area, griffins, hawks, eagles, cow-owls and wild owls. The landscape is very rich from a geological point of view and nature expresses itself in a very particular way in the imposing formations of quartzite rocks that attract attention. Whoever can, will enjoy this special environment on a walk or on a mountain bike route, choosing one of the marked routes.



Castelo de Vide



Porto Covo

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ORGANIZAÇÃO



PARCEIRO ESTRATÉGICO



Arrifana beach

Costa Vicentina

ALONG THE COSTA VICENTINA, THE OCEAN ACCOMPANIES US BETWEEN THE JAGGED CLIFFS AND SOMETIMES WE ARE PRESENTED WITH FIELDS OF WILD FLOWERS THAT SEEM TO HAVE NO END.

WILD NATURE. Called Costa Vicentina, the coastline between Odeceixe and Burgau is a different Algarve, where the preserved nature has a strong and wild character, which translates into landscapes of enormous magnificence. This area is part of the Natural Park which starts further north, in the southwest of the Alentejo, and which constitutes the largest extension of the Portuguese coast subject to protection. The beaches follow one another, sometimes with extensive sands as far as the eye can see, sometimes smaller and framed by grandiose cliffs of shale and limestone. The rough sea produces a natural symphony, which serves as the soundtrack for this tour.

STARTING POINT. Departing from Odeceixe, a beach that develops on both sides of a stream, providing sea and river baths, you will find little frequented sands, some almost desert, with little known access, such as Adegas beach, reserved for the practice of naturism. Vale dos Homens, Carriagem, Amoreira and Monte Clérigo are other beaches to discover among cliffs covered with vegetation, which here and there offer fabulous panoramas on this rugged coast.

ALJEZUR. Built in the 10th century, the castle of Aljezur, the last to be taken from the Moors, offers us other views of the white houses of the small village, the fields and the mountains of Monchique in the distance. Walking around the municipality is an opportunity to regain tranquility and rediscover silence, cut by birdsong or waves hitting rocks.

Here sweet potato is famous, which stands out in regional gastronomy, although the main place is occupied by seafood and very fresh fish, like barnacles, limpets, mussels, sea bream and sea bass, which are delicious grilled with just a little salt.



Amado beach



Odeceixe



Beliche beach

TOWARDS SOUTH. Continuing down, the landscape is marked by Pedra da Agulha, an imposing rock that rises in the middle of the sea. You can see the beaches of Arrifana, Vale Figueiras and Bordeira, which have good conditions for surfing and bodyboarding. But the surfers' favorite is Amado beach, the scene of several national and international competitions, with several schools of these modalities.

Everywhere, fields of brightly colored flowers surround little roads that lead us to peaceful beaches. Like those of Barriga, Cordoama and Castelejo, whose sands are connected at low tide, forming a long stretch of golden sand, contrasting with the large black schist rocks that limit them.



São Vicente

MORE TOWARDS THE INTERIOR is Vila do Bispo, with its parish church covered with tiles up to the ceiling. A road takes us to Cabo de São Vicente and the Promontory of Sagres, the southwestern tip of the European continent, which seems to advance over the ocean and which, in the Middle Ages, was thought to be the "end of the world". The fabulous views over the immense sea will dazzle us.

On the south-facing coast, other beaches with great conditions for water sports are waiting for you. In addition to surfing and windsurfing, this whole area that includes the beaches of Beliche, Tonel, Mareta, Martinhal, Ingrina and Zavial is ideal for diving and exploring submerged caves and rocky recesses full of marine life. In Salema and also in Burgau, already within the limits of the Natural Park, we find other picturesque beaches, where the long fishing tradition is still very present.

Southwest Alentejo and Costa Vicentina Natural Park

Stretching along more than 100 km of coastline, from Porto Covo, in the Alentejo, to Burgau, in the Algarve, the Southwest Alentejo and Costa Vicentina Natural Park is the best preserved section of European coastline, with various species of fauna and unique flora, which is why it is visited by many zoologists and botanists from all over the world.

The landscape is marked by steep cliffs, represented in the symbol of the Park, to which the erosion of times has given various shapes and colors. Here, many species of birds can be seen, especially the white storks, as this is the only place in the world where they nest on the sea cliffs. Another rarity is otters, being the only place in Portugal and one of the last in Europe, where it is possible to find them in marine habitat.



Ria Formosa



HUMID ZONE OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE, the Ria Formosa Natural Park is a maze of canals, islands, marshes and sandbanks, which stretches along 60 km of the Algarve coast. Its diversity of ecosystems attracts a varied fauna that includes numerous species of birds.

TO START THE VISIT, it is best to go to those who know. The Environmental Education Centers provide information about the species that can be seen and the hiking trails recommended to fully enjoy the landscapes, always with respect for nature. The Park also organizes tours in a traditional boat formerly used for tuna fishing. And in these mazes of canals there is much to admire. From the greens of the vegetation that harmonize with the blues of the waters and contrast with the whiteness of the salt flats, to the pink tones of the flamingos' feathers, there are many reasons for dream photographs.

In addition to fishing, the extraction of salt and the harvesting of molluscs and bivalves are the traditional activities of the people of the Ria, who with wisdom and art have created delicious gastronomic specialties

THE MOST IMPORTANT WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IN THE ALGARVE, RIA FORMOSA, ALONGSIDE SAPAL DE CASTRO MARIM AND VILA REAL DE SANTO ANTÓNIO, THE WETLAND AREA OF THE GUADIANA RIVER, ARE PROTECTED AREAS TO DISCOVER ON FOOT OR BY BOAT.

IN THE LONG SAND STRING

that separates the Ria Formosa from the sea, there are stunning, almost deserted beaches, although the Natural Park, which stretches between the Ancão peninsula and the Manta Rota beach, is frequented by about 1500 species of living beings. One of the rarest is the sultan hen, with its showy plumage, symbol of the Natural

Park, which is not found anywhere else in the country.

Also the kingfisher, the chameleon that takes on the colors of the places where it passes by or the fuzzy Portuguese water dog are some of the usual "residents". This is a breed of long-haired dogs that helped fishermen in their work, diving and catching the fish that got stuck in nets.





Cacela Velha



Sultanas Hen

BUT IN THIS FAUNA AND FLORA PRESERVATION OASIS

there is also a wide variety of molluscs that foster one of the main economic activities in the region, and give rise to gastronomic specialties that will delight you, such as razor clam rice, or oysters and mussels.

In order to have a perspective on this area and its dimension it is necessary to look for high points such as the fortress of Cacela Velha, a village of Arab origin that is worth visiting.

AND LOOKING EAST, you almost glimpse the Marshland of Castro Marim and Vila Real de Santo António, the first Nature

Reserve created in our country. This area of salt pans, pastures and marshes, has the limits of both locations and extends along the Guadiana River.

In addition to the walking trails, you can observe it from the castle of Castro Marim, for a comprehensive view, or by boat, for a more relaxing experience. Along the bank, frogs, toads, newts and geckos are discovered; and in the skies, crossing the horizon, it is the white stork, the long leg and the heron that capture all the attention. And there is also a dry area with agricultural spots, where cereals are grown, and plantations of almond, fig, carob and olive trees. Lots to know amid features of resplendent nature!



*Salt pans
Castro Marim*

Com uma localização privilegiada no centro do Algarve, entre Vilamoura e Albufeira e apenas a 300m da praia, o Balaia Golf Village impõe-se pelo seu estilo, distinção e conforto. Perfeitamente integrados em vastos e cuidados jardins, destacam-se 6 complexos de piscinas, que incluem as exclusivas para crianças, uma piscina exterior aquecida. Ainda a realçar os 4 campos de ténis com profissional residente, um parque infantil e um health club com ginásio, jacuzzi, banho turco, gabinete de massagem e piscina aquecida, bem como, uma área para a prática de bowling, um driving range e um campo de golf executivo de 9 buracos e academia de golfe.



BALAI GOLF VILLAGE

Os restaurantes "A Varanda" e o "Le Club" ambos com magníficas vistas panorâmicas, oferecem menus requintados que podem ser degustados numa atmosfera elegante e tranquilo.

No Balaia Golf Village, poderá usufruir de dias inesquecíveis, quer procure a calma que os espaços envolventes lhe proporcionam, quer prefira o bulício das zonas próximas mais cosmopolitas.

O website www.balaiagolfvillage.pt permite, a quem o visita, visualizar tudo o que o resort oferece.



Sítio da Balaia, Apartado 917 • 8200-912 Albufeira | Algarve | Portugal
t. +351 289 570 200 • f. +351 289 501 265 • e. reservas@balaiagolfvillage.pt



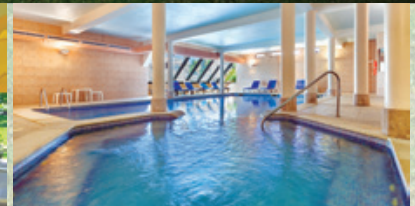
At the heart of the Algarve, between Vilamoura and Albufeira and just 300m from the beach, Balaia Golf Village stands out for its style, distinction and comfort. In a perfect integration with its extensive and well maintained gardens, there are 6 swimming pool complexes, which include children's pools, a heated outdoor pool. 4 tennis courts with professional resident, a children's playground and a health club with gym, Jacuzzi, Turkish bath, massage cabinet and heated pool. Also to be highlighted the bowling area as well as a driving range and a 9-hole executive golf course and golf academy.



The restaurants "A Varanda" and "Le Club" with magnificent panoramic views offer exquisite menus that can be tasted in elegant and calm ambiance.

At Balaia Golf Village, you can enjoy an unforgettable time, whether you seek the tranquility that the surrounding spaces offer you, or prefer the "hustle and bustle" of the closer cosmopolitan areas.

The website www.balaiagolfvillage.pt allows visitors to view all that the resort has to offer.





Azores

Between green and blue...

SÃO MIGUEL ENCHANTS WITH ITS LAGOONS OF SETE CIDADES AND FOGO. SANTA MARIA OFFERS VINEYARDS THAT PAINT THE SLOPES IN THE AMPHITHEATER GREEN. ALWAYS WITH THE ATLANTIC BLUE IN THE BACKGROUND...

IN THE BLUE IMMENSITY OF THE ATLANTIC, Mother Nature created a land full of natural beauty ready to be explored: the Azores Archipelago. The island of São Miguel is the largest, forming the Eastern Group of the Archipelago, together with the island of Santa Maria, located 81 kilometers away.

PERCHED AROUND A NATURAL BAY, Ponta Delgada has a rich history and heritage. The Portas da Cidade are the perfect starting point for discovering the city. Of note is the typical architecture, with the contrast between the white of the walls and the basalt details, embellished with lacy iron balconies. Its most emblematic monuments are the mother church of São Sebastião, from the 15th century, the Church of São José and São Pedro, the Convent and Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Esperança, where the image of Senhor Santo Cristo dos Milagres is venerated, the old Jesuit College, the Sant'Ana Palace, the Carlos Machado Museum, the São Brás Fort, the Paços do Concelho (City Hall), and the renovated Micaelense Coliseum and the well-preserved Micaelense Theater, among others.



Portas da Cidade
Ponta Delgada



Lagoa do Fogo
São Miguel



*Ilhéu da Vila
São Miguel*



*Formosa beach
Santa Maria*



*Poço da Pedreira
Santa Maria*



*Nossa Senhora da Paz
Hermitage
Vila Franca do Campo*

BUT TO DISCOVER THE “GREEN ISLAND”, we have to leave the capital and go to nature. We start the climb to the emblematic lagoon of Sete Cidades, reaching the “Vista do Rei” viewpoint. From here, where we can admire all the beauty of the giant crater in the background of which the Green and Blue lagoons coexist, which according to legend have originated in the tears of a princess and a shepherd united by an impossible love.

From there, we headed towards Ponta da Ferraria, where Mother Nature took care to heat the sea water with volcanic thermal waters, offering Atlantic thalassotherapy in a unique natural environment or, if we prefer, in the modern Thermal Baths of Ferraria.

IN THE NEXT STOP AT LAGOA DO FOGO, we continue towards the interior of the island, climbing the Serra de Água do Pau, and stop at Caldeira Velha. Its small lake of warm waters, surrounded by a leafy forest of ferns, invites you to a restful bath. When we arrive at Lagoa do Fogo (lagoon), one of the ex-libris of the island, we let ourselves be dazzled by its different shades of blue and the breathtaking view that extends to the ocean.

In Vila Franca do Campo, we must visit Ilhéu

da Vila (islet), Nature Reserve with a beautiful natural pool, located about 1 km from the coast, accessible from June to September, via boat connections.

IN THE FURNAS AREA, there are several attractions to visit, like Vale das Furnas, with its hot springs geysers and fumaroles (boilers), hot water, mud, medicinal waters and more than 20 thermal springs. Next to Lagoa das Furnas, the chapel of Nossa Senhora das Vitórias and the area where we find the tradicional meat dish that is cooked in the boilers, taking advantage of the earth's heat. Terra Nostra Park, one of the most beautiful gardens of São Miguel, from the 18th century, with a pool of iron thermal water. And to admire the view, the viewpoints of the Pico do Ferro and the Salto do Cavalo.

SANTA MARIA ISLAND. The green of the fields, the traditional cultures, the chimneys of the whitewashed houses, the dark ocher of the land, the golden beaches and its turquoise waters differentiate Santa Maria from the rest of the archipelago's islands. As the island of the Azores is further south and further east, Santa Maria has a warmer and drier climate, which contributes to greater aridity of the land and dryness of

yellowish vegetation, which is why it is also called “island of the sun”.

FIRST TO BE DISCOVERED by Portuguese navigators and the first to be populated, Santa Maria was also the first island in the Azores to be formed, having its geological past recorded in its volcanic and sedimentary rocks. This can also be seen in Pedreira do Campo, where a basaltic runoff at more than 100 meters in elevation is home to numerous fossils of marine organisms. This geological richness can also be admired at the Dalberto Pombo Environmental Interpretation Center, right in the historic center of Vila do Porto.

Santa Maria is also known for its indented coast, with its high rocky tips and bays of calm and crystalline waters, which are a permanent invitation to discover. This is the case of Cré, Raposo and Tagarete bays, among many others.

IN SÃO LOURENÇO, the natural beauty of the bay in the shape of an amphitheater is complemented by the vineyards cultivated on the hillside above the hills, by the white houses next to the sea and by the cove that hosts a wonderful white sand beach and natural pools.

Whales and dolphins



TERCEIRA, SÃO JORGE, PICO, FAIAL AND GRACIOSA ARE HARMONIOUSLY ARRANGED IN THE BLUE SEA WHERE WHALES AND DOLPHINS LURK. TOGETHER, THEY FORM THE CENTRAL GROUP OF THE AZORES.

TERCEIRA TELLS US ABOUT HISTORY in Angra do Heroísmo. As the name implies, this was the third island in the archipelago to be discovered, although in the beginning it was called the island of Jesus Christ. It started to be populated in the 15th century, having developed consistently, largely due to its geographical location.

But what makes Terceira so special is the magnificent contrast between the natural beauty of this volcanic island and the admirable work of man in the historic center of Angra do Heroísmo, its capital, founded in 1534, the first town in the Azores to be promoted to city and classified as World Heritage by UNESCO.

OBSERVED FROM ALTO DA MEMÓRIA or the viewpoint of Monte Brasil, the historic center of Angra is a testimony of the kings and nobles who passed through there, leaving behind a beautiful architecture that stretches in a tracery of streets, alleys, churches, palaces, stately homes, monuments, squares and gardens, which have been preserved to this day.

From Angra, we can explore the island's coastal area. Among many possible routes, it is worth taking the drive to Praia da Vitória, against the backdrop of the islets of Cabras, passing through the bay of Salga and the black sand beaches surrounded by cliffs, such as Porto Novo.

FAIAL IS THE FRESH BLUE of the hydrangeas, the marina colored by the paintings of yachtsmen from all over the world and the Capelinhos volcano, which resembles a lunar landscape and is now extinct. It will have received the name of Faial because there are many beech trees (faias) here, but no other island can be so proud of the immense massifs of hydrangeas, in different shades of blue, that frame the houses, separate the fields and embroider the roads, justifying the title of Blue Island.

DUE TO ITS GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION, the city of Horta offers unique landscapes of the island of Pico and, sometimes, of S. Jorge. It is flanked by Ponta da Espalamaca and Monte da Guia, whose viewpoints, together with those of Monte Carneiro, offer rich panoramic views of the city and the immensity of the sea. At the western end of the island, the Capelinhos volcano rises majestic, as a testimony to the last volcanic eruption that occurred in the Azores between 1957 and 1958 and which added new land to the existing one. Here we can visit the Interpretation Center, equipped with the most modern exhibition and multimedia techniques. The visit to this center ends with the climb to the top of the lighthouse, for an incomparable visual and emotional experience.

THE ISLAND OF PICO IS THE MOUNTAIN THAT RISES FROM THE SEA, the highest in Portugal, with 2,351 m of altitude. The climb to the top is really tiring, but it is rewarded by fantastic and unique views, with the neighboring Faial and São Jorge nearby and, on clear days, the glimpse of Graciosa and Terceira. Surrounding it are extensive vineyards planted in black lava fields, which form the Pico Island Vineyard Culture Landscape, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in 2004.

Pico is also a land of strong whaling traditions. Noteworthy are the Whaling Museum, in Lajes, the Whaling Industry Museum, in São



Nossa Senhora do Carmo Church- Angra do Heroísmo



*Ponta dos Capelinhos
Faial*



Pico



Pico



São Jorge

Roque, and the Wine Museum, in Madalena, mandatory places to visit that portray an important time in the island's history. The Wine Museum occupies the former facilities of the Convento das Carmelitas, providing visits to the vineyards, wine tasting and, in September, partaking in the vintage.

IN SÃO JORGE, the highlight is the fajãs and their cheese, a unique specialty with an unmistakable flavor.

Landscape wise, the contrast of the central mountain range that crosses the island in almost all the length, with the steep and jagged coast, dotted with the typical fajãs that stretch out into the sea, stands out. Fajãs are small plains that originated in landslides or lava and on this island there are more than 40, hence it is often called the island of fajãs. In some cases there is only pedestrian access, so trails are one of the best ways to discover it, with paths suitable for various physical conditions.

GRACIOSA IN NAME AND APPEARANCE, this green island has fields covered with vineyards that contrast with its peculiar windmills.

The architectural heritage of the island is preserved in several types of buildings, with emphasis on churches, chapels, rural houses, and a curious "water architecture"

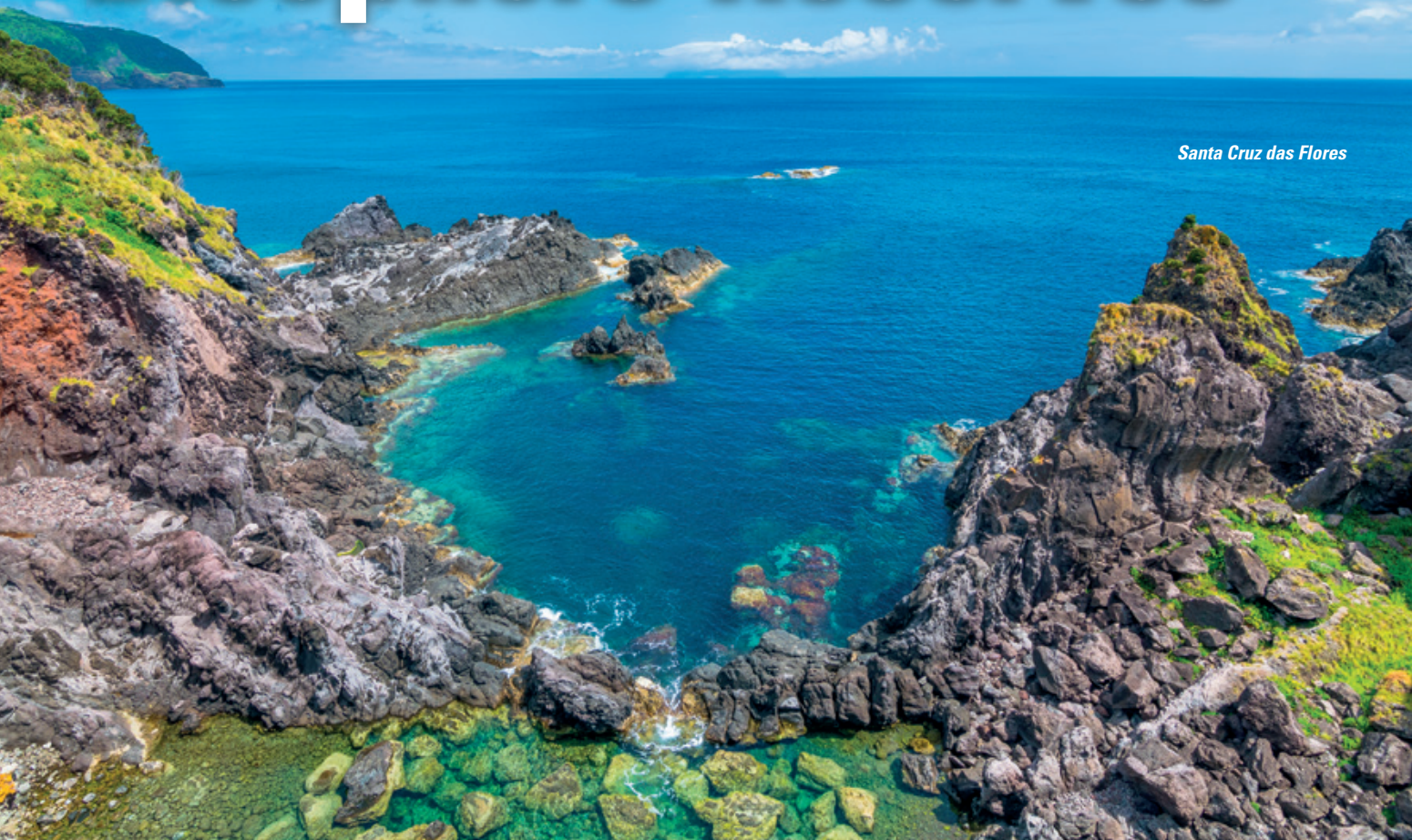
associated with a centuries-old network of reservoirs and drinking water supply systems. Another characteristic feature of this island's landscape are the red domed windmills, of Flemish inspiration, which testify to the abundant cereal production of other times.

A walk around the island, stopping at the various viewpoints, creates an album of good memories that we can keep from the graceful landscape of this beautiful island.



*Flemish
windmill
Graciosa*

Biosphere Reserves



Santa Cruz das Flores

INTEGRATED IN UNESCO'S WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES, THE ISLAND OF FLORES OFFERS LANDSCAPES THAT ARE TRUE PARADISES. THIS ISLAND IS PART OF THE WESTERN GROUP OF THE AZORES, TOGETHER WITH THE ISLAND OF CORVO, ALSO A BIOSPHERE RESERVE.

IF THERE ARE PLACES PRIVILEGED BY NATURE, the island of Flores is one of them. Characterized by a very indented and extremely steep coast, the island combines under the water element: waterfalls, ponds, streams and wells form a catalog of unforgettable experiences, seeming to concentrate all the natural beauty that is dispersed among the other Archipelago's islands.

DUE TO ITS SMALL SIZE, it is not difficult to travel the whole island, and a good suggestion to start your discovery is to start the day by taking a boat trip, where you can glimpse a different view with rocky structures and breathtaking caves. This is the case of the Arco de Santa Cruz das Flores or the islet of Maria Vaz, only visible by sea. And also the caves Gruta dos Enxaréus and Gruta do Galo.



*Lagoa Negra and Lagoa Comprida
Flores*



Returning to land, you'll find the opportunity to relax a little in the natural pools. you can opt for Santa Cruz or the beaches next to Lajes das Flores. For something more "wild", then the choice should fall in the puddles formed at the base of the waterfalls, since the island has many. Not to be missed are the Ribeira Grande, with a 300-meter waterfall, and the Poço do Bacalhau, with 90 meters high.

WHILE TRAVELING THE VARIOUS TRAILS ON THE ISLAND,

you can see the various migratory birds that fly here, as Flores is one of the best destinations in the Azores for birdwatching, especially in the Lagoa Branca, in the central area of the island, being the months from September to November the best for this activity. In the afternoon, enjoy a visit the central area, where there are seven volcanic craters that have turned into beautiful lagoons, which constitute a magnificent landscape, with special emphasis on the Funda Lagoon, 105 meters deep. On the land tour, one of the most famous natural monuments in the Azores is Rocha dos Bordões. It is a set of large vertical columns of basalt that, as a whole, resemble a gigantic pipe organ.

Also not to be missed is the view that is obtained from Morro Alto, the highest point on the island, with 911m of altitude, from where you can glimpse a landscape of intense green, where the native Laurissilva forest is still present.

CORVO IS THE SMALLEST OF THE NINE ISLANDS,

but it proudly boasts the distinction of World Biosphere Reserve. The only village on the island, Vila Nova do Corvo, is located in a lava plain that constitutes the main flattened surface of the island. It is a picturesque and unusual village, characterized by black stone facades, with white edging on windows and doors, and by narrow streets, locally designated as canadas, paved with pebbles and slabs polished by use. The use of wooden locks on the doors of the houses, manufactured by the artisans of Corvo, is one of the traditions that continue to symbolize the experience of a peaceful island where everyone knows each other. At Alto dos Moinhos, near Ponta Negra, small windmills adorn the seaside. Unlike those on the rest of the archipelago's islands, these are of Mediterranean influence, more similar to those found in mainland Portugal.

FROM VILA NOVA DO CORVO TO CALDEIRÃO,

the ex-libris of the island, it takes about six kilometers going up. On the way, you can see the low walls that divide the properties, long lines of hydrangeas and the black stains of the "haystacks", rustic houses made of basalt where the implements and forages were kept. Upon arriving at the Monte Gordo viewpoint, we are enchanted by the unique landscape that we can observe from the Caldeirão, which together with its lagoon constitute the main landscape element of the island. This volcanic crater, result of the collapse of the top of the central volcano of Corvo, has an elliptical shape with a depth of 305 meters and its interior is occupied by the shallow Caldeirão lagoon and several small volcanic cones that cut out the mass of water and that many say to outline the design of the Azorean islands.

THE WHOLE ISLAND IS SURROUNDED BY HIGH AND STEEP CLIFFS.

For this reason, a boat trip around it is an unforgettable experience, revealing the most inaccessible areas and allowing you to observe a wide variety of sea birds and even dolphins or whales.

AZORES

A purest world to discover

THE DESTINATION OF THE MOMENT

In 2020, Azores is the safest, most surprising, and comfortable destination. In this new reality we're in, these 9 islands distinguish themselves by the security they offer: all visitors are tested before entering (tests can be made on their own country/region), preventing the spread and contagion of the Coronavirus. In addition, this destination offers the safe distance that visitors need, many outdoor activities that are everything we want after being confined for so long, and the peace we need in such troubled times.

Nine different islands, which combine tradition and modernity, very special gastronomy and unique natural scenery that we cannot find anywhere else — at least once in our lives, we have to give ourselves the opportunity to pause real life and be dazzled by the work of Mother Nature, and always being well-received, sustainably, never against nature, always connected with it.

The art of welcoming those who arrive is one of the most distinguished in the Azoreans who always keep a loud laugh for those who arrive, available for more information or explanation at any time. Connoisseurs of the history that precedes them and proud of a heritage that they know to be unique and stunning, they are eager to share their home with those who arrive - there is always room for one more in the garden that they live in the middle of the ocean.

DISCOVERING AZORES IN 2020 MEANS LETTING YOURSELF BE DAZZLED BY THE COEXISTENCE OF PURITY AND MODERNITY, AND FINALLY BEING ABLE TO TAKE A DEEP BREATH WITHOUT WORRIES, ON THE ONLY ARCHIPELAGO CERTIFIED AS SUSTAINABLE TOURISTIC DESTINATION.

FIRST ARCHIPELAGO IN THE WORLD CERTIFIED AS A SUSTAINABLE TOURIST DESTINATION

The distinction was awarded in 2019 by the EarthCheck Sustainable Destination program, which provides a scientific framework to ascertain the environmental and social impact in various touristic destinations, and to track their performance against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The positive evaluation results from the commitment between the Government of the Azores, the community and the tourism industry with regard to the preservation of culture and terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

Due to the mastery how it has been able to reconcile the growing tourist flow with the preservation of its heritage wealth, the archipelago asserts itself as a priority destination at a time when the universe appeals to our environmental awareness, and when we value, more than ever, the relationship with the environment that surrounds us.

Sustainable tourism will always be a mission for the Azores: show what makes the region so unique and preserve this wealth, paying homage to it.





Fajã de Santo Cristo
São Jorge
© Visitazores



Terra Nostra Park
Furnas - São Miguel
© Visitazores

DESTINATION DISTINGUISHED WITH ALL THE CLASSIFICATION GIVEN BY UNESCO

In the Azores there are four of the eight Biosphere Reserves in Portugal: Graciosa and Corvo (classified since 1997), Flores (since 2009), and the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve (since 2016).

On the other hand, since 2013, the Azores Geopark is unique in the world for having 121 geosites on nine islands, covering an entire archipelago.

Under the Ramsar Convention, the Region has 13 classified sites, namely the lagoons of Fajãs dos Cubres and Caldeira de Santo Cristo (S. Jorge), Caldeira da Graciosa, Caldeira do Faial, Caldeirão do Corvo, the complexes volcanic islands of Furnas, Sete Cidades and Fogo (S. Miguel), the islets of Formigas, Recife Dollabarát, the Central

Plateau of Terceira (Furnas do Enxofre and Algar do Carvão), Paul de Praia da Vitória (Terceira) and the plateaus Central das Flores (Morro Alto), Central de São Jorge (Pico da Esperança) and Central do Pico (Achada).

At the level of World Heritage, Cultural and Natural, in the Azores there are two areas classified as World Heritage by UNESCO, which are the City of Angra do Heroísmo (first in Portugal, in 1983) and the Landscape of the Vine Culture of Ilha do Pico (2004).

The Azores Underwater Archaeological Map was designated by UNESCO as one of the five examples that represent the best practices for the protection of the underwater cultural heritage, on 24 June 2019.



Ferraria Lighthouse
Ginetes - São Miguel
© Visitazores



AZORES FOR ALL

The nine islands of the archipelago are all of volcanic origin. They are dispersed in the Atlantic Ocean, along a strip about 600 km long from Santa Maria to Corvo, and roughly between 37 ° and 40 ° north latitude and 25 ° and 31 ° west longitude. 246 772 people live (data from 2011) in this island territory of 2 325 km², which is a distance of 1,600 km from the European continent and 2454 km from the North American continent (Canada).

The Azores welcomes sports, nature, and birdwatching lovers, golf appreciators, and anyone who likes to do the longest walks, surrounding by green and blue. But also art and culture fans, people who are looking for surprising hotel projects, Portuguese cuisine (traditional and sophisticated) with premium ingredients of certified origin: occupy a special place in the Azores with so much yet to be experienced.



São Jorge
© Visitazores



Pico
© Visitazores



Golden Island

IN PORTO SANTO, MADEIRA, WE FIND A GOLDEN AND BLUE REFUGE, A PLACE WHERE EVERYTHING HAPPENS SLOWLY, INVITING YOU TO RELAX AND UNWIND.

ISLAND OF RARE BEAUTY, Porto Santo is nicknamed “golden island” due to its extensive 9-kilometer beach, of fine and silky sand, bathed by a deliciously calm, clear and deeply blue sea. In addition, the island is reputed to have healing powers, since its sands and waters are rich in iodine, calcium and magnesium, making them highly recommended for the treatment of bones. Porto Santo’s climate is another of its ex-libris: moderate throughout the year and with a sea temperature that fluctuates between 17°C and 22°C, making the island never lose its charm, even in the winter months.

DISCOVERY OF THE ISLAND. In 1418, Portuguese navigators João Gonçalves Zarco and Tristão Vaz Teixeira arrived on the island of Porto Santo, the first of the Portuguese overseas discoveries. Having been diverted by strong winds from their exploration route off the west coast of Africa, the island has given them a safe haven, thus earning its name.

In 1446, Infante Dom Henrique appointed Bartolomeu Perestrelo governor of the island, giving him reasons to become famous: Perestrelo’s daughter came to marry Christopher Columbus, who spent some time here preparing for the great voyage of the Discovery of the Americas.

Today, it is possible to visit the 15th century house that Christopher Columbus will have inhabited, now transformed into a polynuclear museum. Located in Vila Baleira, it displays portraits of Colombo and also maps with the different routes he traveled.

BALEIRA VILLAGE. Although small, the island’s capital, Vila Baleira, has many attractions. The city is centered on its main





Vila Baleira



House Museum Columbus



square, around Largo do Pelourinho, and the Gardens of the Infante. The streets lined with palm trees and bougainvillea are ideal for pleasant and relaxing walks.

Restaurants abound, so we have plenty of opportunities to try the island's specialties: grilled cow skewer on laurel stick drizzled with garlic butter, or the famous bolo do caco, the bread with sweet potato that is also served with butter garlic.

A walk along the pier allows us to admire the handicrafts, made with local raw materials, such as shells, palm leaves, reeds and clay. For a touch of history and culture, in addition to the house-museum of Christopher Columbus, the beautiful tile panels in the nearby Church of Nossa Senhora da Piedade, from the 17th century, are well worth a visit.

A LOT TO DO. Porto Santo offers the opportunity to get away from it all. However, "running away from everything" does not mean "doing absolutely nothing", as there is really a lot to do. At the Thalassotherapy Center, we can try an anti-rheumatic or anti-stress treatment. We can also release stress more actively, practicing one of the many outdoor activities that the island offers, from boat trips, sport fishing, diving, windsurfing, kite surfing, water skiing, paragliding, mountain biking or horseback riding. Golf lovers can hit the green designed by Spanish champion Ballesteros.

VIEWPOINTS ARE MANDATORY PIT STOPS. Alternatively, we can simply stroll around the island and discover, in one

of the several viewpoints, the beauty of a landscape that was formed thanks to successive volcanic eruptions: the belvedere Miradouro da Portela, with the surrounding windmills; Pedreira, at Pico Ana Ferreira; and, at the western end of the island, the Miradouro das Flores, overlooking Madeira and the Desertas islands. Not to be missed, the climb to Pico do Facho, the highest point on the island, at 517 meters, and to Pico do Castelo, from where you can see the embedded valleys and the islets that seem to have been "sown" around.

To end the day, nothing better than drinking a fruit juice or a typical poncha while letting ourselves be rocked by the magic sound of the waves and contemplating an indescribable sunset.





Living nature in Madeira

ONE OF MADEIRA'S BIGGEST TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IS ITS LUSH AND VARIED VEGETATION, WHICH COMBINES TROPICAL AND MEDITERRANEAN CHARACTERISTICS, CREATING A UNIQUE NATURAL MOSAIC.

IN THIS AUTHENTIC GARDEN, which is the island of Madeira, the difficult thing is to choose which botanical park to visit, because it is almost impossible to visit them all. Once arrived in Funchal, let's start with the Municipal Garden, also known as Jardim Dona Amélia. Located in the city center and occupying an area of more than 8,000 square meters, it presents examples of the flora of Madeira and many other parts of the world. In contrast, the Municipal Garden of Monte, located 550 meters (the highest on the island), has the peculiarity of presenting several indigenous and exotic species and some centuries-old trees.

Camellia lovers, on the other hand, must visit the Palheiro Gardens, which owes its "portfolio" to the first Count of Cadaval. The temperate climate is clearly one of the advantages of the island, which allows for places, such as the Quinta da Boa Vista Gardens, with a vast collection of orchids.

MADEIRA NATURAL PARK. Without neglecting its beautiful botanical gardens, the truth is that the crown jewel is the Madeira Natural Park. Aiming to safeguard this vast natural heritage, which is a rarity worldwide, the park was created in 1982 and classified as a Biogenetic Reserve, in which we can find a unique flora, with some rare specimens, such as the orchid-of-mountains, and also large trees, ferns, mosses, lichens and other small plants, characteristic of Laurissilva.

To visit this park is to discover nature! The park covers about 2/3 of the island's territory and several protected areas, land and sea, are defined, making Madeira an ecological destination. It concentrates the largest area of Macaronesian Laurel Forest, which UNESCO





recognized in 1999 as a World Natural Heritage Site, a unique award in Portugal and a biocultural belonging to all of humanity. The protected area of the Natural Park also includes Ponta de São Lourenço, the Natural Reserve of Islands Desertas, the Natural Reserve of the islands Selvagens, the Partial Nature Reserve of Garajau, the Nature Reserve of Rocha do Navio and the Network of Marine Protected Areas from Porto Santo.

BY TRAILS AND WATER

CHANNELS. The peculiar orography of this archipelago, combined with the diversity of terrain and landscape richness, makes it possible to countless outdoor activities. Whether on land, at sea or by air, the options are many for any nature lover.

The countless trails and levadas (water channels) that cross the endemic Lauris-silva forest will enchant hikers with their breathtaking views over the mountains and, for the more daring, the climb to the Picos do Areeiro and Ruivo, leaves us above the clouds, with the island at our feet.

THE GREAT BLUE. Divers can explore the turquoise waters of the Garajau Nature Reserve. Among the resident marine fauna, there are some large fish, such as the mere, tourist poster of the reserve. Surrounded by steep escarpments, almost inaccessible, the Desertas are the last Atlantic refuge for the monk seal, the rarest in the world. Equally uninhabited, the Selvagens islands are considered an ornithological sanctuary.

To visit these reserves, it is best to take a boat trip at one of the many animation companies that organize tours around the archipelago. With luck, we will have the opportunity to observe large marine species, such as whales, sperm whales and dolphins.

BIRD WATCHING. For those who like bird watching, a hobby with more and more followers, this archipelago will not fail to surprise them, as here we can see some exclusive species, such as the pigeon, the bison or the Madeira nun. In order not to forget these moments, the camera is a must! When visiting Madeira, don't miss the opportunity to get to know all these majestic scenery up close.



Madeira

A world of diversity



© João Faria



Madeira
© Filipe Mendonça

MADEIRA ISLANDS ARE A WORLD OF DIVERSITY. It's a place where the mountains meet the sea everywhere and you can take advantage of that time and time again. The beautiful landscapes invite you to discover new places and see new things everyday. It's a perfect combination of wild and city life, always accompanied by good weather, which makes good experiences even better.

MADEIRA IS KNOWN FOR ITS BEAUTIFUL AND UNIQUE TRAILS, some of which are short routes, called the 'Levadas', and others are longer and loved by ultra trails' fans worldwide. Both of them take you to places inaccessible by car, with the most astonishing views over the mountains and with beautiful waterfalls and lagoons, perfect for wild swimming. Trail lovers that visit Madeira always come back for its unique sights and experiences, some of them above the clouds on the highest mountain peaks. It's undoubtedly one of the biggest attractions of the destination.

THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ATLANTIC begin with the beautiful and calm ocean, that invites you to a swim from the moment you get here. We are lucky enough to have several species of whales and dolphins in our waters, which take boat trips to a different level. The warm waters of Madeira attract multiple species of cetaceans, some of them unique to the Macaronesian Islands, and despite the migration you can find them here all year round.

After an invigorating day in the mountains or at the sea, why not enjoy one of the most beautiful sunsets in the world, with an infinite blue ocean below, on the beach or in the mountains? The best places to see the sunset are Ponta do Sol, Paúl do Mar and Ponta do Pargo - a beautiful cliff with an astonishing seaview. If you wish to enjoy a sunset above the clouds, you can visit Pico do Areeiro or Pico Ruivo, which provide a beautiful sunrise as well.

THE MAIN CITY IN MADEIRA IS FUNCHAL, where there is anything you could wish for. There are all kinds of environments here, with world-class restaurants and bars. If you want a calm drink or a cool bar in the middle of the afternoon, a quiet dinner or a place with music and a seaview, a peaceful night walk or a pub with great friends; you name it, here is where you can find it. Funchal has a unique variety of places and people, where you can find several types of food and drink, but with one thing in common: you are very well received everywhere. One of our strengths is the ability to greet people with warmth and to make them feel welcome.

Not only in Funchal but everywhere in Madeira, festivities are guaranteed: from January to December you have all sorts of celebrations. The most well known are the Flower Festival, the Carnival and the New Year's Eve, but anytime you visit you will find several events; from sports to religion, from the famous "Arraiais" to music festivals, theatre and gastronomic, the list goes on. There are so many things to do in Madeira that almost every weekend there is a new event to attend.



IN MADEIRA YOU CAN FIND ANOTHER LITTLE PARADISE:

our sister Island, Porto Santo. Porto Santo is a smaller Island two hours away from us, you can take a one day-cruise to visit it and you will find a very similar but, at the same time, a very different paradise: white sand and flat ground to walk from one end to the other. The perfect place to rest and take a break from the world. Our Madeira offers a whole world inside an Island. You will certainly find what you like to do and where you want to be, meet your expectations and even exceed them. Anytime you want to visit, you will find warm and welcoming weather and people that want you to have the best time possible. In our opinion, there isn't a better place in the world to be, so beautiful, safe and complete.



Porto Santo
© Henrique Seruca



Av. Arriaga
© Francisco Correia



Mini Eco Bar
© Hugo Rei



Dolphins
© Francisco Correia



New year's eve
© Hugo Reis



Flower festival
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Carnaval
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MADEIRA
SAFE TO
DISCOVER



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