



Azores Horseback Riding Tour

8 Days



Day 1 | Welcome to Azores

Meet our Horses

Arrive at Horta (HOR), Faial Island's airport, in the afternoon, where you will be picked up (or at your hotel in Horta) and whisked to our accommodations for check-in and a recharge. There's time to meet and connect with our horses before dinner, as well as get to know our fellow Wild Women. We swap travel stories, first impressions and laughs over dinner tonight in the lodge.

Included Meals

Dinner

Accommodations

Patio Lodge



Day 2 | Trail Rides

Our First Ride

We start the day with a healthy locally sourced breakfast before heading out to the paddock to prepare our horses. As we become better acquainted with our equine companions, we find a natural rhythm as we ride for a couple of hours to a popular whale-spotting point. Our talented chef will be patiently waiting for us with an elaborate picnic. Depending on the group's skill levels, we can split into two groups of riders, and finish our day with some cantering for those who wish. In the evening, we enjoy a well-deserved dinner back at the lodge.

Included Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Accommodations

Patio Lodge



Day 3 | Hike the Caldeira

Walk the Rim

After breakfast, we drive to the tiptop of the island to the rim of Faial's volcano, Caldeira do Faial. It sits 3,421 feet (1,043 m) above sea level and is the largest geomorphological structure that forms the island. Our energetic Wild Women guide leads us around the top of the mighty volcano—it's a dramatic 1,312 foot (400 m) drop into its belly, but we safely hug the rim.

Later, we have an en plein air backpacker picnic and burn a few calories as we descend towards the small village of our lodge. We arrive in the late afternoon after a rewarding six-hour push of hiking, walking and scrambling. After a reboot in a hot shower, we gather for dinner on the closed terrace of the lodge.

Included Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Accommodations

Patio Lodge



Day 4 | Capelinhos Volcano

Ghosts From the Past

After breakfast, we drive to the Jungle Horse Camp to meet our horses, who were trailered out before us. Slicing through the jungle-like “Mystery Zone of Faial,” the serpentine trail leads us along the western cape to the Volcano of Capelinhos. The last eruption was 1957 and the haunting scene of a partially buried lighthouse and displaced villagers is soul stirring.

We stop at the Volcano Visitor Center and spread out for a classic saddlebag picnic. After an afternoon of riding we are welcomed by the vistas of the serene bay of Varadero. The mirror-like rock pools beg for a dip! It’s time to rejuvenate with a bracing Atlantic swim. Dinner is a casual picnic at the seafront with authentic snacks from the Azores.

Included Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Accommodations

Patio Lodge



Day 5 | Jungle Horse Camp

Night of Alcatra

After breakfast, we return to the Jungle Horse Camp to reunite with our horses waiting to continue the familiar trail back home towards the north coast. For lunch, we take five and have a celebratory picnic at a panoramic canyon viewpoint. Today we experience cantering on soft paths, testing our skills and confidence in our horse (and ourselves!). In the afternoon, we return to the lodge and have time to relax and stretch.

This evening, our chefs spoil us with a traditional thematic dinner: “Night of Alcatra.” The alcatra, a stoneware bowl designed for cooking, is an integral part of religious “Espírito Santo” celebrations. The first Portuguese settlers introduced the clay pot, and the alcatra can be used to prepare Atlantic fish, veal or root vegetables.

Included Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Accommodations

Patio Lodge



Day 6 | The Island of Pico

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Rising before dawn and with a hearty brown bag breakfast in hand, we head to the Faial ferry boat harbor for a scenic 30-minute passage to the neighboring island of Pico. Here, we take in the views from the Mountain's House, Pico's highest point accessible by road. Later, we stop at a volcanic cave, where we explore underground tubes created by flowing lava. After a picnic lunch and optional dip in the ocean, we continue our tour of the island with a visit to the Whalers Museum, if time permits and the group is interested.

On our way back to the ferry boat, we visit the Vineyards of Pico, which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2004. Returning to Faial Island, we enjoy dinner and laughs together at the lodge.

Included Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Accommodations

Patio Lodge



Day 7 | Ocean Experience

A Whale of a Time

This morning, we take a 20-minute shuttle into Horta after breakfast. In the harbor, a marine biologist team joins us on a three-hour whale watching tour on a powerful RIB on the Atlantic Ocean, where we hope to spot some of the 20 species of whales and dolphins that inhabit the biodiverse waters around Faial. Encounters with whales and dolphins are unpredictable and unforgettable—let's cross our fingers!

We visit the legendary Peter Café Sport and enjoy a light lunch on the patio before enjoying a free afternoon with lots of time to meander around the town or go swimming at the beach. Later, back at the lodge tonight, we have an incredible farewell barbecue, Azorean-style!

Included Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Accommodations

Patio Lodge



Day 8 | Onwards

Until Next Time

After breakfast, we pack our bags with heavy hearts for transfer to the Faial Island Airport Horta (HOR) or your hotel. Expect big sighs, bigger hugs and the pressing question, where next?

Included Meals

Breakfast



Trip Details

Know Before You Go

For all of the logistical details you'll need to know prior to departure—including the packing list, arrival and departure details and suggested tipping information, click [HERE](#).

Itinerary version as of March 11, 2024.