

# AZORES - ATLANTIS AND GREEN ISLAND TRAIL - ATLANTIS RIDE

## ITINERARY

Transfers are included from Ponta Delgada airport and flights can arrive and depart at any time.

The itinerary for the Atlantis Ride is flexible. During your stay there will be a mixture of half and full day rides, with a total of 17 hours of riding over 7 nights. It is usually possible to have additional riding or lessons (extra payable locally) in place of the non-riding excursions.

### Remédios - Half Day Ride

This morning the horses will be trucked to the south side of Sao Miguel. You will travel separately in a vehicle (approximately 35 minutes). You will ride on small roads/lanes riding between fields and green pastures some with tranquil dairy cows munching the luscious green grass waiting for the farmers to come and milk them. You should witness amazing views over the middle of Sao Miguel during the ride. Picnic lunch in Remedios if there are other riders on the Green Island trail alternatively, you return to Quinta da Terca for lunch.



### Visit to Lagoa do Fogo - Half Day Ride

On this ride, you have the opportunity to go by car to travel further on this interesting island. For such a small island there is a lot to see. Visit Lagoa do Fogo, have a thermal bath at Caldeiras da Ribeira Grande and visit Gorreana tea plantation.

After lunch at the Quinta the horses and you are taken by vehicle across to the north coast. It's a pretty, gentle landscape and you have a lovely ride through the fields and along tracks with super views to the north coast.



### Pico da Mostarda - Half Day Ride

You ride from the Quinta travelling in a north-easterly direction. On this ride you enjoy the beautiful, varied natural scenery up on the Pico da Mostarda which overlooks the North side and middle parts of the island.



### Whales and Dolphin watching - Half Day Ride

The morning is spent at leisure to do what you want. Provided it isn't too windy then you may like to get up early and go for a whale and dolphin watching trip from Ponta Delgada. Your hosts can arrange this for you and you will pay this locally. The Azores is one of the best places in the world to see whales and dolphins. The trips have a 95% record of seeing dolphins and c.50% chance of seeing whales. Whatever, it's a really exciting boat trip!



After lunch you ride from the Quinta, heading eastwards to Aqua de Pau. You climb up through farm land with (weather permitting) some wonderful views back towards Ponta Delgada and the coast. This ride takes you through fields of black and white cattle and you may possibly see the farmers travelling out to the fields and to their mobile milking machines.

#### Visit to Furnas - Non-riding Day

After breakfast your guided excursion takes you to Furnas, with the opportunity to swim in the hot spring.



The afternoon is at leisure, and your hosts will be happy to help arrange transport if (for example) you wish to visit Ponta Delgada again. Alternatively you may prefer to relax in the garden, or perhaps take the short ten minute walk to the beach.

#### Sete Cidades - Full Day Ride



This ride is a highlight for most people. You and horses are taken almost to the most western tip of the island to Sete Cidades.

Sete Cidades, a green, fairy-tale crater with its twin lakes, is almost ten miles in circumference. This extinct volcano crater has two magnificent lakes, one deep blue colour and the other emerald green. A legend tells the story of a princess and a shepherd boy who fell in love but were forbidden to meet. She had blue eyes, he had green eyes, and when they met for the last time they cried so much their tears formed the lakes.



You have a full day ride around the twin lakes and then ascend to ride around the rim of this huge volcanic crater. This can also be ridden in reverse. Have a picnic lunch by the lake shore (occasionally this may be lunch at a restaurant). Please note that trotting and cantering around the crater rim is not permitted due to the number of walkers on the track.

The Quinta da Terca house is one of the oldest buildings on the islands full of interesting features. You should ask for a tour of the private parts of the house, which is really worth seeing.



There are five guestrooms each with a private bathroom (showers). One has a double bed and four have twin beds (some are double beds, and some are singles). The rooms have a television and a small selection of toiletries are provided in case you have forgotten anything.

A single supplement is payable to guarantee a single room. If you are willing to share, the supplement is payable initially and then refunded if we find you a sharer.

You have meals in the welcoming dining room converted from a former stable. There are plenty of places to sit and relax, either indoors or on the veranda or in the gardens adjoining the horse paddocks.