

# Atlantis Ride, Azores

---

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.

## Feteiras to Varzia – Half Day Ride

You visit the historic and interesting town of Ponta Delgada. There are interesting old churches to visit or you may prefer to wander through the markets and see the colourful array of fruits and vegetables. Sao Miguel is a large producer of pineapples and it is also possible to visit a pineapple plantation.

In the afternoon the horses are tacked up and loaded into the truck to make the short journey westwards to Feteiras. Riders travel separately (c.30 minutes). Mount up and set off for a lovely ride along the south coast from Feteiras to Varzia. Arrive back at the Quinta in the late afternoon and later have dinner together.



## 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 swim at the Caldeira Velha (a warm waterfall at a hot sulphur spring), 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.



## 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 first around the rim of this huge volcanic crater and then descend to the twin lakes in the basin. There are opportunities for some lovely canters along the tracks around the lake shore. Have a picnic lunch by the lake shore.