

The Green Island Trail, Azores

Depending on the time you arrive there may be an opportunity for an introductory ride in the arena.

The itinerary for the Green Island Trail is flexible, but during your stay there will be a combination of three half day and three full day rides. The full day rides may be moved around due to the weather or other local conditions. It is usually possible to have additional riding or lessons (extra payable locally) in place of the non-riding excursions.

Following is a description of possible rides you might do.

Relva to Varzia – Full Day Ride

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



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 (approx. 35 mins). 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.



After lunch leave the Quinta by car to visit Lagoa do Fogo - an enormous lake surrounded by igneous vegetation located in the crater of an extinct volcano (Fire Lake) and Caldeira Velha (a warm natural swimming pool with a waterfall). The trip continues to Caldeira Velha where a warm water river joins a steaming geyser to form a pool under the leafy forest of tree ferns. Time for a soothing bath. The last visit will be at Gorreana tea plantation. This is a day not to forget your camera!



Peixe Assado to Calhetas. – Full day Ride

The ride starts at Peixe Assado and makes its way to the North coast to the village of Calhetas. Today you will ride through lush green valleys, Azorean jungle, small villages and enjoy some great views. Lunch will be a picnic on route and then later return to the Quinta for dinner.



Lemeiro – Half Day Ride

This morning you could 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.

Truck the horses 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.



Cabuco – Half Day Ride

Provided it isn't too windy then this morning you might like to get up early and go for a whale and dolphin watching trip from Ponta Delgada (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!

In the afternoon the horses will be trucked to Cabuco and you will ride back to Quinta da Terca, enjoying the good tracks in the area.



Sete Cidades – Full Day

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.



Orange Plantation Area and Sub-Tropical Forest – Half Day Ride

Another lovely half day ride is directly from the Quinta past the high walls of the old orange plantations and into the thick vegetation of a sub-tropical forest. The colours of the flowers are amazing. Return to the Quinta for lunch.



For more information contact in the saddle. Tel: 01299 272 997 Fax: 01299 272 935, Email: rides@inthesaddle.com, Internet: www.inthesaddle.com