

The Green Island Trail, Azores

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. Please note the pace of the ride is determined by the weakest rider.

Following is a description of possible rides you might do. Please note that on occasions the picnic lunches are replaced by lunch at a restaurant.



Remédios – Cabuco (full day ride)

This morning the horses are transported to the south side of Sao Miguel. You travel separately in a vehicle (approximately 35 minutes). You 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 may witness amazing views over the middle of Sao Miguel during the ride. Picnic lunch in Remedios.



In the afternoon you continue to ride to Cabuco enjoying the good tracks in the area. From here, you will ride back to Quinta da Terca.

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.



Non-riding excursions (half-day)

You travel 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 Caldeiras da Ribeira Grande. This thermal bath was established in 1811. 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.

The horses are transported 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.



Whale and dolphin watching trip

Provided it isn't too windy, one 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 around a 50% chance of seeing whales. Whatever, it's a really exciting boat trip!



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 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. Please note that trotting and cantering around the crater rim is not permitted due to the number of walkers on the track.

You may be required to dismount and lead your horse downhill on some sections.



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.

