

Double S Travel

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Double S Travel Worldchoice - Celebrating Twenty Three Years of service to residents and businesses in the South Bedfordshire area 1985 – 2008

The Azores

9 volcanic islands reputed to be part of the legendary lost continent of Atlantis.

Discovered in the fifteenth century by Portuguese navigators on their way to the New World.

Named "Açores" after the hawks that constantly circle the islands which the sailors mistook for vultures.

Set in the middle of the Atlantic

1000 miles West of Lisbon,

For five hundred years the Azores have remained almost totally unspoilt.

Tranquillity is ideal for those who wish to escape from the pressures of modern day life.

Leisurely pace of agriculture and fishing has only recently been interrupted by the Autonomous Government's realisation that tourism can also bring financial benefits.

So holidaymakers to the Azores are relatively few.

In the height of the summer Portuguese from the mainland rapidly fill the small number of beds available.

The cuisine of the Azores is rich and varied.

Fish dishes, seafood, meat and cheese, pineapple

Famous Verdalho wines of the islands of Pico and Graciosa (once the table wines of the Tsars of Russia)

Not to be missed is the excellent "cozido" at Furnas on São Miguel, where sealed cooking pots containing a mixture of meats, vegetables and spicy sausages are buried in the ground for 5 or 6 hours and the food is slowly cooked by the steam from the ground near the sulphurous springs.

Traditional handicrafts reflect the folk law and activities of the Azores and include: scrimshaw, (ornamental objects made from whale bone and teeth) usually miniatures of whaling boats.

Partners: SJ Pattenden TD & KJ Pattenden MSc. VAT Number 449 3040 53.

Nominated Travel Agent of the Year 2006, 2007, 2008

Finalist Travel Agent of the Year 2005, 2006, Finalist Business Travel Agent of the Year 2006

Finalist Best Specialist Website 2006 www.railchoice.co.uk.

Runner-up, Corporatechoice Business Travel Agent of the Year 2005,

Runner-up, TIPTO Agent of the Year 2005, Nominated Travel Agent Achievement Awards 2005.

Artificial flowers made from fish scales.

Wicker work.

Glazed earthenware

Delicate carvings made from fig pith.

Communications

SATA, Air Azores now has a direct flight from Gatwick to Ponta Delgada on Sao Miguel

Inter-island communication is quite sophisticated with British Aerospace ATP fifty seater turbo prop aircraft flying regular shuttles.

Two Ferries, "Cruzeiro das Ilhas" and "Cruzeiro do Canal", each about 80 feet long with seats on deck and below, a bar and TV lounge operate scheduled trips between Faial, Pico, São Jorge and Terçeira, taking just half an hour between Faial and Pico, 50 minutes between Pico and São Jorge and about five hours to Terçeira.

Day trips are therefore an attractive proposition and a considerable saving over the inter-island air fare is achieved by using these services as part of the holiday itinerary.

Climate

The climate of the Azores is equable all year round.

Temperatures range from a mild 14 degrees Centigrade (57 Fahrenheit) in winter to a comfortable 22 degrees Centigrade (71 Fahrenheit) in summer.

However the climate is, as one would expect, very much a maritime climate: one can therefore expect a wide variety of conditions within a very short period. A single day can produce wind and calm, and hot sun and showers in any combination! It is said that if you don't like the weather in The Azores – just wait 10 minutes!

These temperatures are average temperatures in the shade and ignore the strength of the direct sun.

Hire Cars

Hire cars are available on most Islands but are relatively expensive compared with the mainland.

In many ways it is more instructive to take the scheduled excursions available from Holiday Representatives or better still take a car and guide/driver.

Taxis

Simply take a taxi from outside the relevant Airport to the Hotel and vici-versa and a good deal cheaper.

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