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TOUR ITINERARY

RIDING LEVEL 3

Europe / Portugal / Azores

Azores Bike + Adventure Tour

São Miguel Island: Discover the Cycling Paradise of the Atlantic

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Encounter the island's myriad landscapes by bike, including volcanic vistas, tropical waterfalls, vibrant wildflowers, and lush coastal roads
- Meet a local chef at his family's restaurant and learn to prepare traditional Azorean *cozido*, a stew cooked underground using heat from the Furnas calderas
- Hike to the Lost Village of Sanguinho, an abandoned hamlet hidden in the hills above the Faial da Terra Valley
- Learn the history of São Miguel's tea industry and taste tea grown and harvested on one of Europe's only commercial tea plantations
- Join our expert friend for a tasting to discover the unique profiles of Azorean wines









ARRIVAL + DEPARTURE

Arrival Details

- **Airport City**:
  Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Portugal
- **Pick-Up Location**:
  Octant Ponta Delgada
- **Pick-Up Time**:
  9:30 am

Departure Details

- **Airport City**:
  Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Portugal
- **Drop-Off Location**:
  Ponta Delgada Airport
- **Drop-Off Time**:
  10:30 am

NOTE: DuVine provides group transfers to and from the tour from the pick-up and drop-off locations stated on the itinerary. In the event your train, flight, or other travel falls outside the arrival or departure times or locations, you may be responsible for extra costs incurred in arranging a separate transfer.

Emergency Assistance

For urgent assistance on your way to tour or while on tour, please always contact your guides first. You may also contact the Boston office during business hours at +1 617 776 4441 or **emergency@duvine.com**.

Travelers Take Note

The Azores is an emerging destination, which is a key part of its charm and appeal. As a result, local service at outique-style hotels may e more relaxed, on par with the overall disposition of the island.

The Azorean islands enjoy a year-round mild climate. However, hour- y-hour weather can e unpre dictable—it's said that all four seasons are sometimes seen in a single day. Therefore, the itinerary as planned may be subject to change depending on weather conditions, and we recommend dressing in layers and packing weather-appropriate gear in case of rain. During the summer months, arm and leg warmers, long riding pants, and long-sleeved jerseys are still recommended. In the fall, a warmer riding jacket is strongly recommended.

For the hikes on this tour, we strongly recommend bringing hiking boots or trail shoes with good traction (not running shoes or sneakers). Moisture-wicking clothing or daypacks are also recommended but not required.

When packing swimwear for use in natural volcanic pools, choose something that is disposable or replaceable. The high iron oxide content may discolor or stain swimsuits. We also suggest that you pack a sturdy pair of sneakers.

Due to limited bike availability in this destination, guests will be asked to provide bike information and requests upon booking.

Tour By Day

DAY 1

Bem Vindo to São Miguel!

Our guides will greet you at the pre-tour hotel in Ponta Delgada and conduct a bike fitting and safety review before our first ride: head out of the city on a bike path that follows the shoreline to Vila Franca do Campo. The town of Vila Franca was the original capital of São Miguel until it was destroyed by an earthquake (and subsequent landslide) in 1522—today, it's prospering once again thanks to banana plantations and the fishing industry. After lunch, continue cycling or catch a lift in the van to our first hotel nestled in the volcanic village of Furnas. Settle into your room and take a dip in the pool, which is naturally heated by thermal waters. Tonight we'll gather for cocktails before dinner at the hotel's restaurant.

Meals: Lunch / Dinner
Destinations: Ponta Delgada, Vila Franca do Campo, Furnas
Accomplished: 16 miles / 26 km, elevation gain: 1,253 feet / 382 meters
Longer Option: 29 miles / 47 km, elevation gain: 3,044 feet / 928 meters
Accommodations: **Octant Furnas**

DAY 2

Furnas and Fumaroles

Our adventure today begins at our friend Paulo's family restaurant in the heart of Furnas. Joining him in the kitchen, we'll watch as he prepares tonight's dinner: cozido das Furnas, a traditional Azorean stew slow-cooked underground using the town's natural geothermal heat. Leaving the stew to simmer, transfer to Faial da Terra, where towering emerald cliffs frame whitewashed houses—a view so picturesque it earned the village its nickname, "O Presépio da Ilha," the island's nativity scene. From there, we'll hike past the mystical Salto do Prego waterfall to the Lost Village of Sanguinho, a beautifully restored hamlet hidden in the hills above the valley, where the village caretakers will treat us to a wonderful lunch. Back at the hotel, the afternoon is yours. Relax by the pool or indulge in a treatment at the spa. Later, we'll regather and make our way to Paulo's grandparents' house, where he'll serve our steaming *cozido* alongside local wines.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner
Destinations: Furnas, Faial da Terra
Accomplished: 3-4 hours hiking
Accommodations: **Octant Furnas**

DAY 3 The East Coast Road

This morning, begin riding from the hotel or transfer to a starting point further down the road—either way, we're embarking on an epic loop ride along the island's eastern coastline. Described by DuViners as one of the most beautiful rides of their lives, the roads are lined with subtropical forests, blooming azaleas, blue hydrangeas, and fragrant belladonna lilies. We'll pass the waterfalls at Caldeirões Natural Park and pause at lookout points over the Atlantic, imagining the 15th-century sailors who also gazed eastward towards mainland Portugal. Break for a picnic lunch then choose to hop in the van or continue cycling right to the mouth of the volcano and into the caldera before completing the loop back to the hotel. Tonight, dine on your own in the village of Furnas—our guides can readily recommend a few favorite restaurants.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch
Destinations: Furnas, Achadinha, Nordeste, Povoação
Accomplished: 28 miles / 45 km, elevation gain: 2,696 feet / 822 meters
Longer Option: 56 miles / 90 km, elevation gain: 6,485 feet / 1,977 meters
Accommodations: **Octant Furnas**

DAY 4 Lagoa do Fogo and Le Tour du Tea

After a breakfast of island-grown fruit, Azorean tea, and bolo levedo (an airy Azorean muffin), we'll be properly fueled for today's hike to Lagoa do Fogo, a shimmering crater lake within the Água de Pau Massif stratovolcano. Weather permitting, we'll ascend through a jungle-like landscape of lush ferns and cedar forest to a wild, volcanic plateau with views over the lake. A short transfer brings us to the Porto Formosa Tea Factory—one of only two commercial tea plantations in Europe—for a look into São Miguel's agricultural history. First planted in the 16th century, oranges were the island's principal export until an 1842 blight wiped out the industry, sparking economic reinvention: dairy farming became a new mainstay, alongside crops like pineapples, passionfruit, tobacco, and tea. After a fascinating history lesson, sip a refreshing cup of tea on the veranda overlooking the tea fields, the Atlantic Ocean stretching into the distance. Stop for lunch at one of our favorite local restaurants, then continue to our next hotel, arriving with time to unwind with poolside cocktails or an afternoon massage. Tonight we'll meet our friend and sommelier João for a masterclass in Azorean wines followed by a memorable organic feast.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner
Destinations: Lagoa do Fogo, Porto Formoso, Ginetes
Accomplished: 3 hours hiking
Accommodations: **Sensi Azores**

DAY 5

Sete Cidades

Today's route is all about Sete Cidades, the island's enigmatic volcano, which derives its name from a folk story about star-crossed lovers. Setting out from the hotel, we'll ride through a patchwork of verdant farmland before beginning a steady climb up the volcano's southern slope. Our destination is Vista do Rei—a lookout point with magnificent views of the caldera's twin lakes, Lagoa Azul (Blue Lake) and Lagoa Verde (Green Lake). From there, descend into the village of Sete Cidades for a coffee break, then choose to catch a lift back to the hotel or spend your last full day in the saddle. Those who wish to continue cycling will climb to the top of the crater, soaking up a spectacular island panorama followed by a glorious downhill along the coastal road. This picture-perfect ride finishes back at our hotel, where a light lunch awaits. Tonight, we meet for an apéritif before heading to a restaurant lovingly adorned with antiques from the owners' past life in Macao. Our memorable final meal features sustainable and locally sourced ingredients paired thoughtfully with wines produced throughout Portugal.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner
Destinations: Sete Cidades, Ginetes
Accomplished: 28 miles / 45 km, elevation gain: 3,251 feet / 991 meters
Longer Option: 20 miles / 32 km, elevation gain: 2,491 feet / 759 meters
Accommodations: **Sensi Azores**

DAY 6

Adeus São Miguel

Your guides will transfer you back to the island capital of Ponta Delgada. You may wish to stay a little longer to experience São Miguel a few other ways—perhaps diving, hiking, or golfing.

Meals: Breakfast

Preparing for Your Tour

Travel Services
DuVine can assist with extended reservations at the first and final hotels on your scheduled itinerary, or with private transfers to and from your bike tour. DuVine's travel advisor partners are happy to assist with flight reservations. If you are not already working with an agent, please request a referral from your **Tour Coordinator**.

Travel Protection
DuVine offers a **Travel Protection Plan** to help protect your travel investment, your belongings, and most importantly, you. The offered Travel Protection Plan is non-refundable, but it is strongly recommended in the unfortunate event that you have to cancel or leave your trip.

NOTE: Plan benefits, limits, and provisions may vary by state or jurisdiction. In order to receive full benefits, Travel Protection must be purchased within 21 days of initial tour deposit. This plan is available to citizens of the U.S. and Canada only.

Gratuity
Gratuities are much appreciated to thank DuVine guides for exceptional service, support, and expertise. The industry standard is for each guest to tip 10-15% (U.S. tours and Cycle + Sail tours) or 7.5-10% (all other tours) of their trip price. The recommended per-traveler amount is an appropriate gratuity for your guide team as a whole. (It is not necessary to tip this amount *per* guide.) Tips are customary at the end of your tour, and local currency is always preferred. We recommend bringing extra cash or visiting the ATM at the beginning of your trip.





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YOUR TOUR DETAILS

Bikes
DuVine's top-of-the-line bikes are tuned to perfection and fit specifically to you. Our performance bikes from premier manufacturers feature light frames, smooth-rolling tires, comfortable seats, and wide gear ranges for the best ride possible. Please **see our website** for the exact bike models offered on tour. E-bikes are available in most destinations on a first-come, first-served basis. Electric assist provides an extra boost to your own pedal power, so you can ride longer distances, tackle tougher climbs, and maintain a faster pace. Contact your Tour Coordinator if you are interested.

Electrical Overseas
If you're traveling abroad, you will most likely need an **adapter**, which allows your device's plug to fit into foreign outlets. North American devices run on 110/125V electricity while the majority of the world runs on 220/240V. Converters and transformers change the voltage of electricity to match your device.

Training
First and foremost, get out on your bike and start logging some miles. Experience with the elements and terrain will help with your comfort level (balance, unexpected conditions, etc.) on tour. Nothing compares to the real thing, but if you can't cycle outside, consider spin classes. Always remember, training is a gradual process—don't try to overdo it or push yourself when you aren't ready. However, the most important part of training is to enjoy your ride! **Download a training guide** based on your Tour Level.

Travel Sustainably
DuVine is committed to sustainable travel and has been a 100% carbon neutral company since 2022. While cycling is an inherently eco-conscious mode of travel, we continuously seek ways to lessen our footprint, whether it be biodegradable water bottles or compostable gear mailers. **Read more** about sustainability at DuVine.



YOUR PACKING LIST

On The Bike
- ☐ Cycling jerseys or athletic shirts
- ☐ Cycling shorts
- ☐ Cycling shoes (if you bring your own pedals)
- ☐ Sneakers (if you don't bring your own pedals)
- ☐ Cycling sunglasses
- ☐ Athletic socks
- ☐ Arm/leg warmers
- ☐ Lightweight, waterproof, wind-resistant jacket or vest
- ☐ Bike gloves
- ☐ Bike saddle/cover (if you prefer your own)

Off The Bike
- ☐ Walking shoes
- ☐ Hiking shoes (if required)
- ☐ Long + short-sleeved shirts
- ☐ Sweater/jacket for evenings
- ☐ Dinner attire (dressy casual) + dress shoes
- ☐ Swimsuit

Travel Items*
- ☐ Travel confirmations + tickets for air, rail, etc.
- ☐ Passport, including photocopy
- ☐ Local currency
- ☐ DuVine Tour Itinerary (with meeting + departing info)
- ☐ Health insurance information
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Cycling gear (+ pedals) if riding on Day 1

*We recommend keeping these items in your carry-on

Additional Items
- ☐ Cell phone + charger
- ☐ Photography gear + charger
- ☐ Power/plug adapter
- ☐ Toiletries
- ☐ Sunscreen, hat, + other sun protection gear
- ☐ Insect repellent

What We Provide
- Bike saddle
- GPS (where available)
- Flat pedals
- DuVine t-shirt and jersey
- Helmet
- Water bottle
- Snacks/nutrition
- Drawstring bag

Do I need to bring special gear?
- Cycling shorts are designed to provide extra padding when spending the whole day in the saddle. Don't forget the chamois cream!
- If you bring your own cycling shoes, you must bring your own pedals. If you've never used clip-in pedals before, we don't recommend using them on tour.
- Arm and leg warmers are essential for cooler weather. Wear them with your short-sleeve jersey and shorts for lightweight, easy-to pack, and effective warmth.
- Bike gloves are a preference, but are recommended for Level 3 and 4 tours. The padding in gloves can ease arm, shoulder, and joint fatigue.

Dressing for the Weather
- The location and time of year of your tour can bring all kinds of weather, from extreme heat to relentless rain. Check extended forecasts before your trip and pack accordingly.

Before You Go
- Ensure your passport is valid for 3-6 months after return date.
- Call your bank/credit cards to notify them of upcoming travel.
- Please limit your luggage to one medium-sized suitcase and one carry-on.

Order DuVine Gear
Want DuVine bike shorts to match your complimentary jersey? To order, contact **tourcoordinators@duvine.com**. Gear is shipped free of charge to DuVine guests in the U.S. and Canada. For expedited shipping and guests outside of the U.S. and Canada, additional shipping fees will apply.

BIKE SAFETY

We strongly suggest you read these simple safety instructions and watch our **brief safety video.** They will help you bike safely before and during your tour!

- Wear a helmet—this is mandatory on tour!
- Familiarize yourself with traffic laws and obey them. Bikes do not have the right of way, but most drivers are respectful to cyclists on the road. Always ride in the direction of traffic.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Knowing what is in front of and behind you may help prevent an accident.
- Alert other riders around you by announcing the presence of traffic ("car up") or pot holes ("pot hole").
- When riding as a group, maintain distance between yourself and other cyclists
- Learn the hand signals to indicate when you are stopping or turning.
- Operate your bike consistently and predictably—avoiding erratic movements.
- Keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times.
- Primarily use your rear brake.
- Always be aware of weather and road conditions and how they may affect your ability to brake.
- Never wear headphones or use speakers during rides.
- Always listen to additional instructions from your guides on tour.

If you have chosen an e-bike, be aware that it is slightly heavier, faster, and more powerful than a non-electric bike. Therefore, you should anticipate a different reaction when riding downhill, braking, or dismounting from an e-bike. Your guides can offer further instruction during your bike fitting and safety review.

