



# ATLANTIC OCEAN ISLANDS

Madeira, Gran Canaria, Azores (Ponta Delgada) and Cape Verde (Santiago)

June 03 - June 20, 2025

Led by Local Guides

Can be combined with São Tomé Extension (June 21 - June 25, 2025) **AND** St. Helena Island Extension (June 28 - July 05, 2025)



*Madeira is renowned for its striking natural beauty, earning it the nickname "The Floating Garden." As you explore the island, you will be captivated by its rugged mountains, volcanic peaks, and verdant valleys. The landscape is adorned with vibrant flora and exotic and colorful flowers such as orchids and bird-of-paradise.*

*The Canary Islands, a mesmerizing archipelago located off the northwest coast of Africa, offers a unique blend of scenic beauty, diverse landscapes, and a vibrant cultural tapestry. Comprising seven main islands and several smaller ones, this Spanish territory is an enticing destination for travelers seeking an unforgettable and exotic vacation. Whether you crave pristine beaches, volcanic landscapes, breathtaking sunsets, or captivating historical sites, the Canary Islands have it all. A visit to the Canary Islands is incomplete without indulging in its delightful culinary offerings. With a blend of Spanish, African, and Latin American influences, the archipelago's cuisine is a fascinating fusion of flavors.*

*The Azores boasts a mesmerizing blend of volcanic peaks, lush green valleys, and azure-blue lakes, making it a dream destination for nature enthusiasts. Take a leisurely hike along the scenic trails of Sao Miguel Island, where you will be enchanted by the vibrant beauty of Sete Cidades, a twin lake surrounded by emerald-green hills.*

*Cape Verde is located in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of West Africa. This collection of ten volcanic islands offers a unique blend of diverse landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and warm hospitality. Whether you are a nature lover seeking breathtaking landscapes, a history buff curious about the country's fascinating past, or simply searching for a relaxing beach getaway, Cape Verde has something in store for everyone.*

**Ihab Zaki**  
Managing Director

**Tuesday, June 03**

**Arrive in Funchal (MADEIRA)**



Upon arrival in **Funchal** in the late evening, and after passing through the customs, meet the local guide and transfer to *Melia Madeira Mare Hotel or similar* for check-in and overnight.

**Wednesday, June 04**

**Funchal (City Tour)**



Begin the day exploring **Funchal**, the largest city on the island of **Madeira** and the seventh most populated city in Portugal. This vibrant capital of **Madeira** offers historic charm, stunning gardens, delectable cuisine, and scenic waterfront views, making it a must-visit destination. Start the day in **Funchal Old Town**, where *cobblestone streets and historic, colorful buildings* adorn the landscape. Within Old Town lies **Mercado dos Lavradores**, a great place to *purchase local crafts or produce*. Visit **Sé Cathedral**, an impressive Gothic-style cathedral that dates back to the 15th century. **Take a cable car ride** up to the hilltop village of **Monte**. Here lies *scenic views* of the harbor and the **Monte Palace Tropical Garden**, a botanical garden renowned for its *diverse collection of plants*. Head back to the *hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Thursday, June 05**

**Funchal (Santana & Machico)**



After breakfast, head to the north part of the beginning with the town of **Santana**, known for its lush vegetation. Head to the **Parque das Queimadas**, a *UNESCO World Heritage Site* with a corresponding environmental education center and Walk amongst waterfalls and wildlife at the **Levada du Furado**. Visit **São Jorge Chapel**, featuring a picturesque backdrop perfect for photography. Next, head to the coastal town of **Machico**.

Visit **Forte de São João Baptista**, a historic fortress with panoramic coast views. See **Igreja Matriz de Machico**, a 15th-century church *filled with stunning art and architecture*. Head back to the *Hotel* in Funchal for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Friday, June 06**

**Funchal (Cabo Girão)**



Today, take a short drive to **Cabo Girão**, a town renowned for its **towering sea cliffs**, reaching 1,900 feet. Cabo Girão offers awe-inspiring **panoramic views** of the Atlantic Ocean. Visitors can experience the thrill of **walking on the glass-floored Skywalk** at the cliff's edge. The rugged coastline, lush vegetation, and azure waters create a stunning backdrop for photography enthusiasts and nature lovers. **Cabo Girão** also offers **outdoor activities** such as hiking, paragliding, and rock climbing. Nearby attractions like the charming fishing village of **Camara de Lobos** offer a glimpse into daily life in Madeira. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner & overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Saturday, June 07**

**Funchal - Las Palmas (GRAN CANARIA)**



After breakfast, there will be some brief leisure time to walk around the town before an early afternoon wine tasting at **H. M Borges Winery or similar**. Portugal is one of Europe's largest wine producers. **Madeira** wine ranges from dry to sweet and it undergoes a unique aging process, exposed to heat and oxygen, producing a distinctive caramelized taste. After the wine tasting, transfer to the airport for our evening flight to **Las Palmas, Gran Canaria**, the largest city on **Spain's Canary Islands island**. Upon arrival, meet the local guide and transfer to the *Occidental Hotel or similar* for check-in and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Sunday, June 08

Las Palmas (City Tour)



After breakfast, begin the day with a visit to the **Vegueta**, a charming and historic district a stone's throw from the waterfront. This historic district looks as though it was transported directly from mainland **Spain**. Stop at the **Santa Ana Cathedral** and **Casa de Colón** for the best glimpse of the island's past. Then, head to **Pueblo Canario**, a picturesque complex celebrating *Canarian culture*. After lunch, return to the *Hotel* for a free afternoon at leisure to enjoy the beach or relax—dinner and overnight at the *Hotel*. **(B,L,D)**

Monday, June 09

Teror - Roque Nublo - Badama Caldera



Venture inland to Teror, a charming town located in the interior of Gran Canaria. See **Basilica of Our Lady of the Pine**. This stunning church is a blend of Gothic and Neoclassical styles. **Plaza del Pino** is the focal point of **Teror**, lined with historic buildings, cafes, and shops. Continue to the center of **Gran Canaria: Roque Nublo**, a volcanic rock formation that rises 80 meters (262 feet) tall. It is part of the **UNESCO World Heritage Site** known as the "*Risco Caído*." Head back toward Las Palmas with a stop at the famed **Badama Caldera** along the way. **The Badama Caldera** is an *ancient volcanic crater* formed by volcanic eruptions millions of years ago. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Tuesday, June 10

Northern Gran Canaria - Valle de Agaete



After breakfast, begin the drive to **Northern Gran Canaria** to see the natural wonders of the island. Northern Gran Canaria is known for its rugged coastline, charming villages, and natural beauty. Visit the town of **Agaete**, a coastal town nestled in the northwest of Gran Canaria. It is famous for its **natural pools**, **Puerto de las Nieves**, and the impressive **Dedo de Dios (Finger of God) rock formation**, which unfortunately collapsed due to erosion in 2005. Agaete is also renowned for its coffee plantations and charming streets with whitewashed houses. The valley has a rich agricultural heritage and is famous for cultivating **tropical fruits**. Explore the terraced fields and orchards that offer a glimpse into traditional *Canarian farming*. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Wednesday, June 11

Mogán - Maspalomas - Guayadeque



Today, we will cover Southern Gran Canaria, beginning with a trip to the quaint town of **Mogán**, renowned for its charming marina and often referred to as "*Little Venice*" due to its network of canals lined with colorful buildings. The marina has luxury yachts, fishing boats, and waterfront restaurants. The town boasts a *beautiful sandy beach*, Playa de Mogán, which offers calm waters ideal for swimming and sunbathing. Continue to **Maspalomas**, famous for its *stunning beaches*, including **Playa de Maspalomas and Playa del Inglés**. One of the most iconic features of Maspalomas is its extensive dunes,

which form a natural reserve known as the **Dunas de Maspalomas**. Then, head to **Guayadeque**, a ravine known for its unique landscape. It is famous for its pre-Hispanic cave dwellings, once inhabited by the island's indigenous people, the **Guanches**. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Thursday, June 12

Las Palmas - Ponta Delgada (**AZORES**)



After breakfast, transfer to the airport for our afternoon flight to the **Azores** through Lisbon. Upon arrival in **Ponta Delgada**, meet the local guide and transfer to *Octant Hotel or similar* for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

Friday, June 13

Sete Cidades - Caldeira Seca



Begin the day heading northwest of Ponta Delgada to **Sete Cidades**, a *breathtaking* area renowned for its stunning Twin lakes, Lagoa Azul (Blue Lake) & Lagoa Verde (Green Lake), which are set within the crater of a dormant volcano. The Lakes' distinct colors, caused by the reflection of sunlight on the water and the surrounding vegetation, create a mesmerizing landscape. The village is known for its charming **houses** and historic **church**. Not far from Sete Cidades lies **Caldeira Seca**, a geological formation characterized by its rocky terrain. The caldera was formed by volcanic activity millions of years ago and is now home to a *unique ecosystem* adapted to the arid conditions. Enjoy hiking trails that trace the caldera's rim, offering panoramic countryside and coastline views. The area is also famous for **birdwatching**. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Saturday, June 14

Furnas - Lagoa do Fogo



Begin a scenic drive east to **Furnas**, home to **Lagoa das Furnas**, a stunning crater lake that showcases an unparalleled landscape. Furnas features geothermal activity in bubbling hot springs, fumaroles, and mud pots. These natural phenomena provide opportunities for relaxation and wellness treatments in local spas. Visit a local restaurant to try one of the most iconic dishes of the Azores: Cozido das Furnas, a traditional stew cooked underground using the natural heat of the volcanic soil. Head to **Lagoa do Fogo**, another crater lake that translates to "Lake of Fire." The lake's waters are incredibly **clear** and have a striking **blue-green hue**, creating a tranquil and picturesque scene. It is not uncommon to see steam rising from the surface due to geothermal activity. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Sunday, June 15

Ponta Delgada (City Tour)



Spend the final day in the Azores, taking in the sights and sounds of the archipelago's main settlement: **Ponta Delgada**. The city offers a rich blend of landmarks and sights that reflect its historical, cultural, and natural heritage. See the **Portas da Cidade** (City Gates), which marks the entrance to the city's historic center. **São**

**Sebastião Church** is a striking *Baroque* church that boasts beautiful architecture and interior decorations, including ornate altars and azulejo tilework. **Fortaleza de São Brás (São Brás Fortress)** is a historic fortress that dates back to the 16th century and offers panoramic views of Ponta Delgada and its harbor. It now houses the **Azores Military Museum**. See the **Parque Atlântico Shopping Center**, the largest shopping center in the Azores, offering many shops, restaurants, and entertainment options. **Gruta do Carvão** (Coal Cave) is a fascinating underground lava tube system stretching several miles beneath Ponta Delgada. Free time at leisure to walk in the city before heading back to the *Hotel* for dinner & overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Monday, June 16  
Ponta Delgada - USA



Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the US. **(B)**  
*Note: Standard check out time is 11:00 AM, In the event of a late departure, you can either leave your luggage at the concierge or alternatively you can reserve a day-use room until your scheduled transfer to the airport (cost is separate).*

## For those Planning to visit Cape Verde

Monday, June 16  
Ponta Delgada - Praia (**CAPE VERDE**)



Early morning transfer to the airport for our flight to **Cape Verde**. Upon arrival in **Praia**, meet the local guide and venture to the city's historical center. Embark on a fascinating **walking tour** through colonial buildings. Pass by monuments honoring the island's discoverers, freedom fighters, and local artists at the **Palace of Culture**. Revel in the city's settlement history at the **Presidential Palace**. Continue the journey to the lively **Municipal Market** and mingle with locals while discovering diverse local fruits and vegetables. Explore the **Sucupira Market**, capturing the essence of local stories and island culture. Enjoy a special lunch in an authentic setting then transfer to *Pestana Trópico Hotel or similar* for check-in and overnight. **(B,L)**

Tuesday, June 17  
Praia (Calabaceira & Cidade Velha)



After breakfast, depart toward the small village of **Calabaceira**. Start the 3-hour simple hike on the accessible trail and explore the green valley famous for its **baobab trees**, which **Charles Darwin** mentioned, and its use as an escape route for enslaved people during slavery. Experience the production of a local **rum-making distillery**. Get the opportunity to meet local farmers and learn about their agricultural fields, such as sugar cane, mango trees, cassava, bananas, and more. Once we arrive in **Cidade Velha**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, visit

the **São Francisco Convent**, **Banana Street**, and **Nossa Senhora do Rosário church**. Enjoy a local lunch on the seafront, then head to see the former **slave market**, the ruins of the **Sé Cathedral**, and the **Royal Fortress of São Filipe**. From the top, enjoy a beautiful view of the whole old town and learn about the defense system used against pirates. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner & overnight. **(B,L)**

Wednesday, June 18  
Praia (Assomada & Serra Malagueta NP.)



Begin the day exploring the interior of the island. First stop at a **local house** to sample **cuscus** (a traditional cake made from corn flour) and **fidjós** (fried banana), the typical meal for Cape Verdean families. Continue to the city of **Assomada**, and head to visit the **famous market**. Head to **Serra Malagueta Natural Park** and marvel at the incredible views from 3,280 feet above sea level. Explore the chilling remnants of the **Chao Bom concentration camp**, a testament to Portugal's Salazar dictatorship. Learn about the political prisoners who suffered under authoritarian rule. Discover **Tarrafal Beach**, known for its white sand and crystal-clear waters. Visit the **Rabelados religious community**, which preserves the oldest customs of Cape Verde. Return to the *Hotel* for overnight. **(B,L)**

Thursday, June 19  
Praia (Serra Malagueta Park)



Head to the mountains for a breathtaking hike through **Serra da Malagueta Natural Park**. The trail begins in fertile areas at an altitude of 2,790 feet above sea level, taking us through the stunning lush landscapes of the park. There are over 124 plant species and 19 bird species. The guide will share fascinating insights into the local flora and fauna. Return to the starting point and head to the **Cuba Pool**, an untamed natural pool formed from ancient lava eruptions from **Ribeira das Pratas**. Take a refreshing dip in the crystal-clear waters while the host prepares a barbecue featuring fresh fish. Return to the *Hotel* in Praia for overnight. **(B,L)**

Friday, June 20  
Praia - USA  
OR Continue to **São Tomé**



After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight back to the US. **(B)**

*Note: Both Sao Tome and St. Helena Extensions can be customized based on your desired dates.*

*"We reserve the right to change the order of activities/visits or sites due to unexpected events such as flight cancellations or changes of schedule, or any other reasons beyond our control. We will do our best to ensure that any necessary changes when/if needed to meet the needs of our clients".*



## Tour Cost (Land Only)

**Madeira, Gran Canaria & Azores** \$8,995.00

Per person sharing in double occupancy

Single supplement \$1,695.00

**Cape Verde** \$1,295.00

Per person sharing in double occupancy

Single supplement \$395.00

Price based on group size minimum of 8 participants and maximum of 12 participants

**Trip Grade: II Lodging Level: \*\*\*\***



### Tour Includes:

- Airport/Hotel/Airport transfers on all islands.
- Accommodation in standard first-class hotels and lodges (4-5\*) mentioned or similar.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- English-speaking guide or naturalist/assistant during all tours and safaris.
- Transportation by 4-WD or vans.
- Bottled water during tours.
- All entrance fees to mentioned sites, activities, and points of interest.

### Tour does not include:

- International flight USA - Madeira /Cape Verde - USA.
- Flights between the islands Madeira - Gran Canaria - Azores-Cape Verde (Estimated total cost: \$400.00).
- **Visas:** Not required for up to 30 days - *subject to change*).
- Alcoholic drinks and beverages (including water) with or without meals and meals not mentioned.
- Items of a personal nature (camera fees, laundry, excess luggage, etc.).
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on tour dates.
- Gratuities to guide, drivers, porters, etc.
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules or misconnections.
- Travel protection insurance (**HIGHLY Recommended**).

### Trip Grade:

**II Active:** Some hikes, slightly more demanding walks at or to sites, elevations, comfortable but busy schedule and some long rides.

### Lodging Level:

**\*\*\*\*Superior:** Lodges and hotels with additional amenities, refined service, and comfort level acceptable to western standards (4-5 stars).



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