

# **About Hidden Trails**



Hidden Trails is owned and operated by nature enthusiasts who love horses and adventure activities. We have been involved with riding and other outdoor vacations for over 20 years.

With our partners Voyage du Cheval (France), Pegasus (Germany) as well as Equitour (Switzerland and France) we have collected the best riding destinations all over the world in some hidden places we would like to share with you.

These rides are about galloping on endless beaches, forging rivers, cantering through forests, trotting along age-old trails, gazing at beautiful vistas and encountering foreign cultures. But most of all, these trips are about getting away from the cycle of too much work and never enough free time.

Escape from the rituals, which long ago froze our nights and days into little more than routine and away from the worries of our new tense times. It is so satisfying when we take the plunge of adventure - it's unfortunate that we invent so many reasons to put aside living our dreams of adventure. It is sometimes a tangled web that we weave through life. Some of the threads reveal a work-a-day world of commitments, duties and obligations. Other threads are of a quiet fabric of hope, responsibility and refreshment.

On our adventures you see the real country, its back country and meet the locals. The love for horses has no boundaries but possesses a common language we all speak and understand. The majority of the overseas rides are from inn to inn, some from castle to castle and a few are camping rides.

You will experience new countries and their customs and make new friends. The Hidden Trails trips are the best you can find.

They have been tested by our staff or associates and received our stamp of approval. If you are considering a special riding vacation anywhere in the world, call us first and let our experienced consultants match the perfect trip with your dream.

We will listen to you and give you objective advice to help you choose the best destination and adventure.

Your vacation is the most precious time of the year and we are committed to making it the most memorable time of your life. Wherever you go, have a great time and bring back some peace of mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

#### **Hidden Trails**

Phone: 604-323-1141 Fax: 604-323-1148 Toll Free: 1-888-9-TRAILS from within the USA or Canada or

E-mail: info@hiddentrails.com Website: www.hiddentrails.com

#### Address

659A Moberty Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or 4406 Tennyson Road, Willmington, DE 19802 USA

### Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0-808 189-0420 Fax: 0-808-280-1860

#### Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails

# Green Azores Island Rambler - Portugal, Europe

Tour Code: IT-PGSRAZ 8 days / 7 nights ~\$2,255.00 Dates: Available all Year

Trip Rating : ••••
Difficulty : •••• Lodging: 🏚 春

Tack: English Horses: Lusitano, Lusitano/Arab

Pace: At all paced according to

riding level..

Airport: Ponta Delgda (PDL) - Joao





#### Introduction

Azores, Portugal

Welcome to the Azores, a collection of nine green and volcanic islands in the middle of the Atlantic with a wonderful climate that creates a paradise for orchid lovers (especially on the island of Flores). The Azores are also one of the best places in the world to see whales and dolphins and among the most sighted species are the sperm whale, the fin whale, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin and Atlantic spotted dolphin. Your horseback adventure with Hidden Trails will be a discovery of the Isle of São Miguel, which has an extensive network of secluded tracks that are perfect for exploring by horseback. These paths have been built throughout the centuries throughout the countryside and most are still used by rural farmers going about their daily routines. Your base for this wonderful riding holiday is at a rural Quinta (farm) on the south of the island not far from the main town of Ponta Delgada, home to some beautiful examples of Portuguese architecture dating back to the 17th Century. There are five lovely guest rooms, each with en suite facilities as well as a comfortable dining room and lounge.

The riding week offers a collection of half and full day rides combined with interesting sightseeing trips into towns, craters and hot springs. Experience a different experience and new scenery each and every day. On some days horses and riders are transported to different trail heads, providing for riders the most variety of trails possible, different landscapes and riding paces. These unique variations can make it seem almost as if someone has taken small parts from the five continents, blended them all together and tossed it into the ocean to create exotic Sao Miguel. Some people even say this island of the Azores is the sunken Atlantis

#### Accomodation



This is a stationary ride where all nights are spent at the same location.

The historic house of the Quinta (farm) is one of the oldest homes on the island and dates from the 17th Century. There are 5 lovely guest rooms, each with en-suite facilities as well as a comfortable dining room and lounge. Each guest room has been individually furnished and decorated to give our guests a feeling of being at home - all with private bathrooms (with hair dryer), accessories and cable TV. Each bed has 2 single duvets- so you do not have to fight over the duvet at night.





If you want to stay in a fancy hotel room which could be in any hotel anywhere in the world, this is not the place for you. It is a special place, where Claude and Christina will make your stay personalized and unforgettable.



#### Meals

All meals are included in your trip.

The food is a real highlight of the holiday. Christina's home cooked food is delicious! As much as possible local ingredients are used. We try to serve Azorean-style food whenever possible.

An array of seasonal fruit and vegetables will appear in all the wonderful breakfasts, lunches and dinners consisting of local produce, allowing you to experience the different flavors from the Azores.

The breakfast is a delight every morning and there is a big selection of fresh fruit, usually pineapple and a minimum of 3 varieties of melon, kiwi, pomegranate etc. There is also a selection of breads and jams and meat and cheese, every taste catered for and all fresh.

Each evening meal includes 3 different courses. Christina will take into account guest preferences and dietary requirements. Soup to start, different every night, followed by, for example, fresh tuna or chicken in a creamy herby sauce, concluded with the best chocolate mousse.

#### Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to all dietary restrictions with prior notice.



### Riding



For private groups the riding level can be adjusted. Riding lessons are available on request.







#### Riding Experience

You should be a competent rider in control of your horse at walk, trot and canter across sometimes rugged and/or steep terrain. There are areas where you may have to dismount and lead your horse. Please, note that riding on the beaches is not allowed in the Azores.

The riding center has some 49 much loved horses. They are all well-schooled and a pleasure to ride, whether in the arena or out on the trail.

#### Non-Riding Activities

Golf, Tennis, Water sports (Windsurfing, Sailing, Snorkeling, Diving, Deep Sea Fishing), Whale and Dolphin watching, Jeep Safaris & Walking Tours



Itinerary



Sample Itinerary: Green Azores Rambler - subject to changes

Please note this is just a suggested itinerary and is subject to changes ... some of the order of rides may vary.

#### Day 1: Arrival

Transfer from the airport to the lodge and riding center.

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

## Day 2: Introductory Ride & Visit of Ponta Delgada

After breakfast we enjoy a one hour riding lesson in the Picadeiro to get used to our new mounts. We enjoy lunch before heading off for our half day ride on the south side of Lagoa do Fogo. We ride on small roads and over pastures. A large part of the ride is on fields with milking cows. From the green pastures we have nice views over the middle parts of Sao Miguel. After lunch we all go an visit Ponta Delgada, the main city of Sao Miguel. Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 3: Livramento to Calhetas

After breakfast we get ready for a full day ride across Sao Miguel island. We start in Livramento and end on the north coast in the village of Calhetas. During the day we will enjoy everything from lush green valleys, admire splendid sea views look at green pastures and ride through villages. Our lunch picnic is out in nature. Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 4: Pico do Fogo Ride & Gorreana tea plantation visit

The half-day ride goes through the village and takes us up to Pico do Fogo, a mountain surrounded with what almost seems to be a tropical forest. We enjoy lunch. Afterwards, we do a half day excursion by car to Gorreana tea plantation. In the fantastic crater of Furnas, we will have a swim in a warm natural pool with water temperatures between 32 - 37 degrees.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 5: Relva to Varzea

Today we have an early breakfast to get ready for another full day ride along the south coast to the village of Varzea. We will admire spectacular nature and beautiful views across the ocean. Lunch is served at a restaurant







In the village of Feteiras.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 6: Half-Day Ride

After breakfast, we will have a half day of leisure (maybe shopping, going to the beach, or visit the whale and dolphin safari for 55 Euro per person). We have lunch and then head for a half day ride leading up and down on winding roads with several nice opportunities for a canter. We ride to the top of a field with a magnificent view of the north as well as the south coast.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 7: Sete Cidades Ride

Today will be an unforgettable day, this is like riding in a fairytale. The full day ride takes us along the volcano crater rim overlooking the twin lakes on one side and the ocean on the other. The tranquility of the waters and the scent of the Hydrangeas, which border the crater rim, contrast the steep sides of the crater, creating a fascinating sight. Continuing down into the crater to the small and picturesque village of Sete Cidades and the Green and Blue lakes. Picnic on the grass shore of the Green lake.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 8: Departure

Departure after breakfast and transfer to the airport.

Meals included: Breakfast

#### Sample Itinerary for 2022: Green Azores Rambler - subject to changes

Due to extreme rainfall, the following changes have been implemented for this year.

#### Day 1: Arrival

Transfer from the airport to the lodge and riding center.

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 2: Introductory Ride & Visit of Ponta Delgada

After breakfast we enjoy a one hour riding lesson in the Picadeiro to get used to our new mounts. We enjoy lunch before heading off for our half day ride on the south side of Lagoa do Fogo. We ride on small roads and over pastures. A large part of the ride is on fields with milking cows. From the green pastures we have nice views over the middle parts of Sao Miguel. After lunch we all go an visit Ponta Delgada, the main city of Sao Miguel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 3: Livramento to Calhetas

After breakfast we get ready for a full day ride across Sao Miguel island. We start in Livramento and end on the north coast in the village of Calhetas. During the day we will enjoy everything from lush green valleys, admire splendid sea views look at green pastures and ride through villages. Our lunch picnic is out in nature.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 4: Pico do Fogo Ride & Gorreana tea plantation visit

The half-day ride goes through the village and takes us up to Pico do Fogo, a mountain surrounded with what almost seems to be a tropical forest. We enjoy lunch. Afterwards, we do a half day excursion by car to Gorreana tea plantation. In the fantastic crater of Furnas, we will have a swim in a warm natural pool with water temperatures between 32 - 37 degrees.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 5: Remedios & Cabuco Ride

We ride on small roads and over pastures. A large part of the ride is on fields with milking cows. From the green pastures we have nice views over the middle parts of S. Miguel.

Later on, our itineraryleads up and down winding roads with several nice opportunities for canter.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 6: Half-Day Ride

After breakfast, we will have a half day of leisure (maybe shopping, going to the beach, or visit the whale and dolphin safari for 55 Euro per person). We have lunch and then head for a half day ride leading up and down on winding roads with several nice opportunities for a canter. We ride to the top of a field with a magnificent view of the north as well as the south coast

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 7: Sete Cidades Ride

Today will be an unforgettable day, this is like riding in a fairytale. The full day ride takes us along the volcano crater rim overlooking the twin lakes on one side and the ocean on the other. The tranquility of the waters and the scent of the Hydrangeas, which border the crater rim, contrast the steep sides of the crater, creating a fascinating sight. Continuing down into the crater to the small and picturesque village of Sete Cidades and the Green and Blue lakes. Picnic on the grass shore of the Green lake.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 8: Departure

Departure after breakfast and transfer to the airport.

Meals included: Breakfast









Sample Itinerary: The Micaelense Ride - subject to changes

This program is suited for novice riders. However, please note that the program includes long trots and some canters

Please note this is just a suggested itinerary and is subject to changes ... some of the order of rides may vary.

Transfer from the airport to the lodge and riding center. Enjoy a delicious dinner and solid night's rest Meals included: Dinner Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 2: Livramento Ride

After breakfast we get to meet our horses and get to know one another during a 1-hour riding lesson to get to know our horses and then break for lunch. The ride this afternoon takes us through the village and along fantastic stone walls, which are easily looked over from horseback. Passing pastures with milking cows up to what almost seems to be a rainforest "iungle"

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 3: Lagoa do Fogo Ride

Today we take a half day ride on the south side of Lagoa do Fogo. We ride on small roads and over pastures. A large part of the ride is on fields with milking cows. From the green pastures we have nice views over the middle parts of Sao Miguel. Afternoon at leisure (or maybe a whale & dolphin safari extra cost 55 euro/person) Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 4: Pico do Refúgio Ride

Half day ride exploring the beautiful north cost. Valleys covered with exuberant vegetation, charming villages and panoramic sea views. After lunch, half day excursion by car to the fantastic crater of Furnas we will have a swim in a warm natural pool with water temperatures between 34 - 37 degrees. Drink sparkling mineral water directly from the spring and more

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 5: Pico da Multa Ride & Ponta Delgada Visit

Today a ride that offers a bit of everything including fun canters. We start the ride close to the ocean, then up and over the hill Pico da Multa, continuing through the village of Gramas and we finish close to Ribeira Grande. After lunch, we visit to Ponta Delgada to do some shopping.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 6: Sightseeing & Half-Day Ride

We leave by car to visit one of the most spectacular places on the island. Lagoa do Fogo (Firelake) and Caldeira Velha, a warm natural swimming pool with a beautiful waterfall. At the top of the mountain we look down in the crater of an extinct volcano to see the enormous lake. Next stop is Caldeira Velha where the warm water river joins into a waterfall, forming a pool in a steaming geyser under the leafy forest of tree ferns. Time for a nice bath. After lunch, we spend a charming half day ride leading up and down on winding roads with several nice opportunities for a canter. We ride to the top of a field with magnificent view of the north as well as the south coast. Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 7: Sete Cidades Ride

An unforgettable day, it is like riding in a fairytale landscape. The ride in Sete Cidades (twin lakes) takes us along the volcano crater rim overlooking the twin lakes on one side and the ocean on the other. The tranquility of the waters and the scent of the Hydrangeas, which border the crater rim, contrast the steep sides of the crater, creating a fascinating sight. Continuing down into the crater to the small and picturesque village of Sete Cidades and the Green and the Blue lakes.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 8: Departure

Departure after breakfast and transfer to the airport.

Meals included: Breakfast

### Sample Itinerary for 2022: The Micaelense Ride - subject to changes

Due to extreme rainfall, the following changes have been implemented for this year.

Transfer from the airport to the lodge and riding center. Enjoy a delicious dinner and solid night's rest Meals included: Dinner Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 2: Livramento Ride

After breakfast we get to meet our horses and get to know one another during a 1-hour riding lesson to get to know our horses and then break for lunch. The ride this afternoon takes us through the village and along fantastic stone walls, which are easily looked over from horseback. Passing pastures with milking cows up to what almost seems to be a rainforest "jungle".

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

### Day 3: Lagoa do Fogo Ride

Today we take a half day ride on the south side of Lagoa do Fogo. We ride on small roads and over pastures. A large part of the ride is on fields with milking cows. From the green pastures we have nice views over the middle parts of Sao Miguel. Afternoon at leisure (or maybe a whale & dolphin safari extra cost 55 euro/person) Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta



#### Day 4: Pico do Refúgio Ride

Half day ride exploring the beautiful north cost. Valleys covered with exuberant vegetation, charming villages and panoramic sea views. After lunch, half day excursion by car to the fantastic crater of Furnas we will have a swim in a warm natural pool with water temperatures between 34 - 37 degrees. Drink sparkling mineral water directly from the spring and more.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 5: Pico da Multa Ride & Ponta Delgada Visit

Today a ride that offers a bit of everything including fun canters. We start the ride close to the ocean, then up and over the hill Pico da Multa, continuing through the village of Gramas and we finish close to Ribeira Grande. After lunch, we visit to Ponta Delgada to do some shopping.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 6: Sightseeing & Half-Day Ride

We leave by car to visit one of the most spectacular places on the island: Lagoa do Fogo (Firelake) and Caldeiras da Ribeira Grande, thermal bath dating back to 1811.

After lunch, we spend a charming half day ride leading up and down on winding roads with several nice opportunities for a canter. We ride to the top of a field with magnificent view of the north as well as the south coast. Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 7: Sete Cidades Ride

An unforgettable day, it is like riding in a fairytale landscape. The ride in Sete Cidades (twin lakes) takes us along the volcano crater rim overlooking the twin lakes on one side and the ocean on the other. The tranquility of the waters and the scent of the Hydrangeas, which border the crater rim, contrast the steep sides of the crater, creating a fascinating sight. Continuing down into the crater to the small and picturesque village of Sete Cidades and the Green and the Blue lakes.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Overnight at the Quinta

#### Day 8: Departure

Departure after breakfast and transfer to the airport. Meals included: Breakfast

#### Non Riders

Non-riding companions are welcome to join this trip. It is best to have a car in order to do some sightseeing while the rest of the group explores on horseback.

### Other Info

Meeting: Ponta Delgda, Azores

Airport: Ponta Delgda (PDL) - Joao Paulo II, Azores

Transfer: Ponta Delgda Distance: 6 miles

Pick-up/ drop-off for this trip is from Ponta Delgada airport (PDL). Transfer times are available

anytime on any day of the week.

Check-out on the last day is at 12:00pm (noon).

Tack: English

Horses: Lusitano, Lusitano/Arab cross

Pace: At all paced according to riding level. 3 to 6 hrs per riding day

Level: (2.5 to 4 out of 5) Intermediate

Age: Min 11 Weight: 200 lbs / 90 kg

Riders: Min 1 riders Max 9 riders

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

# Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-PGSRAZ

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals including wine with lunch and dinner, 6 riding days, Activities as described in itinerray & Transfers Can provide riding helmet

**Packages and Options** 

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	8 day trip, Green Azores Rambler (High)	€2050	\$2255
	Non-rider	€1100	\$1210
B 2024	8 day trip, The Micaelense Ride (High)	€1995	\$2195
	Non-rider	€1160	\$1275
C 2024	8 day trip, Green Azores Rambler (Low)	€1960	\$2155
	Non-rider	€1025	\$1130
D 2024	8 day trip, The Micaelense Ride (Low)	€1855	\$2040
	Non-rider	€1080	\$1190

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 1.1 and subject to currency fluctuation

# **Transfer Option**

#### Description

2024	Transfer from Sao Miguel airport included at any time			
2024	Single Supplement	€325	\$360	
2024	Extra night with breakfast (no riding/activities), dbl	€170	\$190	
2024	Extra night with breakfast (no riding/activities), sgl	€145	\$160	

#### **Tour Dates**

Season	Tour Dates		
C 2024	01/01/2024 - 03/31/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, Green Azores Rambler (Low)
D 2024	01/01/2024 - 03/31/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip, The Micaelense Ride (Low)
A 2024	04/01/2024 - 10/31/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip, Green Azores Rambler (High)
B 2024	04/01/2024 - 10/31/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip, The Micaelense Ride (High)
C 2024	11/01/2024 - 12/31/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip, Green Azores Rambler (Low)
D 2024	11/01/2024 - 12/31/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip, The Micaelense Ride (Low)

Min/Max: 1/9

Available all year on request. Sold Out Dates:

Rates do not include:Optional whale & dolphin safari, Extra nights & Gratuities

# **Reservation Form**

Tour:	Code #:	from	: to :
The Travelers (Last Name, First Name)	Male Female room / or tent Birth Da	Height Weight	2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
Special Diets:			
Your fitness level: Excellent Moderate	Poor Hov	long have you h	een riding?
How often do you ride?			1222
If Hidden Trails offers a transfer from the local	al airport/station: I v	ould like the tran	sfer to be included: YES NO
In an emergency, name and phone number of	f contact:		
Attention: Please, if there is more than one p	participant, all have to	sign the reserva	tion form - make copies if needed
With my signature I confirm my reservation of I made all participants aware of the risk involvement with the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions and brochure or as listed on the Internet.  I (we) will sign and forward the Recreational A	ved with these outdo d the Hidden Trails R	or adventure act ecreational Activi	vities. All participants have read and agree by Release and Indemnity Agreement in this
Last Name and First Name (The Traveler)		definity Agreem	ent at least 10 weeks belore trip starting date.
		_e-mail_	ent at least 10 weeks belore trip starting date.
Last Name and First Name (The Traveler)		e-mail_	Postal/Zip Code
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Last Name and First Name (The Traveler)  Street  City  Phone (wk) (hm)  Date  Please, charge a 25% deposit (minimum \$ 350 per full payment 10 weeks before the travel date to my For payments by VISA () or Mastercard ()	Signature (mand presson) now and predit card. (no debit cards)	e-mail  te  Cell latory)  Additional 2. 3.	Postal/Zip Code  Fax  Signatures:
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Hidden Trails Ltd. 659A Moberly Road Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3 FAX: 604-323-1148 Phone: 604-323-1141

