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Terceira


Quick Travel Guide



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beyond events

A place where history and heritage rule.
Where the pavement stones seem to hold the
memories of a distant time.
An island where thousands of navigators
departed from or stopped in search of new lands.
One of the most biodiverse territories
in the Azores archipelago.
A sublime escape for nature-lovers
and volcanic enthusiasts.



Welcome to the old heart of the Azores



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Glorious role in the Portuguese history



Terceira stands out for its more than 500 years of history. The fortified island, first settled in 1450, is an historic landmark for Portugal, where maritime fleets on transatlantic trade routes stopped between the 16th and 18th centuries.

In the 19th century, Angra was the soul of the liberal movement in Portugal, and was named the capital of the kingdom, from 1828 to 1832 the only city outside of mainland Portugal to be granted this title.

Among the nine Azorean islands, Terceira is the only one with a city recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Despite the devastating earthquake in 1980, which caused the collapse of most of the buildings in Angra do Heroísmo, the city received the UNESCO title in 1983.

Often called the prettiest Azorean city, Angra do Heroísmo is dotted with colourful chapels, forts and beautiful palaces.

The city took its name, Angra, meaning bay, from the sheltered cove where it is located. The other half of the city's name "do Heroísmo" means of heroism. This was added in 1837 in recognition of the population's courage during the civil war (1832 - 1834).

Angra do Heroísmo, the bright and enchanted city





Praia da Vitória, a picturesque city

Located on the eastern coast of the island, Praia (beach) da Vitória was founded in 1480 and is one of the oldest villages in Terceira.

This was where the first Governor established his residency.

Like the naming of Angra, Praia also indicates the morphology of its pale-coloured sand bay.

Vitória means victory and this second word was added after the Battle of Praia, during the civil war.





The 73 colorful Impérios or “chapels”



The Imperios “chapels” are more cultural than religious, a blend between a house and a chapel, dedicated to the worship of the Holy Spirit. The 73 Impérios were built between the 17th and 21st centuries and are spread around the coastline of the island.

The buildings are independent from churches and managed by the local people. At the top of their facades the buildings have a white dove or crown with the date of its construction.

Between May and October of each year Impérios are the center of the Festival of the Holy Spirit, a social and family celebration, created by the first settlers.



3 museums

to immerse yourself in the history of the island

Prepare to spend a couple of hours discovering the history of Terceira at **Angra do Heroísmo Museum**. Located in the 17th century Franciscan monastery, this museum invites you on a journey to explore six centuries of history through remarkable military, transportation and art collections.



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If you want to understand the genesis of the island, **Machado Fagundes Vulcanospeleologic Museum** should be included on your itinerary. Although the exhibition area is relatively small, it has a large collection of volcanic materials, 3D models of the islands; xylotheque; fossils; and an amazing mineral collection.



Capitães Gerais Palace was once a Jesuit school until being converted into a Palace by the 1st Captain-General of the Azores, Antão de Almada in 1776. The palace was later the Royal Court for King Pedro IV in 1832 and King Carlos I in 1901, and is currently the official residence of the President, but remains open to the public.



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3 adrenaline pumping hikes

The West Great Route is 31 kilometers long, covers the west part of the island in a linear route that connects the Forest Reserve and Recreation Park of Lagoa das Patas to the Forest Reserve and Recreation Park of Mata da Serreta. This is a hard trail that takes an average of 10 hours to hike a great option if you like challenges.

Don't forget to **download** the map and the gps route.





Mistérios Negros trail (Black Mysteries) is a stunning 5 kilometres circular route that is located in the Natural Reserve of Serra de Santa Bárbara and Mistérios Negros Natural Park of Terceira. It's classified as a hard trail, and it takes an average of two and a half hours to hike.

Here's the map and gps route.



Malha Grande/Biscoitos is a route of 14 kilometers that ends at the natural swimming pools of Biscoitos. The highest point of the trail is 708 meters (2323 feet), indicated by a geodesic landmark. Before the end of this trail, you are able to observe the military trenches used in World War II and wine production areas.

Check the map and gps route.

**In case you need support,
the emergency call number is 112.**

7 escapes for nature lovers

Ilhéus das Cabras:

Initially a circular island it was divided by underwater volcanic eruptions, to form two islets. Once a hiding place for pirates, the beautiful caves can now be visited by boat.





Agualva Bays

one of the iconic geo-touristic sites of the island where lava pouring into the sea formed a natural wall with peculiar columns. A great place for birdwatching.

Guilherme Moniz Caldera

This is the second volcano to emerge from the ocean, creating land where you can appreciate both the natural landscape and wild cattle, such as the fighting bull. Its interior, with a flattened plain is partially covered by more recent basaltic lava flows emitted from the Algar do Carvão volcanic system about 2000 years ago. The caldera is classified as a geosite of the Azores UNESCO Global Geopark.





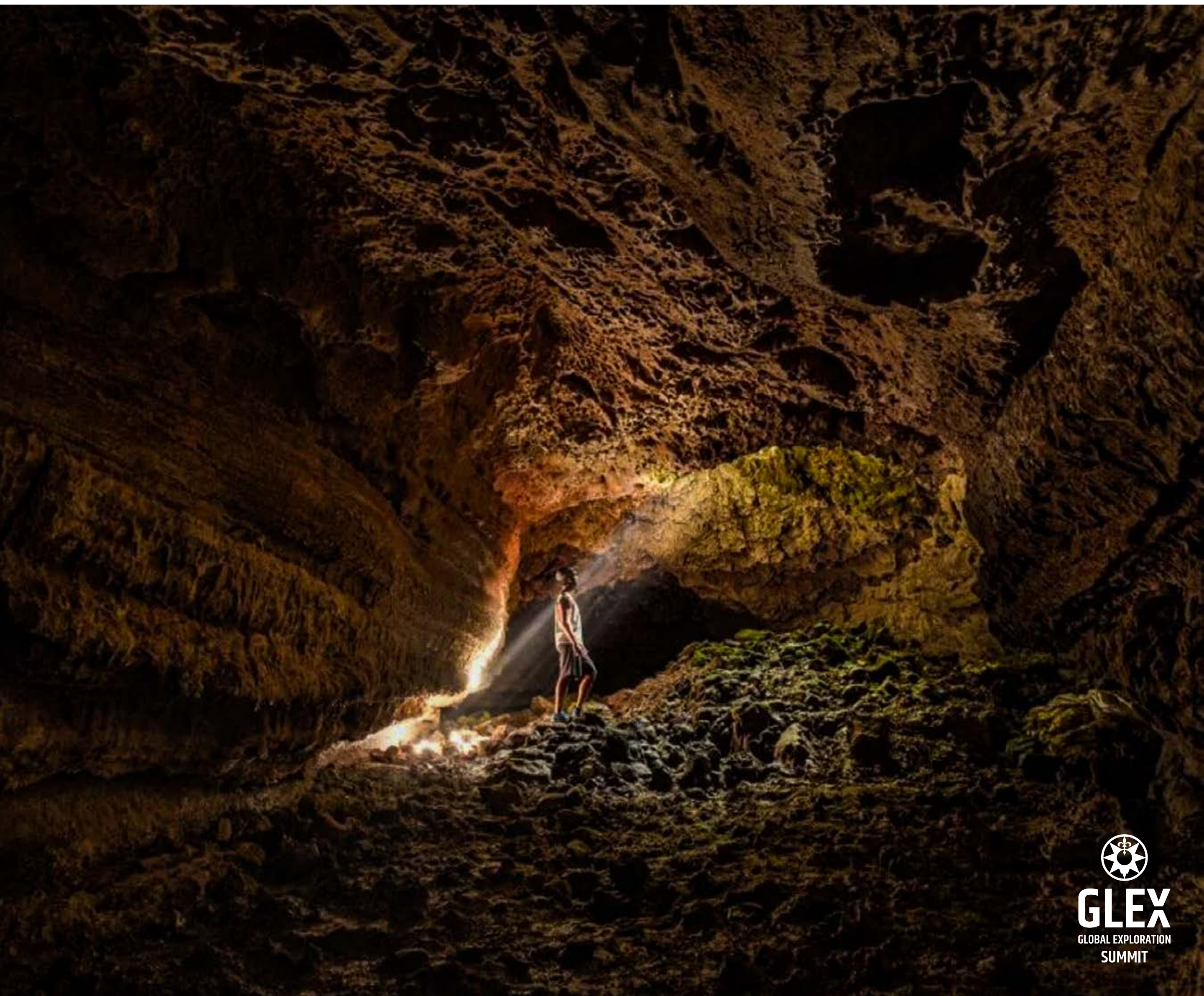
Algar do Carvão

a remarkable volcanic vent, classified as a Natural Monument, where you can find a beautiful natural cave with amorphous silica stalactites, layers of glossy black rock, a lake, and underwater springs.

This is one of only two huge open caves of its type in the world where you can walk inside an extinct volcano.

Gruta do Natal (Christmas Cave)

This is a lava tube some 697 meters (2287 feet) long where you can better understand the volcanic activity of the Azorean islands. It is known as the Christmas Cave since the first mass inside the cave occurred on December 25, 1969.



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Serra do Cume viewpoint

This is one of the most spectacular views on the island overlooking green pastures resembling a “patchwork”, and where you can also see Praia da Vitória on the northeast side and Cabras islets on the southwest side.

Monte Brasil

about 20,000 years ago a small volcano emerged on the south coast of Terceira Island, creating the most imposing volcanic structure on the Azorean coast. Monte Brasil was formed by a system of faults parallel to the Terceira rift. The promontory that is seen today results from two distinct phases of the eruption, and is currently a protected zone. The hike around Monte Brasil passes by the Fortress of São João Baptista, one of the largest and important forts that the Philippine Dynasty (1580–1640) built in Portugal.



11 Must-try traditional products for foodies

to eat

Alcatra – slow-cooked beef

Boca Negra – Northern red snapper

Veja – Mediterranean parrotfish

Limpets – mollusk usually grilled with
a butter and lemon sauce

Queijada Dona Amélia – small cake with
cinnamon, walnuts and raisins

Quinta dos Açores ice cream – made with Azorean
milk and cream

Vaquinha cheeses – bar shaped ripened cheese
with a buttery crust

to drink

Brianda craft beer – full-bodied and flavor-packed
local craft beer

Verdelho wine – white wine using one of the most
iconic grape varieties in the Atlantic

Kima – most famous soda in the Azores with
passion fruit flavor

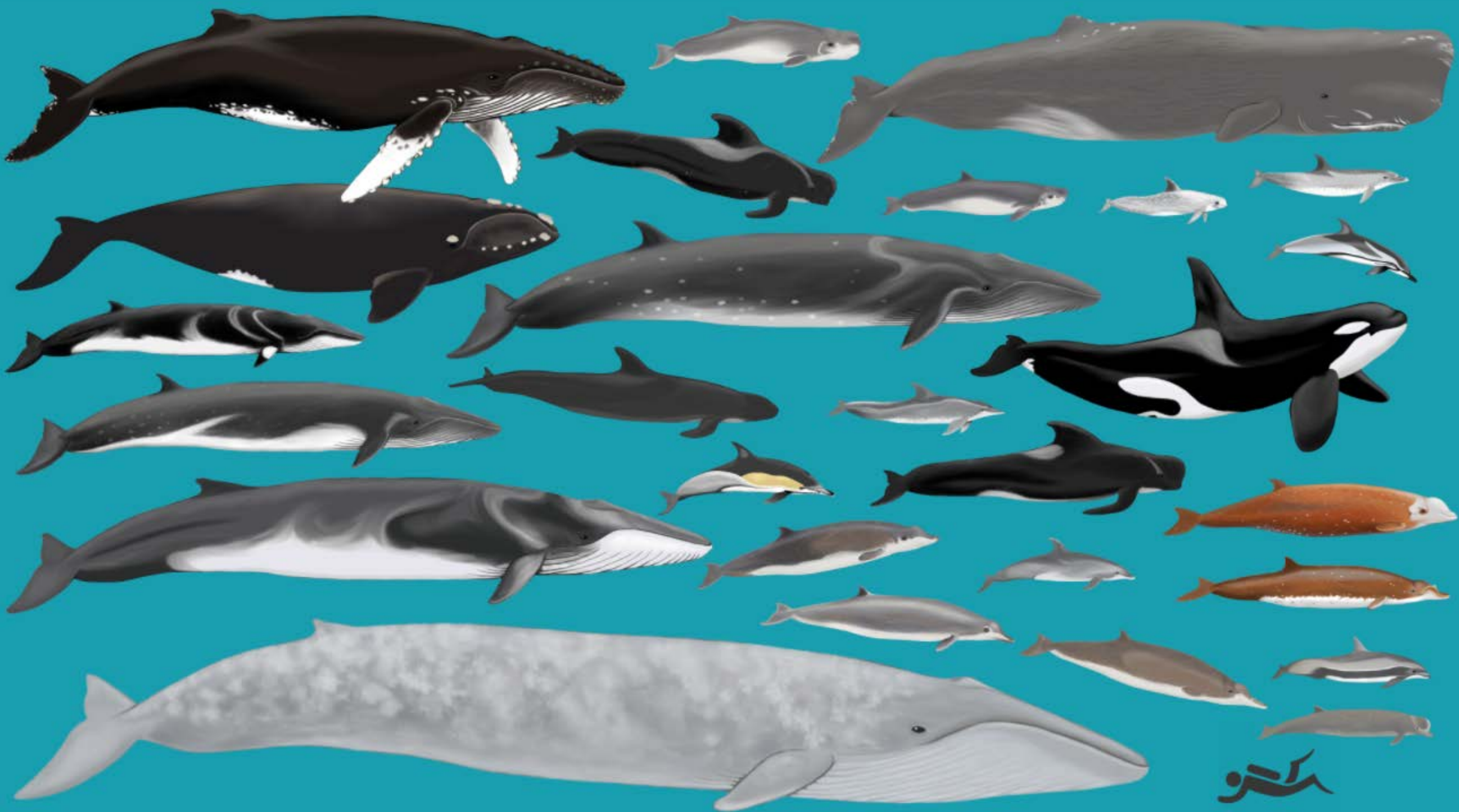
Island coffee – the biggest European coffee plan-
tation is located on Terceira island.

Cetaceans

The Azores are considered one of the best places in the world for whale and dolphin-watching, 29 species have been recorded in recent years.



On Terceira Island, it is possible to observe cetaceans all year round – and June is one of the best months.



These are the species that are possible to be seen:

Blue Whale • Fin Whale • Bryde's Whale • Sei Whale
Minke Whale • Northern Right Whale
Humpback Whale • Sperm Whale
Pygmy Sperm Whale • Dwarf Sperm Whale
True's Beaked Whale • Northern Bottlenose Whale
Cuvier's beaked whale • Gervais' Beaked Whale
Blainville's Beaked Whale • Sowerby's Beaked Whale
Short Finned Pilot Whale • Killer Whale • Long Finned
Pilot Whale • Risso's Dolphin • Bottlenose Dolphin
Harbour porpoise • Fraser's Dolphin • Killer Whale
False Killer Whale • Rough Toothed Dolphin
Striped Dolphin • Common Dolphin
Atlantic Spotted Dolphin



Traditions



Weaving is one of the first and oldest traditional industries of the island and it dates back to the settlement period, when families depended on homemade woolen and linen cloth to make their clothing. The old looms are still used to make woolen bedspreads with geometrical designs, used to cover beds and to decorate windows on festive occasions.



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Traditions



The **traditional Pottery** of the Azores is still produced in Terceira. Some of the most iconic pieces are “talhão” (a reservoir for water or cereals), “talha” or “bilha” (clay jugs) and “alguidar” (bowl) to serve the typical “Alcatra” (slow-cooked beef).



Embroidery on linen cloth dates to the settlement of the Azores. This unique and complex work can take up to two years to finish. Angra do Heroísmo is home to the oldest embroidery factory of the Azores, AçorBordados, founded in 1945.



In Terceira there is an atypical ingredient used in **Art Pieces and Jewellery**: fish scales.

Any fish scales can be used but they need about a week of preparation.



Lajes Field Air Force Base

Terceira island has a military airfield used by the United States Air Force also referred to as Air Base No. 4. The military base was built in 1934 and was active during World War II by the Portuguese, the British and American forces, and during the Cold War, and the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. It is currently the home to the Portuguese Air Force Base Aérea No. 4 and Azores Air Zone Command, a United States Air Force detachment unit, and houses the regional air passenger terminal.

A great destination for slow travel



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How to slow travel?

- Avoid last minute plans and include time to wander in your trip;
- Skip beverages with caffeine on the day before traveling;
- Opt for public transportation or bicycle;
- Taste local delicacies;
- Learn a few words in the local language so you can better interact with the community.





Basic Conversation Guide



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Basic Conversation Guide

Hi – Olá

Good morning – Bom dia

Good afternoon – Boa tarde

Good evening / Good night – Boa noite

Goodbye – Adeus

See you later – Até logo

Yes – Sim

No – Não

How are you? – Como está?

I'm fine, thanks – Estou bem, obrigado

What's your name? – Qual é o seu nome?

My name is... – O meu nome é...

Nice to meet you – Muito gosto em conhecê-lo

Thank you – Obrigada (if you are a women)
or obrigado (if you are a man)

You're welcome – De nada

Please – Por favor

Excuse me – Com licença

I'm sorry – Desculpe

Open – Aberto

Closed – Fechado

Entrance – Entrada

Exit – Saída

Restroom – Casa de banho

Do you speak English? – Fala inglês?

I don't speak portuguese – Não falo português

I don't understand – Não entendo

I'm lost – Estou perdido



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**We hope you have
a blast in Terceira.**

Organization

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