

## **DISCOVERING THE AZORES**

### **Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup> – Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

*The Azores archipelago has a total of 850 or more plant species. Of these, some 300 are native and possibly 60 species are endemic, found nowhere else in the world but in the Azores. Of the 11 species of native trees, eight are endemic to the Azores. The islands of Terceira and Sao Miguel are very unspoilt and are characterized by verdant luxuriant vegetation. Amid the quiet pastures and pretty fishing villages, a tranquillity reigns that belies the turbulent past that gave birth to this cluster of volcanic islands.*

#### **ITINERARY** (subject to amendment)

##### **Day 1/Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup>**

Leave the US for Lisbon

##### **Day 2/Friday May 21<sup>st</sup>**

##### **ANGRA DO HEROISMO/TERCEIRA**

Arrive Lisbon and take connecting flight to the island of Terceira in the Azores. Arrive Terceira Airport and continue by coach to the hotel. In the afternoon we will have a guided walking tour of Angra do Heroismo - a Unesco world heritage site to include the Cathedral, the Church of the Misericordia and the public garden.

8.00pm Dinner in the hotel

Hotel: Pousada Forte de São Sebastião, Rua do Castelinho. *The Pousada hotel is a contemporary design boutique hotel created inside a 16<sup>th</sup> century fortress.*

##### **Day 3/Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

##### **ANGRA DO HEROISMO/TERCEIRA**

This morning we will leave for an excursion to the area north west of Santa Barbara to the Serreta forest, *a mix of cryptomeria and native vegetation with many Azorean native species.* We will then visit the wine museum with its charming small garden in the village of Biscoitos and the natural swimming pools of black volcanic rock. Lunch will be at Restaurante Os Moinhos in Sao Sebastiao.

We will return to the hotel with the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

8.00pm Dinner in the hotel

##### **Day 4/Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

##### **FURNAS**

We will depart the hotel by coach (with luggage) for the Lajes airport for our flight to the island of Sao Miguel. We arrive Ponta Delgada Airport and meet our guide to continue by coach to the town of Vila Franca do Campo, the ancient capital of the island. We will have lunch at Restaurante Paria Café. We then leave for Furnas and our stay at Hotel Terra Nostra, *located in the Terra Nostra Botanical gardens.*

8.00pm Dinner in the hotel

##### **Day 5/Monday May 24<sup>th</sup>**

##### **FURNAS**

We start the morning with a walk around the lake of Furnas and a visit to the hot springs. We will also experience the typical local dish, *the Cozido das Furnas*. We then visit the Beatriz do Canto Park, with lunch following at the Casa do Chà. After we visit a private woodland garden of the late Josè do Canto. Then we return to the hotel and rest of the afternoon at leisure and time to return to the botanical gardens.

8.00pm Dinner in the hotel

**Day 6/Tuesday May 25<sup>th</sup> FURNAS**

Today will be a full day excursion to Nordeste (eastern part of the island) to see the endemic plants. *Nordeste is a very beautiful and remote region with steep sea cliffs of native and exotic vegetation and forest clad mountains.* We will visit the Ribeira dos Caldeiros park with a series of old water mills. For lunch, we will have a picnic. Weather permitting as it is often steeped in cloud, we will visit the Serra da Tronqueira, *a special protected area, intersected with ravines and ever-green vegetation of Azorean laurel, bilberry, holly and Juniperus brevifolia.*

8.00pm Dinner in the hotel

**Day 7/Wednesday May 26<sup>th</sup> PONTA DELGADA**

Morning departure (with luggage) by coach for the Gorreana tea plantation, including a visit to the plantation and factory, as well as tea tasting. We then continue for a visit to the town of Ribeira Grande. Afterwards, we continue to Capelas for a private lunch at Quinta Vista Alegre (subject to confirmation) and visit the gardens with the owner. Continue to Ponta Delgada and stay at the 4 star Royal Garden Hotel

8.00pm Dinner in the hotel

**Day 8/Thursday May 27<sup>th</sup> PONTA DELGADA**

Our visits in Ponta Delgada will include the Antonio Borges Garden, with its grottoes, streams and belvederes; and the José do Canto gardens with its fine collection of trees and plants. We will visit the Sant'Ana Palace (Presidential Palace) gardens (subject to permission being granted). Lunch will be in a local restaurant. In the afternoon we visit to the Monastery of Santo Cristo and the Cathedral and take a walk in the town.

Tonight you will have dinner on your own

**Day 9/Friday May 28<sup>th</sup> PONTA DELGADA**

Morning departure by coach for the Sete Cidades twin lakes and a walk along the Lagoa do Canario to see the Royal Fern, *Osmunda Regalis*. We then return to Ponta Delgada and visit the Arruda Pineapple Plantation and the small private garden. Today you will lunch independently with your afternoon at leisure. This evening we will leave by coach for Lagoa for a special visit to a private garden where we will dine privately in a typical Azorean manor house overlooking the sea (subject to confirmation).

**Day 10/Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup>**

Leave for the airport for a flight to Lisbon

**Price land only, not including round trip airfare to the Azores**

(domestic flight from Terceira to Sao Miguel included in price)

Double Occupancy      \$4,770

Single Occupancy      \$5,470

**For more information or a full brochure, please contact Mary at ...**

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