

Discovering STEM in the Azores

Jun 14 - Jun 21, 2021

Group Leader:

Hans Figueroa

Group ID:

308999

Depart From:

Los Angeles



what's included

- ✓ Round-Trip Flights
- ✓ Centrally Located Hotels
- ✓ 24-Hour Tour Manager
- ✓ Daily Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
- ✓ Terra Nostra Gardens
- ✓ Furnas Lake Cozido Demonstration
- ✓ Furnas Monitoring and Research Center
- ✓ Gorreana Tea Plantation
- ✓ Gruta do Carvão
- ✓ Volcanological and Geothermal Observatory of the Azores
- ✓ Ribeira Grande Hot Springs
- ✓ Biologist-Led Whale and Dolphin Watch
- ✓ Ribeira dos Caldeirões Natural Park
- ✓ Nordeste Tour with Guide
- ✓ Tour Manager & Bus Driver tips



our promise

In educational travel, every moment matters. Pushing the experience from “good enough” to exceptional is what we do every day. Our mission is to empower educators to introduce their students to the world beyond the classroom and inspire the next generation of global citizens. *Travel changes lives.*

“Our tour guide was phenomenal; he went above and beyond my expectations. His knowledge of the area and the history behind it was most impressive.”

Matthew L. Participant

trip itinerary - 8 days

Jun 14, 2021: Overnight Flight

Depart from the USA.

Jun 15, 2021: PONTA DELGADA

Welcome to San Miguel Island in the Azores. Upon arriving, you'll meet your ACIS Tour Manager and transfer to your hotel. Ponta Delgada is the largest city in the Azores' archipelago—nine islands formed by volcanic activity. Brimming with dry calderas, fumaroles, crater lakes, thermal springs and caves, the Azores are one of the world's great geo-tourism destinations—and fertile ground for geology-minded students. For the rest of the day, you're free to get acquainted with this enchanting city, perhaps visiting the Carlos Machado Museum, which chronicles the history of this former fishing village, or strolling through the city's cobblestone streets and lovely squares. (B,L,D)

Jun 16, 2021: PONTA DELGADA

Get into a scientific state of mind as you depart for Furnas, a town in the Furnas Valley, a hotbed of thermal mineral springs and volcanic activity. Pay a visit to the Terra Nostra botanical gardens, one of the most beautiful gardens in Europe, featuring a thermal swimming pool and more than 2,000 species of trees. For lunch learn about and enjoy a unique treat that boasts a geology lesson as a side dish: Cozido das Furnas is a traditional stew that consists of vegetables, pork, chicken and blood sausage, cooked for hours in an underground hot spring. After lunch, you'll visit the Furnas Lake Interpretation Centre and the Furnas Monitoring and Research Centre (CMIF), located on the lakeshore. You'll learn all about the CMIF's critical mission—restoring the lake's water quality and ecosystem—and why that's necessary. Then you'll head to the island's north coast for a visit to the Chá Gorreana tea plantation, Europe's oldest tea-producing company. On the way back to your hotel, get your camera ready for a stop in Ribeira Grande, a picturesque little coastal town that stands on a volcanic plateau. (B,L,D)

Jun 17, 2021: PONTA DELGADA

Volcanology comes alive this morning as you take the island's mountain road to Lagoa das Sete Cidades, two lakes linked by a narrow strait that sit in the crater of a dormant volcano. To get a great view of the two lakes (Lagoa Verde and Lagoa Azul, named for the color of their water), you'll stop at Vista do Rei for a breathtaking panoramic view. Then you'll descend into the crater and take a leisurely walk along the shores of these magnificent natural wonders. Your volcanic education continues with a trip to Ferraria, known for its thermal waters and magnificent volcanic cliffs. After a picnic lunch, you'll head back to Ponta Delgada to visit Gruta do Carvão, San Miguel's longest lava tube—a geological marvel that's almost 1 ¼ miles in length. (B,L,D)

Jun 18, 2021: PONTA DELGADA

The Azores have been a center of volcanic activity, including eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis, for centuries. The archipelago still includes nine active volcanoes, which explains why



the mission of the Volcanological and Geothermal Observatory of the Azores—the first stop on today's agenda—is so vital. Learn about how the organization monitors critical seismic information before continuing by mountain road to Lagoa do Fogo, a crater lake in the center of the island at an altitude of nearly 3,000 feet. After lunch, you'll visit Caldeira Velha, which features a waterfall of warm, iron-rich volcanic water, plus a couple of thermal pools. Last stops: The Ribeira Grande hot springs, followed by a stop in Ribeira Grande, famous for its buildings made from basalt, a fine-grained volcanic rock. Then you'll head back to Ponta Delgada for dinner and a free evening. (B,L,D)

Jun 19, 2021: PONTA DELGADA

The highlight of today's activities begins with a walk to the marina for a three-hour whale- and dolphin-watching trip led by biologists, skippers and lookouts on a 60-seat catamaran. Before going out at sea, you'll be briefed on the whale-watching code of ethics and learn what species you might see. Each cruise differs slightly based on weather conditions and the animals' location. In the afternoon, enjoy free time to explore more of Ponta Delgada before having dinner at the hotel. (B,L,D)

Jun 20, 2021: PONTA DELGADA

Today you'll explore the eastern part of San Miguel Island. After a stop at the dramatic Santa Iria scenic overlook, you'll head for Ribeira dos Caldeirões, a protected park noted for its abundant Macaronesian flora and waterfalls. After enjoying a rich cup of coffee, continue on to the village of Nordeste, where you'll eat lunch and take a guided tour. On the way back to Ponta Delgada, another stunning overlook awaits at Ponta da Madrugada. Beyond that, you'll pay a visit to the small village of Povoação, then return to the hotel via the island's southern coast for dinner. (B,L,D)

Jun 21, 2021: Departure

After a morning of leisure time, enjoy a final lunch before transferring to the airport for your departure to the USA. (B,L)
This is a preliminary itinerary for your group.



tour cost

Participant Fees

Program Fee	\$3593
Saver Date Incentive	\$-200

Total Participant Fees ²	\$3393
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² Valid through 01/01/20 with \$200 deposit.

Additional Fees (as applicable)	
Adult Surcharge	\$100
Single Room Supplement	\$570
Double Room Supplement	\$300
Ultimate Protection Plan	\$240
Comprehensive Protection Plan	\$200

notes from acis

Please note that lunches (as well as breakfast and dinner) and tips are included in this above price.

The above student price is based on a minimum of 40 paying passengers. If the number drops below 40, a small group surcharge will be assessed.

- Save \$50 off your Total Participant Fees if you pay for your trip by E-Check or through our Automatic Payments Plan.
- All registered participants can enjoy the convenience, security and savings of having payments automatically withdrawn from a checking account by enrolling in an Automatic Payments plan. To learn more, visit www.acis.com/autopay
- Adult travelers age 21 and older should add in the Adult Surcharge and Double or Single Room Supplement to calculate their Total Participant Fees.
- This educational travel program is not school or district sponsored unless expressly stated by the Group Leader.

The **Most Recommended**
Educational Travel Company!



Travel Changes Lives

To learn more, we invite you to read our free ebook, "The Making of a Five-Star Future."
<http://pages.acis.com/ebook>



Can travel make a difference in students' futures? It certainly can and does every single day. In fact, we surveyed 930 former ACIS travelers to see how their tours abroad as young adults influenced their choices in education and paved a way for future careers. Many of them credit travel as a defining moment in their adolescence, and below is a recap of our findings.

education



81%

of those that traveled in middle school or high school continued their studies at the college level compared to the national average of 68%



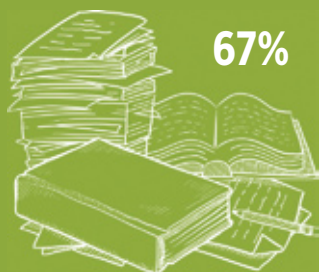
of travelers who went on to college said their travel experience influenced their field of study.



57%

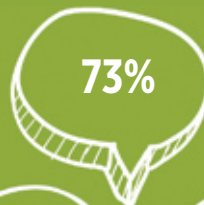
of respondents were motivated to study abroad during college.

language skills



67%

of students continued to study foreign language in college.



of ACIS travelers say they speak one foreign language fairly well compared with 18% of the American population.



personal development



94% felt more independent after their trip.

78% saw an increase in their problem solving skills.

92% noted improvement in their interpersonal skills.



65%

have traveled overseas again since their ACIS trip.

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