



Walk Hike

Portugal

Walk Hike Portugal, Enjoying Life Since 2013 😊

www.portugalwalkhike.com

Flores e Corvo, the Pearls of the Atlantic 6 days program – 29th of September to the 04th of October



Walk Azores®

Imagine an archipelago in the Atlantic where the volcanic mountains rise above the clouds, where the lush vegetation is matched only in the large tropical forests, where the waterfalls gush from great height and in large quantities, where its large lagoons of emerald green waters, ancient volcanic craters, are of a unique beauty, where we can bathe in natural pools in the middle of the ocean, where you can see and come close to the great whales that travel in our seas. We present to you the Azores Islands, considered by the prestigious magazine “National Geographic Traveler” as the “Top Two Island Destinations”.

The brand **Walk Azores** was created to let you know this pearl in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, but also it's obstinate people that with their customs and secular traditions resisted for centuries to the tremendous forces that shaped these 9 islands full of life and surprises.

Welcome to the Azores.

Flores and Corvo - 29th of September to the 04th of October



INTRODUCTION

Walk Hike Portugal is pleased to invite you to come and meet us with the islands of Flores and Corvo, which alone make up the Western Group of the Azores Archipelago. Starting with the first, Flores island, although it is a small island only 17km long and 12km wide, 911m high, it is certainly one of the most beautiful places in the world to walk.

Three factors contribute to this: the drama of its topography, with impressive cliffs and hills several hundred meters high, the variety of plants and their profusion, which extend to the ocean, and the incredible amount of water that we find in the whole island, originating an endless number of streams, many of which launch into monumental waterfalls, as well as 7 lagoons.

But it is not only for the dramatic landscapes that this island is worth visiting, its great isolation has also shaped its people and culture, which are very present on our tours.



Flores and Corvo - 29th of September to the 04th of October



(CONTINUATION)

In the background, about 18km away, is the island of Corvo, the smallest of the entire archipelago. With only 6km by 4km and with a considerable height of 720m in height, Corvo is one of the most isolated places in the whole European continent and that alone justifies a visit.

Its escarpments and views are breathtaking, its small and unique settlement, where just over 400 inhabitants live, has a unique setting, but it is its huge and disproportionate Caldeira, about 5km in diameter and 321m deep, which makes this island a “must”, where the beauty of its walls with the Atlantic behind it is unmatched. Welcome to Flores and Corvo.



Day 1 – Arrival Day and the Lagoon of the Ducks



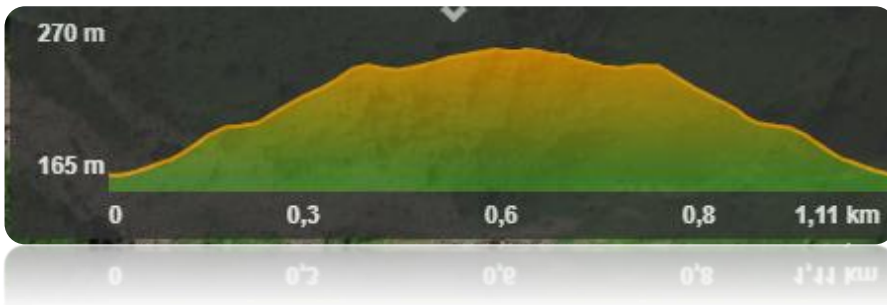
On this first day of arrival, our hikers will get to know a little bit of Flores on the way to Aldeia da Cuada, the place where we will make our base, which is in the western part of the island, the opposite side where the airport is.

After settling down we will do our first hike of this 6-day adventure. Although short, this tour is one of the most scenic.

After dinner, we will do a small briefing about the next day and a succinct presentation of the island, where we will walk and give some advice and answer all the questions that our hikers may have. Then you can also explore the Aldeia da Cuada and enjoy the many details that are part of this rustic and beautiful village.



Day 1 – Arrival Day and the Lagoon of the Ducks



→ 1,11 km ↻ Sim
↗ 97 m ↑ 270 m
↘ 97 m ↓ 165 m
Difficulty: 🌿🌿🌿🌿🌿 (Easy)

Beginning – Depending on the arrival timing
Hike duration – about 1h

Day 2 – The Dramatic Western Shore



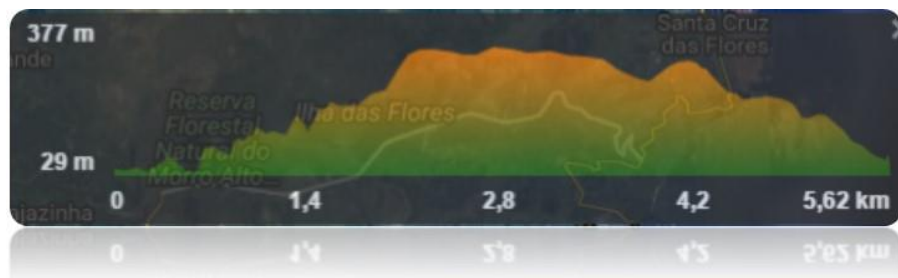
Our second day of hiking begins in a very small village, Ponta da Fajã, near Aldeia da Cuada. After a spectacular trail on the cliff near the sea, we started a long and beautiful climb, almost always in a corridor within the dense vegetation. In some open areas, we will be able to enjoy the views not only of the ocean but also of the dramatic coastline.

Already on the top of the cliff. Here the views will be broader and from a certain point we will start to see in the background, Corvo Island, the smallest of the entire archipelago, which we will visit the next day (the day we go to Corvo is dependent on the conditions atmospheric and sea conditions, thus changing the day of this program). After some small valleys, dominated by Cedros, Sanguinhos, and many vegetables that give enormous color to the whole route, as well as crossing several streams, some of which fall into beautiful waterfalls, we reach the last part of our route.



This is an area where the meadows surrounded by the traditional stone walls of this region, dominate. It is also here where the views are most spectacular beyond the formidable coastline where cascades towards the sea abound, we can see the great islet of Maria Vaz as well as Ponta de Albarnaz and its great lighthouse that radiates light and guides the sailors for more than 80 years. We are reaching the end of our journey.

Day 2 – The Dramatic Western Shore



5,62 km

Não

554 m

377 m

526 m

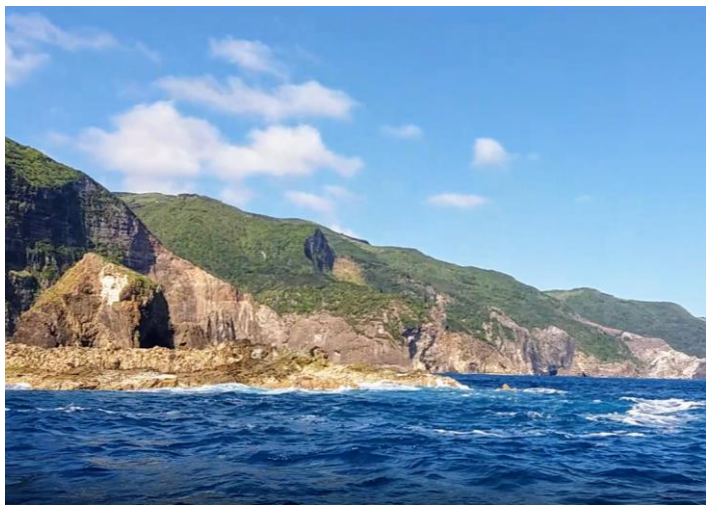
29 m

Difficulty:  (Moderate)

Beginning – 9 am

Hike duration – about 4h

Day 3 – The “Corvo” Island



On this 3rd day, we will visit the island of Corvo, the smallest island in the entire archipelago, but it is there that lives what is perhaps the most beautiful volcanic caldera in the Azores and one of the most beautiful in the world. The day will begin, even before the connecting trip between the two islands, with a boat trip along the coastline of the island of Flores (this tour can also be done on the return trip). The wide wave waters, the oil-blue color that the Atlantic has in these latitudes, the various waterfalls and cliffs covered with vegetation to the sea make us feel, more than ever, that we are in the middle of filming “Jurassic Park”. After this magnificent tour, we will continue to Corvo Island. On this trip lasting about 1 hour, in addition to several sea birds, we may be lucky to see groups of dolphins, flying fish, or even whales/sperm whales.



The approach to the island is superb, and after docking, we will continue in a van in the direction of the great volcanic caldera where we will start our hike. A stunning landscape awaits us and it will be inside the Caldeira that we will make our Picnic lunch. Back at the pier, the semi-rigid in which we will make the return journey awaits us, where in addition to what we have already mentioned, we will have a new perspective of the island of Flores about 18km away.

Day 3 – The “Corvo” Island



→ 3,58 km

↻ Sim

↗ 157 m

↑ 556 m

↘ 157 m

↓ 402 m

Difficulty:   (Moderate)

Beginning – 8:30 am

Hike duration – about 3h

Day 4 – The Plateau of the 4 Lagoons and the Puddle of the Codfish



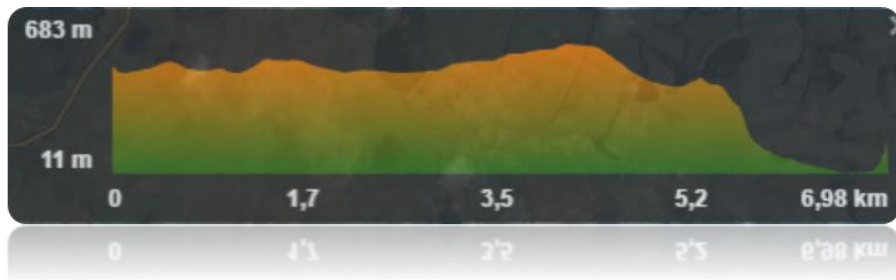
This day 5 starts in the central plateau of the island, at about 750m in height. This is perhaps the most diversified route of all that we have done and will do, as we will pass through several endemic ecosystems, all very different. Our tour starts at Lagoa Funda, which lives up to its name because with its 130m it is the deepest of the entire archipelago. Next are Lagoa Comprida and Seca. This is a very humid area, where fog is frequent and where mosses, Azorean Cedars and Silvas feel at home. Depending on the time of year, we will be able to delight in large and tasty blackberries.



We continue towards the last of the lagoons, Branca. This is the most humid area of the entire route, where we come across numerous watercourses. It is also here that Turfs predominate, a species of yellowish mosses and that are authentic water reservoirs, given their density, which are very important for the sustainability of the entire ecosystem of the island. The Branca lagoon is also an important area for migratory birds and that is why it was there that the first structure for bird watching of the entire archipelago was installed, which we will visit. We started to climb in the direction of Morro Alto where we will face a broader perspective of this entire plateau. The several deep valleys covered with cryptomeria forests on our right and the villages of Fajã Grande and Fajãzinha, down there, surrounded by huge cliffs with countless waterfalls, on our left and with the ocean in front, are amazing views and the fair prize for the effort to get here.







From here it is always descending, deeply, first in open terrain and then through the beautiful corridors of Incense, one of the invasive species that cover vast areas of the island. At sea level, there are several ruins of old water mills, some from the 19th century. XIX and in front of us we come across the waterfall of Poço do Bacalhau. At about 90m high, its crystal clear waters fall into a small lagoon. The rest of the afternoon will be spent in the natural pool of Fajã Grande, in the ocean, 10 minutes from Poço do Bacalhau, where we are.






Day 4 – The Plateau of the 4 Lagoons and the Puddle of the Codfish



 6,98 km  Não

 377 m  683 m

 806 m  11 m

Difficulty:      (Moderate)

Beginning – 9 am

Hike duration – about 4h

Day 5 – From the Red Promontory to the Stream of the Afterlife

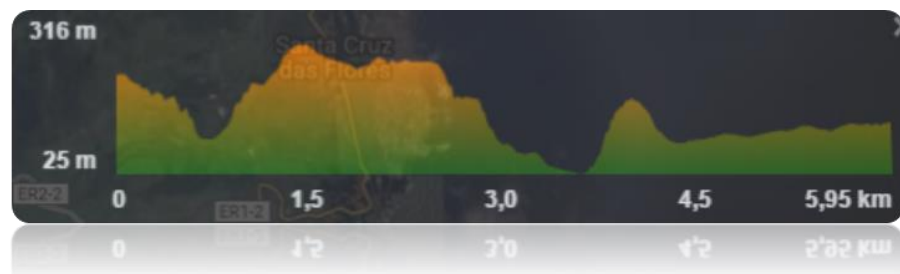


The last day of hiking on the island of Flores will start on a huge promontory on the northeast coast of the island, where the village of Ponta Ruiva is located. The views are spectacular and we will start the tour by a trail on the hillside, but which quickly dives into a forest of Cryptomeria where we will pass through several small bridges over small streams and some waterfalls. After some descents and ascents of great beauty, we will begin to descend towards the sea in an old path used by the local populations, all within a forest corridor. Much of this path is accompanied by large stone walls and in some parts, on the ground, we also have basalt steps that are still used today for the displacement of the sites. Below we find a bay and in front of it, we have several small islets, in which the waves hit with a crash. This scenario together with the white waters of a river that flows into this place, provide a scenario of great beauty. It will be here that we will make our picnic.



From here it will always be uphill until we reach the road, where once again the impressive views will be a fair reward for the effort that our hikers have just made. After a few small trails, we will continue along a levada (men-made water-channel), still in full operation and vital for the sustainability of this entire region of small farmers. Along this water channel, we move from an agricultural region to a dense forest area. After this long walk, we will enjoy for the first time the natural pools of Santa Cruz, where the various concrete platforms integrated into the basaltic rock, create several bathing areas where our walkers will spend the rest of the afternoon.

Day 5 – From the Red Promontory to the Stream of the Afterlife



Difficulty: (Moderate)

Beginning – 9 am

Hike duration – about 4h

Dia 6 – Dia da Partida



This is the farewell day. After the last breakfast at Aldeia da Cuada, our walkers will be transported to the airport. Behind are landscapes of great natural wonder, some unique, rough but genuine people who have lived hard in these inhospitable islands since long ago, dating back to the 16th century, as well as its culture and customs.



Per Day Includes

- All transports included in the program
- Stay in rural twin accommodation with breakfast included at Aldeia da Cuada Village Tourism
- Picnic lunch
- 1 guide
- All activities included in the program
- Personal Accident and Liability Insurance in accordance with legal requirements

Per Day Doesn't Include

Any costs related to airline tickets, airport taxes, as well as dinners, and any other costs not included in this program.

Price Per Person

From 6 people(per person).....634€ + Iva

Extra cost per individual house.....+ 225€

- For less than 6 people the price is given on request
- Prices already include the VAT rate in effect.
- The price per person of this program implies a minimum number of 6 participants, so in the eventuality that this number is not reached, Walk Hike Portugal reserves the right to suspend the program in question, returning all the money that each participant has already paid.

Calendar

From September 29th to October 4th

Note: Clients will have to arrive on the island of Flores on the 28th of September.

Flights - Through a partner travel agency, we can handle flights if customers are interested.

Advices Equipment (Depending on Weather)

- Comfortable clothing that allows the use of different layers, with the ability to adapt to climatic variations.
- Boots / Walking Shoes
- Protection Leggings
- Hat Cap
- Waterproof windbreaker
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Walking poles

Booking/Payment Confirmation

Following your booking contact, you will receive an email from Walk Hike Portugal stating our availability (if any). In addition, you will also receive our bank details to which you must transfer the amount in question. After confirming it, you will receive a document with the “Program Reservation Agreement”, signed by us, to be signed by you and return to us, as well as an invoice for the corresponding payment (we also ask you to send us proof as soon as you make the transfer).

The reservation is only confirmed after the client confirms the transfer, corresponding to 30% of the total amount. The remaining 70% must be paid within 30 days prior to the start of the program. If payment is made from abroad, please ensure that all bank charges and other fees related to the transaction are paid by you at the source, so that we receive the correct amount (in Euros).

Cancellations / Changes

Given that Walk Hike Portugal develops an outdoor activity, it is exposed to climatic and environmental conditions as well as the constraints they impose. Thus, Walk Hike Portugal reserves the right to change activities or itineraries if conditions jeopardize the safety of its customers, as well as its teams. Below are some examples of climatic and environmental conditions that may jeopardize our tours or part of them:

- Torrential rain
- Thunderstorms
- Strong winds
- Landslide
- Falling trees
- Fires
- Flooding
- Earthquakes
- Sea storms

In these cases, the order of activities may need to be changed or replaced by another, if possible. If the cancellation of the entire program is inevitable, we will refund 60% of the amount paid as long as the cancellation occurs up to 48 hours before the start of the vacation package. The remaining 40% will be for Walk Hike Portugal to pay the various costs related to logistics and reservations involved in all of our programs.

In the event that the reason for canceling the program is the responsibility of the customer, Walk Hike Portugal will refund 100% of the amount paid, provided that it occurs up to 60 days before the date the program starts. If it occurs up to 45 days before the program starts, we will refund 75% of the amount paid. If it occurs up to 30 days before the program starts, we will refund 50% of the amount paid. If the cancellation occurs later than 30 days from the beginning of the program, Walk Hike Portugal will not refund any amount of the amount paid. If the customer does not arrive on the day he is supposed to (day 1 of the program), Walk Hike Portugal disclaims any responsibility for not participating in all activities considered in the program booked and purchased by the customer, as well as the return of any amount paid by the client. Walk Hike Portugal also reserves the right to reschedule the entire program, or part of it, according to what it considers to be the best and most viable option.

The price per person of this program implies a minimum number of 6 participants, so in the event that this number is not reached, Walk Hike Portugal reserves the right to suspend the program in question, returning all the money that each participant has already paid.

COVID 19: Taking into account all the constraints that the current pandemic of COVID 19 imposes, if the implementation of the program won't be possible for reasons related to unavailability on the part of local hotel units, reason related to the unavailability of flights, or any other than those mentioned above related to weather conditions, cancellations, or delays on arrival by customers, Walk Hike Portugal will refund all the money that each participant has already paid.



**Adorávamos Partilhar
Tudo Isto Consigo**



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www.portugalwalkhike.com

info@portugalwalkhike.com

T./Whatsapp: +351 919 241 094