



SURF

Located in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, the Azorean Islands and their shores provide some of the best conditions in the world for wave sports.

From beach breaks to point breaks, it is possible to enjoy wave sports all year round, as the water temperature is always mild. In the summertime, the waves are smooth and perfect, so the Azores also provide conditions for those who are at a learning stage or for a family surf trip. But in the wintertime there are intense, hollow and challenging waves, as those in the dreams of every surfer, breaking onto the rocky bottoms of the islands.

Every year the World Championship Tour makes a stop at the Azores, with the SATA Airlines Pro, the prime event of the ASP qualification series. This is, in fact, one of the favourite events in the World Series, considering the strong, hollow waves of the Azores. The archipelago also hosts one event of the Euro junior, a surfing championship for younger athletes who compete in several areas of this sport.



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TURISMO DE
PORTUGAL
azores

36° 55' 44" N, 25° 01' 02" W - Azores, PORTUGAL

WINDSURF/KITESURF

In a region where, during the wintertime, there are several weather fronts, wind is a constant, providing therefore great conditions for wind and kitesurfing. The Azores feature several ports, coves, beaches and lakes, so it is possible to enjoy windsurf and kite surf under different, unique, extraordinary conditions. For free ride windsurf lovers, off shore and side shore winds allow long rides along the islands' coastline. For those in search of adrenaline, beach breaks with side and on shore winds provide good conditions for both surfing and jumping. As for those who like to sail with strong winds but safely, the lakes of Furnas and Sete Cidades offer world-class conditions for speeding or freestyling, as well as good low wind conditions for beginners. In addition, the Azores host an event of the Formula Windsurf and Slalom world championships on a yearly basis.



CANYONING

The Azores are located in the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Composed of nine volcanic islands, the archipelago provides excellent canyoning conditions. Santa Maria, São Miguel, São Jorge and Flores offer a vast supply of beautiful itineraries, each of them with its own specificities. The islands of Terceira and Faial also provide good canyoning conditions for beginners. However, the Island of Flores provides the most diversified itineraries, from large vertical descent to simple tracks. Following Flores, the island of São Jorge features several spots of great interest and potential. There are also interesting spots on the islands of São Miguel and Santa Maria. The interest for canyoning has been growing in the Azores from the part of both visitors and locals. This interest has been leading to the creation of several companies that invest in the development of this activity.



PARAGLIDING

The Azores are deemed a singular paragliding destination, providing several spots, as well as take-off and landing areas that combine adventure with amazing landscapes. It is possible to paraglide all year round, but summer months are the best to practice this sport. Technical cross country flights, which allow overflying volcanic craters, lakes, beaches and cliffs, are definitely very entertaining flights. In fact, the village of Sete Cidades, on São Miguel Island, has been elected by a European jury one of the 60 most beautiful sites of free fly in Europe. The Azores Paragliding Festival is in its 20th edition and takes place in August, hosting many national and international pilots who, during a week, exchange experiences in the best paragliding spots of São Miguel Island.



CYCLING/MOUNTAIN BIKING

The mountain bike is the nature exploration vehicle par excellence. Destinations such as the Azores, where nature and trails are a constant, represent a true adventure for those who are looking for an exhilarating experience. From ultra-technical single tracks that connect mountains, beaches and fajãs to roads surrounding lakes or crossing mountain ranges flourishing with native fauna and flora, mountain biking in the Azorean islands is an activity for every taste and technical skills. If you would rather bike on the road, every island provides a large road network flanked by hydrangeas and Japanese cedars. These roads connect interesting landscapes and sites of culture, and cross them with pastures, mountains and beautiful villages, which characterise and differentiate every island. In addition to all these nature adventures, you have the possibility of ending your bike ride day at a bathing site, whether to enjoy a warm water bath, the crystal clear ocean water or a tide pool.

