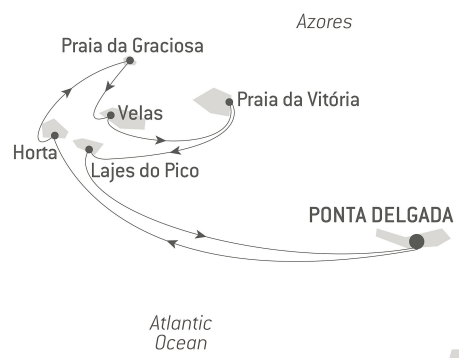


The Essential Azores

From **11/4/2023**
to **18/4/2023**

Ship: **LE BELLOT**

From **Ponta Delgada, Azores**
to **Ponta Delgada, Azores**



Succumb to the magic of the **Azores** on a cruise brought to you by **PONANT**. This **8-day** itinerary aboard **Le Bellot** will take you to the most beautiful sites of this **volcanic archipelago** resting in the heart of the Atlantic.

After boarding, you will sail to **Horta**, a lively, world-renowned marina on the **island of Faial**, which is often called 'the blue island' due to the myriad hydrangeas that cover most of the island during the summer months.

Further east, you will discover the port of **Velas** and the island of **Sao Jorge**, its lush reliefs and its **spectacular cliffs** at the foot of which can be observed *fajãs*, basalt platforms resulting from cliff-face erosion.

Then, you will sail to the picturesque port of **Praia da Vitória** on **Terceira Island**, known for its rich historical heritage. The city of **Angra do Heroísmo**, once an important commercial port, is home to imposing fortifications and Baroque-inspired monuments from the 16th and 17th centuries.

Le Bellot will then sail to **Lajes do Pico** on the mountainous island of **Pico**, whose **vineyard landscapes**, characterised by a network of orderly stone walls are listed as **UNESCO World Heritage**.

Finally, succumb to the charms of **Ponta Delgada in Sao Miguel** as you discover not just the old town, the capital of the Azores, but also a stunning natural environment with hot springs, lakes and **volcanic craters**.



The information in this document is valid as of 20/5/2022

The Essential Azores

YOUR STOPOVERS :

PONTA DELGADA, AZORES

Embarkation 11/4/2023 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Departure 11/4/2023 at 6:00 pm

The coastal city of Ponta Delgada stands on the southern coastline of São Miguel Island, in the Portuguese archipelago of the Azores. On your way to the town centre from the port, you'll pass through the **Doors to the Sea**, a contemporary architectural complex bordering the Atlantic. The historic district features a beautiful square framed by the three Baroque arches of the **City Gates**. A few steps from the shore you'll find the Gothic church of **São Sebastião** and the Renaissance fortress, **Fortaleza de São Brás**.

HORTA, AZORES

Arrival 12/4/2023 early morning

Departure 12/4/2023 evening

The main town on Faial Island, in the Azores, Horta has preserved a real authenticity and picturesque charm. The main marina in the archipelago, the town boasts a number of frescos painted by sailors who dropped anchor there from around the world. Also do not miss a visit to the many churches, the Santa Cruz fort dating from the 16th Century and the Scrimshaw Museum, dedicated to the local craft of sculpting on whale teeth. In the south-east of the city is Monte Da Guia, a volcanic cone classified as a Special Protection Area, which will offer you breathtaking views over Porto Pim Bay and the ocean.

PRAIA DA GRACIOSA, AZORES

Arrival 13/4/2023 early morning

Departure 13/4/2023 late evening

Arriving on "graceful" Graciosa Island, you'll admire its stunning landscapes with its vines surrounded by walls of **black basalt**, its steep shores and transparent sea beds. **Declared a "World Biosphere Reserve" by UNESCO**, the northernmost of the islands forming the Azores archipelago, often designated by the term "eighth Canary Island", has thus been protected from mass tourism. You'll be able to visit **the St Matthew Church**, which has one of the finest pipe organs in the Azores, dating back to 1793. The island will charm you with its deserted volcanic landscapes embellished with beaches of immaculate sand.

VELAS, AZORES

Arrival 14/4/2023 early morning

Departure 14/4/2023 late evening

The port of **Velas** is on the southern coast of the island of **São Jorge**. You'll be surprised by its cliffs that drop right into

the sea and its very many **fajãs** that punctuate the island's shores. These curious geological formations come from lava flows having entered the sea, landslides due to seismic shocks or erosion. Protected by the wind, the **fajãs**, flat land surfaces on the sea edge at the foot of imposing cliffs, enjoy fertile soil and a favourable microclimate. Their **natural pools** (and, in particular, the natural pool of **Fajã do Ouvidor**) with clear water are an invitation to bathe in an exceptional natural setting.

PRAIA DA VITÓRIA, AZORES

Arrival 15/4/2023 early morning

Departure 15/4/2023 late afternoon

With its 10,000 inhabitants, Praia da Vitória is one of the most modern towns in the Azores archipelago. It is located on the far east of the island of Terceira. From 1456 to 1474, Praia da Vitória was the seat of the captaincy of Terceira and the capital of the region before being replaced by Angra. Its bay shelters **the largest sandy beach** in the Azores. Its historic centre is a charming maze of streets and alleys whose old houses have double-hung barred windows or interesting mashrabiyyas.

LAJES DO PICO, AZORES

Arrival 16/4/2023 early morning

Departure 16/4/2023 late afternoon

In the Azores archipelago, Lajes Do Pico is a small Portuguese town of fewer than 5,000 inhabitants nestling on the southern coast of Pico Island. You'll be charmed by its colourful little houses and its **superb landscapes** bearing rich history linked to the whaling period which made its reputation. It is dominated by its enormous and majestic **volcano**, the highest in Portugal, which culminates at 2,531 metres. You'll be able to discover its small museum dedicated to the whaling industry and the island's vineyards, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, on one of the most beautiful paths in the Azores. If conditions allow it, you'll perhaps have the chance to observe whales.

PONTA DELGADA, AZORES

Arrival 17/4/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 18/4/2023 at 7:00 am

The coastal city of Ponta Delgada stands on the southern coastline of São Miguel Island, in the Portuguese archipelago of the Azores. On your way to the town centre from the port, you'll pass through the **Doors to the Sea**, a contemporary architectural complex bordering the Atlantic. The historic district features a beautiful square framed by the three Baroque arches of the **City Gates**. A few steps from the shore you'll find the Gothic church of **São Sebastião** and the Renaissance fortress, **Fortaleza de São Brás**.