#### **PORTUGAL**

A country designed for you





#### "It is worth discovering the places of reunion in Portugal because this land is full of arms waiting to be embraced"

- Mia Couto



#### INTRODUCTION

With its combination of Mediterranean influence and the coolness of the Atlantic Ocean, Portugal is known for its mild, sunny climate and varied landscapes. From the magnificent beaches, the golden plains of the Alentejo or the mountains in the north and centre of the country, to the tranquil and lush nature of the Azores and Madeira.

Portugal is also known for its long history of conquests and discoveries, which extend far beyond its borders; for its imposing heritage, full of landmarks of a rich history; for its dynamic culture; for its unique and comforting gastronomy full of flavours and aromas. In short, for its relaxed, simple and unique atmosphere, with arms wide open, ready to welcome travellers.

With more than eight centuries of history and a fortunate mix of peoples, cultures and traditions, Portugal is one of the oldest nations in Europe. Portugal is home to the world's oldest appellation of origin wine region, the Douro (a World Heritage Site, where Port wine is produced), and one of Europe's oldest universities, the monumental University of Coimbra, founded in the 13th century and also listed by UNESCO.

Portugal is a land of Fado and ancestral traditions linked to the immense ocean, but at the same time it is a modern and cosmopolitan country with countless leisure options and places to visit and explore with the family, as a couple or on a solo adventure.

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#### PORTUGUESE CUISINE

Portugal's cuisine is as rich and varied as its landscape. Known for their hospitality and knowing how to extend a warm welcome at the table, the Portuguese are proud of their produce and a unique cuisine full of character. The sea is the most prominent feature of Portuguese cuisine. After sampling a simple grilled fish, always very fresh, as well as the seafood that abounds along the coastline. and we are certain that we are in Portugal.

Grilled sardines are perhaps the most iconic delicacy

on the table during the long Portuguese summer, but sea bream, sea bass, sole, tuna, dogfish, cuttlefish and octopus are among the experts' favourite choices. The route would not be complete without trying one of the many cod recipes that the Portuguese so expertly prepare.

Rice and olive oil are essential ingredients in Portuguese cuisine, reflecting the influence of the Mediterranean diet on the country's gastronomy. When it comes to meat dishes, a suggestion for the whole country





## "The clams I ate in Faro were one of the meals that stayed in my memory."

- Simonetta Capecchi

is "cozido à portuguesa", a mixture of meats, vegetables and assorted sausages, cooked until succulent. From the north to the south of Portugal, we have excellent Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) meats, whether beef, pork or goat, as well as fruit and vegetables that preserve the authentic flavour of each region.

Portuguese convent confectionery is one of the richest and most original in the world. In addition to the famous tarta de crema (cream cake), an icon of Portuguese cuisine, there are many irresistible options throughout the country: papos de anjo, toucinho do céu, natillas flan, Abade de Priscos pudding, Tentúgal, Vouzela or Santa Clara cakes, ovos-moles from Aveiro and travesseiros from Sintra are some of the delicacies that visitors must not miss.

Across the country, culinary tradition blends with the innovation of new chefs reinventing iconic specialities, with more and more Michelin-starred restaurants.

#### WINE TOURISM

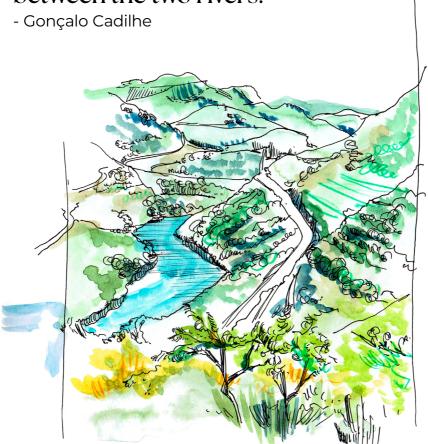
Portugal is a country steeped in history and wine traditions and boasts the world's oldest demarcated wine region, the Douro and the vineyard in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, on Pico Island in the Azores, both of which are World Heritage Sites.

Portugal is known for its highly prized Port and Madeira wines. that can be stored almost. indefinitely, admired by kings, princes, generals and explorers. And the story would not be complete without the unique "green" (unripe) wine, the delicate Moscatel wine from Setúbal and the exceptionally rare Carcavelos wine, both with protected designation of origin.

But there is much more. To appreciate and get to know Portuguese wines, nothing better than to visit the regions where they are produced. From delicate fresh whites to full-bodied reds, the range of wines is as wide as the country's changing topography and landscapes.

All this makes wine tourism an excellent pretext for discovering the landscapes, heritage, culture and the people who live here. The Douro and the Alentejo are home to the greatest number of wine tourism spaces, but all over the country there are wineries that accept visits, whether to the vineyards, the cellar, to taste the wines or, why not, to spend the night and get to know the region. These wine tourism experiences not only allow you to taste exceptional wines, but also to participate

"We were driving along the road crossing the *bare plains* that had always allowed communication between the two rivers."



in activities such as grape harvesting, vineyard walks, tastings led by expert winemakers and visits to wine museums, providing a complete immersion into the fascinating world of Portuguese wine.



#### **NATURE**

Portugal is a country of rich and diverse nature. offering a wide range of landscapes and ecosystems to explore with a great variety of fauna and flora species, where man and nature coexist in perfect harmony. The country is home to several Nature Parks and Reserves, Geoparks and Biosphere Reserves, which preserve and protect the region's unique biodiversity.

From imposing mountains to the wide plains, from long sandy

beaches where the waves slowly roll in to the jagged coastline lapped by the rough sea, the country has a little bit of everything. And in the middle of the Atlantic there are also the islands of Madeira and the Azores, oases of calm and tranquillity, with lush vegetation, dormant volcanoes and caves full of natural sculptures.

For birdwatchers, Portugal is a privileged destination. Regions such as the Tagus Estuary, the Ria Formosa and



#### "The *sound* of the river, the water running, falling, has a *softness* that covers all things."

- Jacinto Lucas Pires

the Guadiana Valley Natural Park are famous for the diversity of birds that attract birdwatchers from all over the world.

If the beauty of the Portuguese coast is dazzling at the surface, the depths of the Atlantic also hold a rich biodiversity worth discovering. Diving near Madeira Island and whale watching in the Azores

are some of the activities not to be missed.

Such is nature in Portugal that we can choose as a travel companion to enjoy unforgettable moments. Wherever you are, you can count on the sun shining all year round, providing a mild climate, ideal for enjoying nature in the open air.



#### **HERITAGE**

Portugal is a country with a rich cultural and historical heritage, where every corner reveals fascinating stories and unique traditions. The diversity of its heritage is reflected in its cities,

monuments, festivals, cuisine and arts, making it an irresistible destination for those who wish to immerse themselves in a vibrant and multifaceted culture.



Manueline art, ceramic tiles and Fado are unique expressions and authentic symbols of the Portuguese people, but they are also a contribution to World Heritage. Portugal makes 26 contributions to the UNESCO list, including monuments, landscapes and immaterial heritage. From the Monasteries of Alcobaça and Batalha, magnificent examples of Gothic architecture. to Belém Tower and Jerónimos Monastery in Lisbon, symbols of the Manueline style and the Age of Discoveries. Sintra was classified by UNESCO as a cultural landscape.

The village and the northern slopes of the Sintra mountain range, with their characteristic natural features and remarkable built heritage, have since been included in the World Heritage List.

Portugal's culture and heritage are a permanent invitation to discovery. Whether through its historical monuments, vibrant traditions, rich cuisine or artistic expressions, every visitor is invited to explore and be enchanted by a country that values and preserves its cultural heritage.

#### LITERARY TOURISM

Books are imaginary journeys that transport us to places different from our everyday lives. Reading about the destination you are visiting is an excellent way to prepare for your trip, get inspired and enrich your experience.

In Lisbon, follow in Fernando Pessoa's footsteps through the cafés and neighbourhoods that inspired the poet, and visit Casa Fernando Pessoa, now a museum dedicated to his life and work. Also explore the Lisbon of José Saramago, Portuguese Nobel Prize winner for Literature, visiting emblematic places such as Casa dos Bicos. home of the Saramago Foundation, where his legacy and manuscripts are preserved. The city is also home to the Livraria Bertrand bookshop.

the oldest continuously operating bookshop in the world, located in the historic Chiado district. Not far from the capital, the National Palace Library in Mafra, one of the most impressive in Europe, is a must-see destination for book lovers, with its majestic Baroque architecture and collection of rare and ancient volumes that make it a cultural treasure trove.

Porto, with the emblematic Livraria Lello, considered one of the most beautiful bookshops in the world, is another meeting point for literature lovers. The beauty of the Douro Valley and life on its banks, recurring themes in Portuguese literature, inspired authors such as Miguel Torga, reflecting the profound relationship between man and nature in this region.



## "As always, the *text* turned me around and took me down other *paths*."

- Dulce Maria Cardoso

In Coimbra, the historic University, one of the oldest in Europe, is a literary landmark, and its Johannine Library is considered one of the most beautiful in the world. Óbidos, recognised by UNESCO as a Creative City of Literature, is an essential destination, with bookshops in unusual locations and literary festivals.

The Alentejo offers literary routes that highlight writers such as Florbela Espanca. In the Algarve, the Sophia de Mello Breyner Andresen Literary Route connects visitors to the beaches and landscapes that inspired her poems.

Each region of Portugal has its own literary story to tell, and visitors can immerse themselves in the pages of Portuguese literature by following in the footsteps of its most famous authors and discovering the places that inspired their works with a unique and enriching perspective.

#### ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Portugal is a first-rate destination for art and architecture lovers, combining its rich historical heritage with a vibrant contemporary scene.

Portuguese architecture has been influenced by various cultures, such as the Romans and Arabs. and European artistic movements, such as Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque. National styles such as Manueline and Johannine Baroque are reflected in iconic monuments such as Jerónimos Monastery, Belém Tower and the Convent of Christ, all World Heritage Sites.

In the 20th century,
Portuguese architecture
gained international
recognition with figures
such as Álvaro Siza Vieira
and Eduardo Souto
de Moura, both winners
of the Pritzker Prize.
Their works, such as
the Casa das Histórias
in Cascais and the Serralves
Museum in Porto,

are a reference in modern architecture.

Street art has grown in cities and towns, transforming urban landscapes into open-air galleries. Covilhã, in the centre of the country, has been noted as a centre of urban art, with murals beautifying its streets.

In Foz Côa, visitors can admire prehistoric rock art in the open air. This World Heritage Site offers a unique insight into the ancient relationship between art and humanity.

Portuguese art is also reflected in the ceramic tiles that adorn churches, palaces and train stations. Notable examples include São Bento train station in Porto and the National Tile Museum in Lisbon. The "calçada portuguesa" cobbled pavements, with their undulating patterns, decorate squares and streets all over the country, Rossio square in Lisbon being the most famous.

Portugal's artistic tradition is also reflected in the filiaree jewellery of Minho. the embroidery of Arraiolos and Castelo Branco, and the Serra da Estrela burel fabric. Ceramics and porcelain are equally emblematic, with examples such as the black pottery of Bisalhães (classified by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage), the porcelain of Vista Alegre in Ílhavo and the figurative pieces of Bordallo Pinheiro in Caldas da Rainha, both dating from the 19th century and with a long tradition on Portugal's tables.

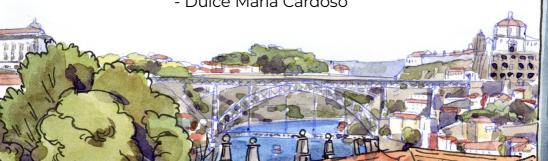
Portuguese art is well represented in museums

such as the National
Museum of Ancient Art,
the Calouste Gulbenkian
Museum, the National
Coach Museum, and the
National Tile Museum
in Lisbon, as well as the
Museum of Contemporary
Art in Elvas and the
Serralves Foundation in
Porto. These institutions
house valuable collections
of painting, sculpture
and religious art, narrating
Portugal's rich history.

The appreciation of works of art extends to gastronomy, wine tourism, sunny days and perfect waves for surfing. Each experience is an artistic expression, a vibrant journey.

#### "The Ribeira looked as if it had been hand-embroidered by God, and D. Luis Bridge with its iron arch."

- Dulce Maria Cardoso



#### SEA AND SURF

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There are 1860 km of coastline altogether, between the mainland and two archipelagos in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, with eleven incredible islands, more than three thousand hours of sunshine a year, a fantastic variety of waves, some of the most famous and coveted in European surfing...

Portugal is therefore a perfect destination for surfers of all levels. A surfing paradise. Whatever you're looking for, you're likely to find it here.

With a favourable wind and plenty of sunshine all year round, these perfect waves provide a unique experience for lovers of various sports.





"*Go beyond*, absorb the beauty of landscapes and the sea, notice the *little things*."

- Nina Johansson

Surfing, bodyboarding, windsurfing, kitesurfing or paddle surfing: there are numerous ways to enjoy the Atlantic waves that pump adrenaline levels beyond imagination.

From the giant waves of Praia do Norte in Nazaré, sought after by the most intrepid, to the consistency of the perfect waves of Carcavelos, Ericeira (Europe's first World Surfing Reserve), or Peniche, there are many places chosen by surfers. And these are not limited to the Lisbon area. There is great variety,

whether further north in Figueira da Foz, Espinho and Viana do Castelo, or southwards on the Costa Vicentina and in the Sagres area, and even in the Azores and Madeira.

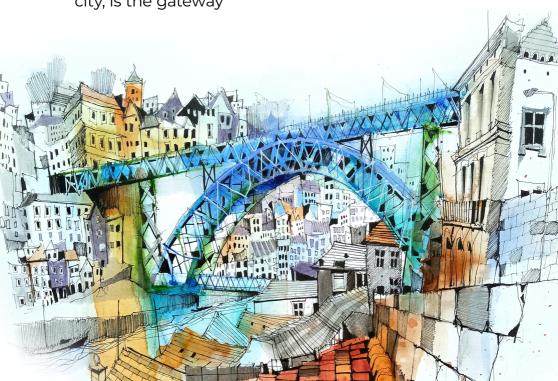
But there are many other activities to make the most of conditions offered by the ocean, rivers and lakes. From paddle surfing in the open sea or in the calmer waters of sheltered bays or lagoons, to water skiing and parasailing, the range of possibilities for fun and thrills is huge. The hard part will be choosing.

## PORTO AND THE NORTH

The region of Porto and Northern Portugal is a land of charm and history, where centuries-old traditions meet vibrant modernity. Rich in culture, cuisine and stunning scenery, this region is a must-see destination for anyone who wants to explore the true essence of Portugal.

Porto, a World Heritage city, is the gateway

and starting point for a journey through the natural and cultural diversity of the region. It is known for Port wine, which is shipped from here all over the world. but also for a heritage that combines the antiquity of churches and monuments, such as theCathedralor theChurch of San Francisco, with the modernity of outstanding buildings, such as the Casa da Música or the Serralves Museum, examples of innovative contemporary architecture.





#### "Sometimes I lose my *way*, but I never lose *Porto*."

- Dulce Maria Cardoso

The Douro River flows through the region. Enter Portugal through the ravines and mountains of the hinterland to explore the World Heritage landscape where Port and Douro wines are grown. There, the wine that goes to the Gaia wine cellars crosses paths with the cruise ships that visit the region.

In this area of mountains and natural parks, the heritage is divided between castles, such as in Guimarães, or sanctuaries and churches that in summer are the scene of

pilgrimages. Next to rural hermitages we find the baroque of the North of Portugal, made in granite and gilded carving. In cities that have managed to preserve the human scale, such as Viana do Castelo, Braga, Lamego, Bragança, Chaves and Vila Real, we find the most authentic Portuguese person, the one who likes to share their table, customs and traditions. In Porto and in the North of Portugal, joy and gratitude for all that we have and are is a natural part of life.

#### CENTRAL PORTUGAL

Central Portugal has it all: inland, mountain massifs and villages of granite and schist. By the sea, fishing villages and cosmopolitan beaches where water sports set the pace of the day. And everywhere, the ancient heritage proudly displays the region's history.

But there are others with unique characteristics that are worth discovering. For example, the Historical Villages and castles that defended the nation's borders. The schist villages and towns of white-washed houses, such as Óbidos, a treasure within the walls. And the cities. where modernity meets tradition, Coimbra with its students, Leiria, Aveiro between the estuary and the sea, and Viseu, Guarda and Castelo Branco, where the stone architecture retains traces of an ancient past.

In the mountains. the Serra da Estrela is the highest in mainland Portugal, with endless landscapes and glacial lakes. Or the Lousã, Açor and Caramulo mountain ranges, where walking and cycling trails offer paths to discover nature. But here you can also go climbing, abseiling, rafting or canoeing, as in the Naturtejo Geopark, a well-tended area where several species of birds and animals coexist.

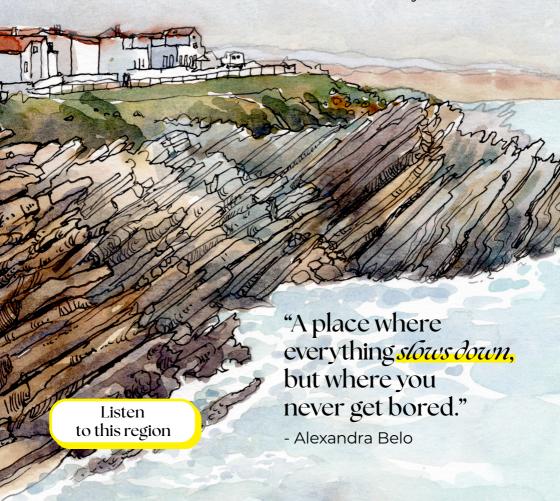
The crystal-clear waters of the thermal springs bring body and soul into balance. And the river beaches framed by forests or the open sea on the Atlantic coast are a cool haven on hot summer days. There are also spots well-known among surfers from all over the world, who find perfect waves in Peniche and giant waves in Nazaré.

In addition, Central Portugal is home

to remarkable examples of urban art, such as in Covilhã, where murals transform the city into an open-air museum, and Foz Côa, where prehistoric rock art offers a unique experience of connecting with humanity's most ancient roots.

To soothe the stomach, there are flavours to suit

every palate. Cheeses and cured meats, fish stews and roast suckling pig, honey and convent pastries. The wines of the demarcated regions elevate the spirit with distinction. They are the product of the flavours of these people, authentic and inviting, who welcome visitors with the best they have.



### "The best way to visit Lisbon is to *draw it* in silence."

- Rosário Félix

#### LISBOA REGION

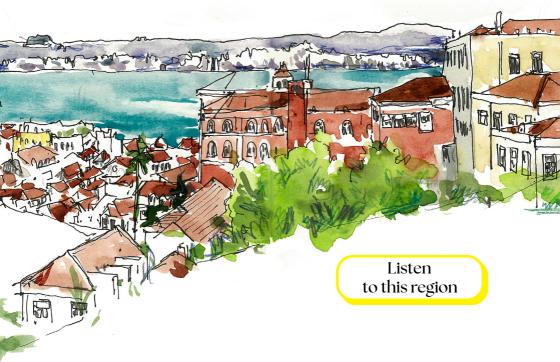
The Lisbon region is one of Portugal's most fascinating regions and offers a perfect combination of rich history, vibrant culture and stunning natural landscapes. From the cosmopolitan capital to golden beaches and enchanting vineyards, there is something for everyone in this diverse and charming region.

Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, is a city that breathes history and modernity. Strolling through its streets is a journey back in time, with historic quarters such as Alfama, Bairro Alto and Chiado, where you can find centuries-old



churches and viewpoints with panoramic views over the Tagus. Belém Tower, Jerónimos Monastery and St. George's Castle are just some of the historical monuments not to be missed. Art and culture lovers should not miss the Museu de Arte Antiga, the Coach Museum, the Museu Calouste Gulbenkian and the MAAT (Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology). The more recent or contemporary leisure areas, such as the Parque das Nações, are also worth a visit.

The coastal region of Lisbon is famous for its stunning beaches



and mild climate.
Cascais and Estoril offer golden sandy beaches, crystal clear waters and an elegant atmosphere.
Sintra, near Lisbon, is also a fairytale town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, famous for its romantic palaces and breathtaking scenery.

South of Lisbon, the Serra da Arrábida and Setúbal are unmissable destinations. Arrábida Natural Park offers stunning scenery and pristine beaches, while Setúbal is noted for its lively harbour, cuisine, and dolphin-watching excursions. The region's wines, such as Moscatel de Setúbal, and the local products of Azeitão, such as cheeses and cakes, are other attractions not to be missed.

The Lisbon region enchants everyone with its mix of history, culture, natural beauty and cuisine, offering unforgettable experiences at every turn.

Listen to this region

#### **ALENTEJO**

Alentejo, located in the south of Portugal, is a region known for its vast landscape, rich cultural heritage and unique tranquillity. With rolling plains, vineyards, olive groves and historic towns, the Alentejo offers an authentic and unforgettable experience.

Alentejo is famous for its vast and open landscapes. The golden plains stretch as far as the eye can see, dotted with cork oaks, holm oaks and vineyards. Natural parks such as the Parque Natural do Sudoeste Alentejano e Costa Vicentina, the best preserved stretch of European coastline, with several unique species of fauna and flora, are ideal for hiking, bird watching



and nature walks.
The beaches of the
Alentejo coast, such as
Porto Covo and Vila Nova
de Milfontes, are known
for their wild beauty
and tranquillity.

The towns and villages of the Alentejo are rich in history and heritage. Évora and Elvas, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites, are unmissable destinations. Évora is famous for its Roman temple, Évora Cathedral and the Capela dos Ossos, while Elvas is noted for its imposing fortifications and aqueduct. Beja, Estremoz and Monsaraz



are other towns that offer a journey back in time with their medieval castles, ancient churches and picturesque streets.

Alentejo cuisine is simple but delicious, with dishes that reflect the bounty of the land. Bread, olive oil and wine are essential ingredients that accompany dishes such as lamb stew, migas, bread soup and the famous local cheeses

and sausages. Alentejo wines are internationally renowned, with vineyards producing robust reds and fresh whites. Local wineries offer tastings and tours, providing a rich and complete food and wine experience.

Alentejo is a land of contrasts and charm, where history, culture and nature are in perfect harmony.

#### **ALGARVE**

The Algarve region, located in the south of Portugal, is known for its stunning golden sandy beaches, breathtaking cliffs, picturesque villages and rich and tasty cuisine. This popular tourist destination offers a perfect combination of natural beauty, traditional culture and outdoor activities, making it ideal for visitors of all ages.

The coastal towns of the Algarve are famous for their golden sandy beaches, spectacular cliffs and crystal clear waters. Enchanting cities such as Lagos, Faro and Tavira offer a mix of history, culture and vibrant life.

If you enjoy cycling and long walks, visit the Algarve. This varied offer includes four major routes that intersect and allow you to discover the whole region: the Ruta Vicentina, the Via Algarviana, the Gran Ruta del Guadiana and the Ecovía del Litoral. On any of them, cyclists and walkers will find a challenge to suit their physical fitness, as there are sections of varying degrees of difficulty.

The hinterland of the Algarve offers a tranquil contrast to the busy coastline, providing an immersion in local culture and traditions. Silves, with its imposing castle and



rich Moorish history, and Monchique, with its mountains perfect for hiking and cycling, are some not-to-bemissed destinations.

The Algarve's cuisine, rich in the flavours of the sea, includes fresh fish and seafood, grilled or in cataplanas, as well as delicious almond and fig sweets. The region is also a paradise for golf lovers, with more than

30 world-class courses offering challenges and breathtaking scenery, attracting players from all over the world.

With year-round sunshine, the Algarve is an unmissable destination for those seeking stunning beaches, natural beauty, culture and leisure to the quiet and authentic hinterland. The Algarve has something for everyone.

# "Crossing the Algarve is like crossing a deck from one side to the other." - Matilde Campilho Listen to this region



#### **AÇORES**

The Azores, an archipelago of nine volcanic islands, are located in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and are one of Portugal's most fascinating destinations. Known for their pristine natural beauty, breathtaking scenery and rich cultural heritage, the Azores offer a unique and unforgettable experience for visitors.

In the east, Santa Maria charms with its white sandy beaches and amphitheatre vineyards. São Miquel dazzles with the lagoons of Sete Cidades and Fogo as well as the "Cozido das Furnas", a dish cooked slowly in the geothermal heat. In the Central Group, Terceira stands out for Angra do Heroísmo. a town classified as a **UNESCO** World Heritage Site, Faial for its marina in Horta, a meeting point



## "The Azores are *magical islands*, where all the colours of the universe exist. You will find a wonderful and *free nature*."

- Maru Godas

for sailors from all over the world, and the Capelinhos volcano, and Pico for its mountain - the highest point in the country at 2.351 metres high - and its vineyards, São Jorge for its fajãs and cheese, and Graciosa for its vineyards and windmills. In the Western Group, Flores Island impresses with waterfalls and volcanic lagoons, and Corvo, a **UNESCO** World Biosphere Reserve, attracts several species of birds.

The Azores are one of the best destinations in the world for whale and dolphin watching. When resident and migratory species, common or not, are taken together, over 24 different types of cetaceans can be seen in its waters.

Whether exploring volcanic craters, spotting whales, relaxing in hot springs or sampling the delicious local cuisine, every experience in the Azores is memorable.

#### **MADEIRA**

In the middle of the Atlantic, the islands of Madeira and Porto Santo are a haven of natural beauty. Between the blue of the sea and the emerald green of the vegetation, the exotic colour of the flowers stands out, in an archipelago of which two thirds are protected areas and where the largest laurel forest in the world is found, it is a destination where you can feel as if you were setting off to explore a faraway world.

On the main island of Madeira, the capital Funchal combines historic charm with modernity, offering botanical gardens, the iconic Mercado dos Lavradores and a vibrant cultural scene. The highest point above sea level is Pico Ruivo, at an impressive 1,862 metres. The year-round spring-like temperature invites outdoor activities, such as walks in the green mountains and levadas (irrigation channels) that offer breathtaking trails and viewpoints with panoramic views.



The island of Porto Santo, with its golden sandy beaches and crystal clear waters, offers a tranquil getaway and is perfect for relaxing and enjoying water activities. Porto Santo's year-round mild climate and a sea temperature of between 17 and 22°C ensure that the island never loses its charm, even during the winter months.

Madeira's cuisine stands out with dishes such as espetada, bolo do caco and the famous limpets, a delicious grilled seafood with garlic butter. Madeira's world-famous wines are an experience not to be missed. Festivities such as Carnival, the Flower Festival and New Year's Eve with spectacular fireworks attract visitors from all over the world.

## "A place where all the *colours* of the world exist."

- Luís Araújo







"The *secret* of travel is not the destination. It is to allow oneself to be visited.
To allow the *journey* to take possession of us."

- Mia Couto



