



EF STEM

Islands of the Azores: Environmental Science in Action

8 days | Portugal

Venture to the islands of the Azores, a breathtaking archipelago in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean known for its unique geological properties (it sits above the junction of three tectonic plates!). In Ponta Delgada, go whale watching, sample and analyze local water sources, and explore an ancient lava tunnel. On a day trip to Furnas, the center of the Azores' geothermal activity, marvel at the fairytale-like greenery and natural wonders, including hot springs and fumaroles. Take a dip in the mineral-filled waters of a thermal pool and enjoy a meal that's been cooked from the earth's steam. After discovering the Azores' natural beauty and participating in hands-on workshops with local scientists, you'll return home with a whole new understanding of these islands' ecosystem.

Explore a world built on STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math shape communities across the globe. Our STEM-focused tours showcase the value of diverse ways of thinking and building, while also highlighting the powerful universality of STEM subjects. At EF, we've spent over 55 years witnessing the power of educational travel, and we know how it can transform STEM learners. Each STEM tour challenges travelers to think critically, and helps students develop innovative solutions to global problems.

What to expect on a STEM tour

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Apply STEM principles by participating in project-based learning that goes well beyond theory.

INNOVATIVE LOCATIONS

Tour exciting international destinations that host some of the world's most advanced laboratories, universities, and companies, or are simply perfect global "classrooms" to study analytical issues of the day in real life.

INDUSTRY EXPERTS

Collaborate and learn with scientists, engineers, researchers, and other STEM practitioners in the field.

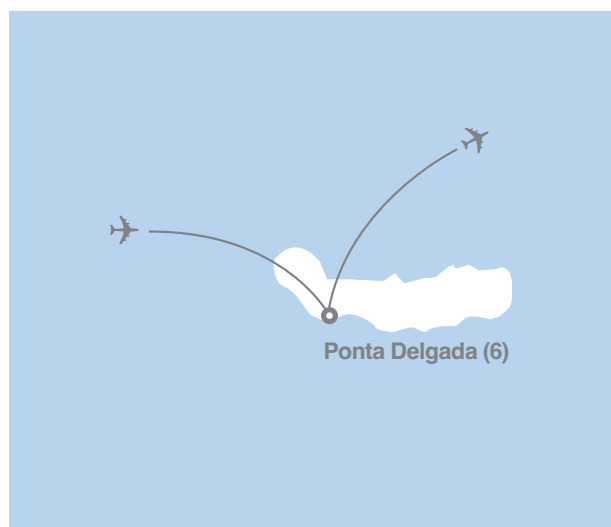
YOUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES

Full-time Tour Director; 3 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides; 1 walking tour led by your Tour Director; Azores; science center; discussion with an environmental scientist; Sete Cidades hike; lava tunnel; whale watching; water sample study; farm visit; Caldeira Velha; tea plantation; Furnas Monitoring and Research Centre; Terra Nostra Garden; thermal pool; Caldeiras Furnas Village; round-trip flights; 6 overnight stays in hotels; European breakfast and dinner included daily



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You won't need a filter when you take a photo of the iconic Lagoa do Fogo—it's just that gorgeous





Day 1: Fly to Portugal

Day 2: Ponta Delgada

Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Ponta Delgada, located on the Azores' main island, São Miguel. Once a small fishing village, Ponta Delgada is now the capital of São Miguel Island. On a walking tour, stroll through the city's cobble squares and seaside streets as you learn about the practices put in place to protect the area's unique landscapes and aquatic ecosystems. Then visit a local science center to learn about the Azores' unique wildlife, natural environment, or cultural heritage.

Day 3: Ponta Delgada

Dive into an environmental science interactive activity. Explore the Azores' volcanic landscape and geothermal forces firsthand.

Day 4: Ponta Delgada

Continue your scientific exploration with an inspiring biology lecture that delves into the mysteries of the natural world. Learn about the delicate balance of ecosystems and the interconnectedness of all living things, and discover the hidden secrets of evolution, biodiversity, and more. Hike to an overlook in Sete Cidades, a civil parish in the bottom of a dormant volcanic crater that's famous for its incredible landscape. You'll encounter the picturesque Twin Lakes, two separate lakes connected by a narrow strait and bridge. After stopping for a photo at the Twin Lakes, discover Gruta do Carvão, the longest lava tunnel on São Miguel Island, and explore this ancient volcanic cave.

Day 5: Ponta Delgada

Take to the seas with a marine biologist. As you whale watch and gather water samples, the marine biologist will teach you about the countless species of whales, dolphins, and other animals that migrate through these waters each year. Once back on land, peer under a microscope to analyze your samples with local scientists at the University of the Azores and learn how your findings are integral to marine mammals' survival.

Day 6: Ponta Delgada

Visit a local farm to learn about agriculture in the Azores. Then experience the out-of-this-world magnificence of Lagoa do Fogo, or Lake of Fire, on a sightseeing walk. Explore the Caldeira Velha Environmental Interpretation Center, a "natural monument" made up of hot springs, and check out an exhibition that explains the volcanic origin of the Azores.

Day 7: Ponta Delgada | Furnas

Start the morning off by visiting an organic tea plantation to experience the entire tea production process. Then take a guided day trip to Furnas, the center of São Miguel's geothermal activity, and begin with a sightseeing tour. At the Furnas Monitoring and Research Centre (CMIF), learn about the lagoon ecosystem of the islands and how local residents practice citizen science. Stop for a photo at the Pico do Ferro hot spring before enjoying a Cozido das Caldeiras lunch that's been cooked underground by steam from the geothermal spring. Explore the beautiful Terra Nostra Garden, featuring over 2,000 different types of trees and a thermal swimming pool. (Make sure to take a dip!) Then at the Caldeiras Furnas Village, marvel at the steaming geothermal pools and geysers.

Day 8: Depart for home



< Start your adventure off on the charming streets of Ponta Delgada



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Watch the whole tea production process, from picking to packaging, at an organic tea plantation

Get an incredible view of the bubbling *caldeiras* and fumaroles in the volcanic hotspot of Furnas >



The world leader in international education

For over 55 years, EF has been working toward one global mission: *Opening the World Through Education*. Your teacher has partnered with EF because of our unmatched worldwide presence, our focus on affordability, and our commitment to providing experiences that teach critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and global competence.

AFFORDABILITY

Every student should have the opportunity to travel, which is why we're dedicated to providing the lowest prices.

INSIGHT

We believe in experiential learning at the most important sites. Your Tour Director is with you at every step, providing their own perspective and local tips.

SAFETY

We're committed to your safety. With 600+ schools and offices in over 50 countries, EF staff can react quickly and in person wherever you travel.

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