

SWIM CAMP

AZORES

SWIM[®]
TOGETHER

UNFORGETTABLE SWIMS



TRIP DESCRIPTION

Set in the middle of the Atlantic, halfway between the United States and continental Portugal, nature created an archipelago of 9 volcanic islands. Known for being the “Hawaii of Europe”, in this oasis of marine life, anything is possible. From swimming with the largest fish in the world, the whale shark, to diving surrounded by dozens of mantas, blue sharks or incredible “baitballs”. The Azores present added geological interest, with impressive arches formed by ancient lava flows and deep caves. Out of the water, green fields filled with “happy cows”, volcanic calderas or natural hot water pools make this an incredible experience.

Over 7 unforgettable days we will swim on 3 different islands in the central group: Faial, Pico and São Jorge. It is from one of the most visited marinas in the world, in Faial, that we travel daily to some of the most remote and richest marine biodiversity sites that the Azores have to offer. The Capelinhos Volcano, Princess Alice Bank (45 miles from the coast), or Ponta dos Rosais offer such different swimming, with incredible underwater views, that will keep you coming back to these waters year after year.

This week ends with the iconic and challenging Faial – Pico Channel Swimming Crossing (approximately 8 kilometers), which marks the beginning of Sea Week, the biggest event on the island of Faial.

At the end of this swimming holiday you will be able to continue your odyssey through the western group of the Azores islands, on a 5 day trip around the islands of Flores and Corvo (under confirmation).

Are you ready to embrace this adventure across the mid-Atlantic?



ITINERARY

DAY 1 | WELCOME TO THE AZORES

We meet at Horta Airport, on Faial Island, where our swim guides will be waiting for you. From here, there is a short 15-minute transfer to the Hotel, where you will check in. After a welcome lunch with the other swimmers of the group, we will do a briefing to introduce the week ahead. During the afternoon, we will walk to Porto Pim Beach for an acclimatization swim and experience the calm waters of this bay with volcanic sand.



DAY 2 | AN INCREDIBLE ROCK FORMATION

Today marks the beginning of our adventure in the Azores Islands. Departing from Marina da Horta, we will travel to the Morro de Castelo Branco Natural Reserve, a breathtaking rock formation resulting from a coastal volcanic eruption that occurred around 30 thousand years ago. After lunch, we will visit the Capelinhos Volcano and learn about the history behind the grandeur of the volcano, which last became active in 1958.



DAY 3 | CAPELINHOS VOLCANO, 60 YEARS LATER

Heading to the west end of the island, today we will swim around Ponta dos Capelinhos, from where we will see the lighthouse that had to be deactivated due to the volcanic phenomenon that occurred in the region. Seen from the sea, we will be dazzled by the uniqueness and inaccessibility of this place. On the return boat trip we will make a short stop at Porto do Varadouro for a delicious lunch overlooking the sea. Arriving on land, we will visit the Caldeira, a volcanic crater on a monumental scale measuring 2km in diameter, surrounded by the primitive Laurissilva forest.



DAY 4 | AN UNFORGETTABLE DAY SWIMMING WITH MANTA

You will never forget the fourth day of the trip. Departing from the marina a little earlier than usual, we will sail by catamaran for around 3 hours until reaching our destination, 45 miles from the coast, Banco Princesa Alice. Considered one of the best diving and snorkeling places in the Azores, this will be a very special swim in the heart of the Atlantic Ocean, surrounded by mantas (*Mobula tarapacana*) and, occasionally, tunas and barracudas. A light lunch will be served on board the boat. During the return journey there is a good chance of seeing groups of whales, dolphins, turtles or other cetaceans.



DAY 5 | THE VERTIGINOUS VIEWS OF PONTA DOS ROSAIS

Known as “the sleeping dragon”, due to its 53 kilometers in length, the last day of the adventure is spent in São Jorge, the most central island of the archipelago. Along this impressive swim you will be able to see the spectacular cliffs, more than 200 meters above sea level, that so characterize the extreme northwest of the island. We will return by boat to Faial, where we will have lunch at the most famous café in the world, Peter’s Café Sport. At the end of the day we will attend the briefing of the channel crossing.





DAY 6 | FAIAL – PICO CHANNEL CROSSING

On this day we will swim the iconic Faial - Pico Channel Swimming Crossing. Over 8 challenging kilometers the goal is just one: to reach Pico Island. The afternoon will be free to rest and enjoy the last few hours on the island. The day will end with an awards ceremony. **Note: This day will not be held in the week of August 21st to 26th. This crossing is organized by the local club and only happens once a year. For this reason the trip is one day shorter.**





DAY 7 | GOODBYE AZORES OR TRIP TO FLORES/CORVO!

We will say goodbye to everyone who will take the flight back home and continue our journey to the western group of the Azorean islands of Flores and Corvo for those who want to continue their journey through the Atlantic paradise.





WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- **Safety:**
 - Personal Accidents Insurance
 - Accompanied by experienced swim guides
 - Open water sessions are accompanied by one boat and 1 kayak
- **Food:**
 - Breakfasts
 - Lunches¹
 - Water, tea, dry fruits and fruits during swimming moments
- **Accommodation:**
 - 6 nights at Azoris Faial Garden – Resort Hotel²
 - Twin rooms for all customers with garden view. Upgrade to single and/or sea view (extra cost)
- **Transfers:**
 - During all trip in a 9-seater van or similar
- **Others:**
 - Photos
 - Faial - Pico Channel Swimming Crossing Registration (Only included in the week of July 28th to August 3rd)

¹ Only waters included. Other drinks with extra cost. **NOTE:** Vegetarian option included.

² The accommodation is subject to availability and may change to a similar alternative.





WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- Equipment
- Flights
- Personal extras, gratuities for local guides
- Evening meals³
- Anything not mention in the up section
- Personal travel insurance
- Extra Activities

EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

In addition to your daily non-swimming clothes, we also recommend that you bring the following items:

✓	ITEM	✓	ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/>	Swimming Costume (x 2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Towel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Swimming Goggles (x 2)*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Daypack
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wetsuit (Optional)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sweater / Fleece
<input type="checkbox"/>	Swim Buoy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waterproof Jacket
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sun Hat and Sunglasses	<input type="checkbox"/>	Walking Shoes / Sandals
<input type="checkbox"/>	High Factor, Water Resistant Sun Cream	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waterproof Camera

* Try to bring one clear lens and one tinted lens for different light conditions.

Extra: If you need some equipment to carry out the Swim Camp you can rent at the meeting point. Wetsuits can be rented. For this, we need your request until 24 hours before the start of the swim camp.

³ Special conditions with the hotel. **NOTE:** Vegetarian option included.





ACCOMMODATION

The Azoris Faial Garden – Resort Hotel is a 4-star hotel located in the city of Horta. Overlooking the sea and Pico Island is inspired by the history and traditions of the island: the maritime point of connection between Europe and the American continent. It is located 15 minutes from Horta Airport, 40 minutes from Capelinhos Volcano and 30 minutes from Caldeira.

Facilities of your room:

- Twin room w/ single upgrade
- Cable TV with plasma display
- Minibar
- Free WiFi
- Air conditioning
- Towels
- Safe
- Hairdryer





SWIMMING DISTANCE

This swimming holiday takes place in Azores Island and is approximately 21-24km (average of 3.5km / day). Please note that the below daily itineraries are an example of the swims that may take place during the course of your trip, however, actual swim locations and distances will vary according to local weather and sea conditions. Your SwimTogether guides and local boat pilot will determine the most suitable swim locations each day and will communicate the plan with all guests as soon as possible.

SEA CONDITIONS

Swimming in the sea is a unique experience, however, you should be aware of marine life such as jellyfish, sea urchins and seaweed. In addition, the sea and weather conditions may make the swimming more challenging.

WATER TEMPERATURE

The average temperature during this time of the year is between 21°C and 24°C (70°F and 75°F), reason why the use of wetsuit is optional.





WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The experience of outdoor swimming can be challenging, but extremely out of the ordinary. Having a natural self confidence to swim in open waters is an asset. The minimum required swimming speed that you can achieve is 30min/km, and the minimum required swim distance you can do nonstop is 2km. This swim camp can be accompanied by adult family members or friends who travel with you and are not participating in the swimming.

GROUP SIZE

This swimming holiday has a maximum of 10 participants. According to the speed of the swimmers we can make 2 groups. Each group is escorted by a safety team.

SAFETY

The whole Swim Camp will be accompanied by 2 experienced guides who will stay with you in the water and at your hotel. Whenever you need you can ask them for information and assistance. All open water swimming sessions that are not performed in Lido will be accompanied by a boat and 1 kayak. During the open water swims you can get out of the water or ask for something to eat or drink.



MEETING POINT

Location: Horta Airport

Your SwimTogether guides, dressed in a fluorescent orange t-shirt, will be waiting for you at the airport gate, next to the location indicated in the image below. Before they head to the airport, they will contact you via Whatsapp (in the group created with all participants in the trip) to make sure you are at the airport at the meeting point.



Pick Up Time: 10.30am on Day 1

Drop Off Time: 10.30am on Day 7

