

# ESPAÇO TALASSA'10

Whale watching since 1989



## Pico... Beyond the whales

### Possible activities on Pico Island



#### WALKING AROUND PICO

##### 1 Mount Pico climbing

Difficult hike intended for good hikers, we recommend you to take a local guide. About 8 hours in all.

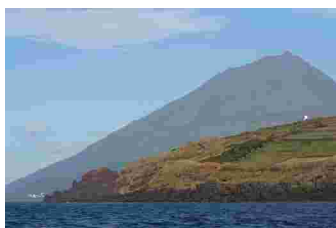
Early in the morning, transfer by taxi to the trailhead for the ascent of the "Azores Roof", 2350 meters, Portugal's peak, where we will be waiting for the sun to rise, our feet in the warm fumaroles. From the distance, we will make out the islands of Sao Jorge, Graciosa and Faial. Departure will take place at 1200m, which represents a difference of level of about 1200m.



##### 2 Caminho dos Burros

Easy hike (slope or flat ground). About 3 hours. Our team can deliver a road-book.

Transfer by taxi (to be booked on the spot) to the ridges where we will drive to the volcano of Handroal. We will continue our way to the "Caminhos dos Burros", the first communication route that the Portuguese conquistadors opened once they arrived on the island and that we rediscovered in 1993. The path taking us on different levels of vegetation will bring us back to Lajes do Pico. The vegetation is endemic: a unique example in the Azores!



##### 3 Manhenga-Calhau

Easy hike on the seaside. About 3 hours.

From the beacon of Ponta da Ilha, standing at the far south-east of the island where a vineyard landscape lays before you, you will discover François le Potier's house, surrounded by impressive colonies of terns and shearwaters that took up residence in the basalt cliffs... any takers?



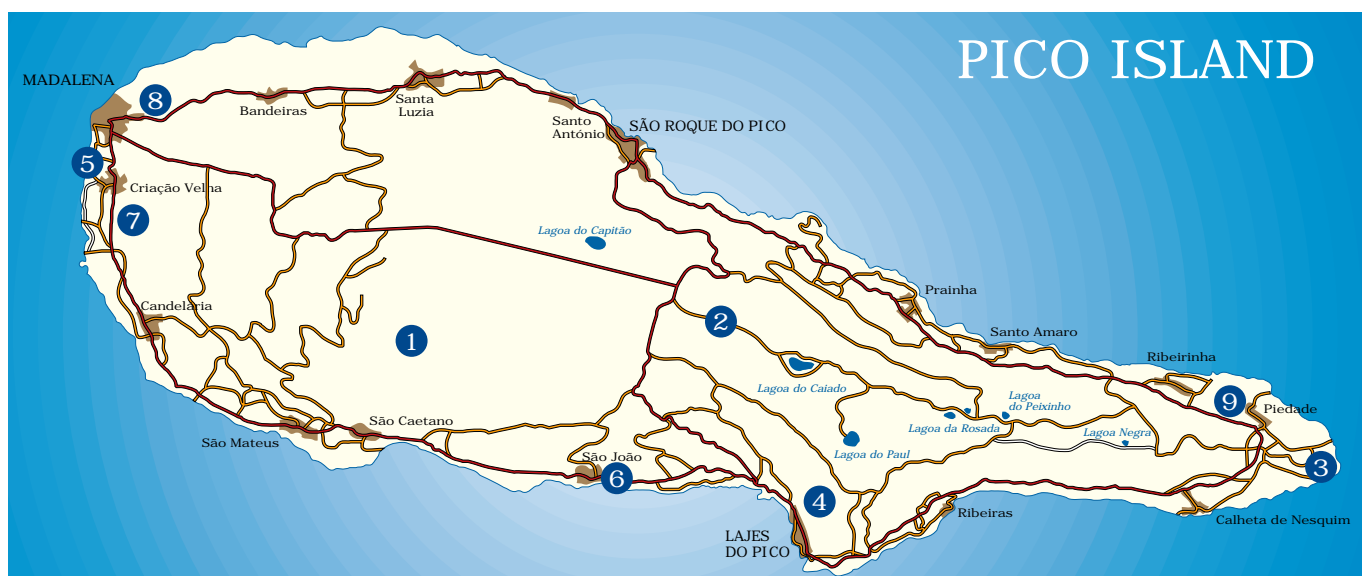
##### 4 Walking around Lajes

Easy hike (loop). You will walk past the former whale factory and the look out of Queimada making a loop above the village. Our team can give you some advice about this hike that can take from 1 to 4 hours

##### 5 Criação Velha – UNESCO World Heritage

3 hours easy excursion. One extraordinary voyage to the 18 and 19th century Pico wine grower, who piled up small basalt rocks to build the "Currais", which UNESCO classified as World Heritage. By running along these walls, it appears that one can touch the moon!

Those unaccompanied hikes may be planned during the free half-days after or before sea trips, except from the Mount Pico ascent. The eventual transfers will be at your own expenses.





## 6 “LULAS E CACHALOTES” MUSEUM

In São João, Malcolm Clarke tells us about the "so alive" cetaceans but also about cephalopods in his private museum called "Lulas e Cachalote".

<http://www.bienal-baleias.org/malcolm/>



## 7 CAVE “DAS TORRES”

With its 5150 meters length, it's the largest volcanic cavity of Europe. This lava tunnel is also remarkable by the great ceiling height, in certain places more than 15 meters high. Noteworthy also the architecture of the reception facilities: the human intervention was minimized, to let nature express itself freely. Before the visit, a very interesting briefing is presented.



## 8 THE WINE AND THE VINE

The Wine Museum has been installed in a dependence of an old Carmelite Convent. If the collections are relatively poor, the building is strikingly surrounded by a pomegranate grove. Pico is closely linked with the wine history and local memory is still quite alive, especially during vintage period, when the still distills the "Bagaço"!

## 9 HORSEBACK RIDING

In Piedade (situated in the eastern coast) you can discover a different Pico ... on horseback. The local cheese and the wine are just part of the picnic at Nélia's "adega" (typical basaltic house).



“Lulas e Cachalotes” Museum



## SCUBA DIVING

According to the number of persons, Norberto, based in Horta located on the Island of Faial, may come to Pico, or you can plan the round trip by taxi and by ferryboat.

Price: about 30/35 euros per person and per trip according to the equipment provided.

Please note, this activity is intended for initiated people. Don't forget your documents.



## BIRD WATCHING/SEA WATCHING

Lajes and the southern coast of Pico are surely one of best spots in the Azores for bird watching at sea and on land as well. We can name the following species as the most commonly watched: *Calonectris diomedea* (Cory's Shearwater), *Sterna dougallii* (Roseate Tern), *Tringa nebularia* (Common Greenshank), *Puffinus gravis* (Great Shearwater), *Sterna hirundo* (Common Tern)...

The least commonly watched at sea: *Larus atricilla* (Laughing Gull), *Stercorarius pomarinus* (Pomarine Jaeger), *Bulweria bulwerii* (Bulwer's Petrel), *Puffinus puffinus* (Manx Shearwater)...

And the least commonly watched on land: *Limnodromus griseus* (Short-billed Dowitcher), *Podilymbus podiceps* (Pied-billed Grebe), *Calidris pusilla* (Semipalmated Sandpip), *Calidris canutus* (Red Knot). We can also organize a trip directed towards this type of observation. Service and price information on: [birdwatching@espacotalassa.com](mailto:birdwatching@espacotalassa.com)



## CAR OR TAXI TRIP AROUND THE ISLAND OF PICO

By taxi (cheap on Pico) or with a car that you can rent on the spot (about 45 euros - sliding scale of charges according to the number of days). In low season you can book directly on the spot. However, if you wish to come in July or August, we advise you to book as soon as possible. Our local team can help you for the different steps.

Note that the prices announced above are merely supplied for information purposes and do not engage the responsibility for Espaço Talassa.