

Guidelines for a safe travel to the Azores
AZORES COVID-19 UPDATE
22nd of February 2021



The European Best Destinations, cultural and tourist organization, considered the Azores archipelago as a “European Safest Destination” for 2021, a guarantee of safe and sustainable experiences.

The commitment of all the shareholders, to comply with the guidelines and good practices for safe travel and safe stay in the Azores, certifies the access to experience all the adventures nature has to offer on land and sea and the special care and hospitality provided to visitors. For more information: <https://lnkd.in/gZuMP9j>



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TRAVELLING TO THE AZORES

- Passengers wishing to travel to the territory of the Autonomous Region of the Azores, by air or by sea, and who come from areas considered by the World Health Organization to be areas of active community transmission or with active transmission chains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, are required to present, prior to boarding, a certificate, in digital or paper format, of a document issued by an recognized laboratory, national or international, to carry out a diagnostic test to SARS-CoV-2 with negative result.

- Extending the stay on any of the islands of the archipelago for seven or more days, or for thirteen or more days, the passenger must, on the 6th and 12th days, respectively, counting from the date of the SARS-CoV-2 screening test, contact the Health Authority of the municipality where one resides or is staying (https://covid19.azores.gov.pt/?page_id=1426), with the objective of carrying out a new SARS-CoV-2 screening test, supported by the local Health Authority, which result will be communicated by the means assumed by that entity.

Exceptions to the mandatory presentation of the test:

- Passengers aged 12 years or less
(You can check other exceptions here: https://destinoseguro.azores.gov.pt/?page_id=8908)

General travel information:

The report of the examination carried out up to 72 hours before the flight departs, must contain the following information:

- a) Passenger identification;
- b) Name of the laboratory where it was carried out with reference to the respective certification;
- c) Reference to the use of the RT-PCR methodology;
- d) Date of the test;
- e) Test result as “negative”.



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- If your result is **negative**, you can travel and must register your trip on the My Safe Azores platform (<https://mysafeazores.com>) to allow faster control on arrival in the Azores.
- You must present the exam result at the time of check-in in digital or physical format, excluding the SMS format.
- The Autonomous Region of the Azores will assume all charges resulting from accommodation and meals for passengers disembarked in the Region, for compliance with mandatory confinement derived from POSITIVE result to SARS-CoV-2 and prophylactic isolation as a result of close contact with a POSITIVE SARS-CoV-2 case, when determined by the Health Authority.

INTER-ISLAND TRIPS DEPARTING FROM S. MIGUEL TO ONE OF THE OTHER ISLANDS

In the case of an inter-island trip departing from São Miguel to one of the other islands, you must perform the COVID19 test, using the RT-PCR methodology, up to 72 hours before departure and only with a negative result you can travel.

If the test is carried out in a laboratory with an agreement with the Azorean Government, the Region will bear its cost. If the laboratory is not in the list of agreement, the passenger will have to bear the cost.

You must make the appointment for the test by phone and attend the laboratory, following the instructions they will give you, through one of the contacts below:

- **S. Miguel Island**

Ponta Delgada

Germano de Sousa - Travessa da Graça 1-3 (+351) 930 573 354, (+351) 296 284 713;
Coordenadas - 37.74105, -25.66466



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Maria Teresa Paiva Forjaz Sampaio, Lda. - Rua Padre César Augusto Ferreira Cabido 37, 9500-338 (+351) 296 650 960.

Coordenadas - 37.74393, -25.66321

Lagoa

Germano de Sousa - Tecnoparque da Lagoa – (+351) 930 573 354, (+351) 296 284 713.

Coordenadas - 37.74562, -25.57480

If your result is **positive**, do not go to the airport and contact the Azores Health Line at 808 24 60 24.

If your result is **negative**, you can travel and must register your trip on the My Safe Azores platform (<https://mysafeazores.com>) to allow faster and more efficient control.

Exceptions to the mandatory presentation of the test:

- Passengers aged 12 years or less;
- Passengers departing from the islands classified as high and medium risk of transmission and who, for reasons of delay or trip cancellation, when boarding or stopover, exceed the 72 hours of validity of the test done at the origin, being obliged to undergo screening for SARS-CoV-2, using the RT-PCR methodology, on arrival at the island of destination, as well as prophylactic isolation, until the negative result is communicated, within a maximum period of 24 hours;
- Passengers departing from an island considered to have the lowest transmission risk and who, in transit to the final destination island, land at the airports of islands classified as high and medium transmission risk, provided that they do not travel on the “air” side to the “land” side, in the terminological sense used in national airports;
- Passengers departing on an island classified as having the lowest risk of transmission and who, in transit to the final destination island, land at the airports of the islands classified as high and medium risk of transmission, on these circulating from the «air» side to the “land” side, in the terminological sense in use at national airports, being obliged to undergo screening for SARS-CoV-2, using the RT-PCR methodology, on arrival at the destination



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island, as well as prophylactic isolation, until be notified of the negative result, within a maximum period of 24 hours;

- Passengers departing from the mainland or from the Autonomous Region of Madeira and who, in transit to the final destination island, land at the airports of the islands classified as having the greatest risk of transmission, in these traveling from the «air» side to the “land”, in the terminological sense in use at national airports, being obliged to undergo screening for SARS-CoV-2, using the RT-PCR methodology, upon arrival at the island of destination, as well as prophylactic isolation, until communicated to them the negative result, within a maximum period of 24 hours;
- Passengers traveling from any island classified as having the lowest risk of transmission to the islands classified as high and medium risk of transmission, returning within a period of up to 72 hours, being, at that moment, obliged to undergo screening for SARS-CoV-2, using the RT-PCR methodology, as well as prophylactic isolation, until the negative result is reported to them, within a maximum period of 24 hours.

(You can check other exceptions here https://destinoseguro.azores.gov.pt/?page_id=8908)

MEASURES FOR ALL ISLANDS

- Limitation of gatherings on the public road of a maximum number of 10 people, unless they are from the same household;
- Limitation to a maximum of 10 people per table in restaurants and cafes, unless they belong to the same household and maximum capacity of 3/4 of the its capacity;
- Closure of all beverage and similar establishments, with dance spaces;
- Closure, from 11:59 pm onwards, of all restaurants, drinks and similar establishments, with or without a show and with or without terrace service, including spaces for holding events, except for the purposes of take away or delivery to the residence;
- Fuel filling stations can maintain their operation from 11:59 pm until 06:00 am of the following day, exclusively for the purpose of selling fuels and supplying vehicles to the public;
- Limited presence of public at cultural events and sports competitions to 1/3 of the respective capacity, guaranteeing the rules of social distance.



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SANITARY FENCES

Rabo de Peixe, Ribeira Grande municipality (S. Miguel Island)

Learn more information about the sanitary fence here:

https://destinoseguro.azores.gov.pt/?page_id=8907

GOOD PRACTICES FOR A SAFE STAY

- Use of masks in areas of common use;
- Maintain the advisable physical distance of 2 meters;
- Handwashing with soap and water or alcohol-based disinfectant;
- Follow respiratory etiquette rules.

Measures being carried out at Azores Airports:

- Reinforced cleaning with hospital-level disinfectants;
- On-going cleaning teams in various areas;
- Disinfection using advanced technology UV equipment;
- Increase of hand sanitizers at all points of the terminals;
- Signage and disclosure of the use of a mask on the terminal, warning for the need for extra hygiene care and the need for physical distance; Installation of protection screens on service counters (acrylic and glass);
- Body temperature measurement camera system in coordination with health entities.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CLEAN & SAFE CERTIFICATION

- Establishments must be disinfected;
- Vehicles must be clean and disinfected;
- The wear of mask is compulsory in all facilities and transports of collective use;
- Measures to ensure physical distance of 2 meters;
- Ensure the limitation of capacity in spaces and means of transport to 2/3;
- Make alcohol-based disinfectants available in common passageways;
- Provide automatic and contactless payment methods;



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- Have contingency plans that prevent transmission and know how to act in the event of illness;
- COVID-19 trained employees.

You can check the companies recognized with the Clean & Safe stamp here:
<https://portugalcleanandsafe.com/en>

COVID-19 Numbers

Active cases: 66

Confirmed cases: 3838

Recovered cases: 3632

Deaths: 29

Vaccination

- Corvo, the smallest island of the Azores, is the first territory in the country whose inhabitants have already received the first dose of the vaccine against Covid-19. In three days, 318 people were vaccinated. In March they receive the second dose;
- In the second week of March, approximately 6.000 people from risk groups and security forces will be vaccinated;
- 5% of the Azorean population is already vaccinated;
- It is expected that by July the entire population will be vaccinated.

✓ **For more information please access**

<https://www.ana.pt/en/passenger-guide/what-you-need-to-know/covid-19>

✓ **For information on airline guidelines, during this period, you should contact:**

Azores Airlines

Phone: +351 296 209 720

<https://www.azoresairlines.pt/en/covid-19>



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TAP

Phone: +351 211 234 400

<https://www.flytap.com/en-pt/recommendations-covid-19>

Ryanair

Phone: +44 871 500 5050

<https://www.ryanair.com/ie/en/useful-info/Coronavirus-covid-19>

✓ **Ports and vessels:**

The procedures, in the ports and marinas of the Region, valid to the crews of the yachts, are the same rules that are defined for those who arrive in the Region by air.

✓ **Azores Economic Measures to support the local economy and health care:**

All efforts are being made to increase liquidity and to help minimize the impacts in all the economic Azorean sectors, to support employment maintenance and reinforcing all the measures in the Hospitals and Health Units in the Azores.

✓ **Local authorities' advice and helplines**

For more information <https://covid19.azores.gov.pt/>

Covid-19 Azores health line – for medical issues (+351) 800 24 60 24

Covid-19 Azores helplines for non-medical issues (+351) 800 29 29 29 and (+351) 800 50 05 01

✓ **For information on measures and restrictions in Portugal, you can access:**

<https://www.visitportugal.com/en/node/421175>