

PRAIA DA VITÓRIA, TERCEIRA ISLAND, AZORES

Originally named Island of Jesus Christ, Terceira Island is home to the Azores' oldest city, Angra do Heroísmo. The long-time capital of the archipelago (and once the capital of the Portuguese Empire) is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The other, smaller, seaport is Praia di Vitória.

KEY INFO

Currency: EUR (1 USD = 0.92EUR)

Population: 21,000 (53,000 Terceira)

Emergency #: Dial 112

Drinking water: Tap water is drinkable

Time Zone: GMT

ID Requirements: Photo ID

Languages: Portuguese

Drive on the: Right

Pharmacy #: Farmacia Cabral 🏪

Protection: SPF 30+

Wi-Fi: Sabores do Chef (restaurant in port) 🌐

Post Office: PWJQ+GQ Praia da Vitória 🌐 🏠

PORT LOCATION

Ships dock at the Commercial Port, about 4.5km south of Praia da Vitória. Shuttle buses cover the 7-minute drive. To enjoy a rural walk into town, along single lane roads, takes roughly 1-hour.

Getting Around: In town, the easiest way to explore is by foot. Taxis are available from taxi stations, and public buses connect Praia da Vitória with other locations around the island, including Angra do Heroísmo (1.5-hour bus).

📍 www.evt.pt for information on island bus services

Taxis: Taxis are available from taxi stations

Tourist Bus: There is no Hop-On Hop-Off Bus in Praia da Vitória

Port Facilities: Shuttle bus, Restaurant with Wi-Fi

Port Address: PW7X+2R Praia da Vitória, Portugal 🌐

PRAIA DA VITÓRIA HIGHLIGHTS

Praia Grande: Praia da Vitória is home to the largest sand beach in the whole Azores Archipelago. However, be warned... the sea is cold to swim in. 24 Hours | Free | 3.7km from port (6-min drive) 🌐

Paúl da Praia da Vitória: This nature preserve sits right on the edge of the town, with a gorgeous lake and lush greenery. 24 Hours | Free | 4.2km from port (7-min drive) 🌐

Rua do Jesus: The perfect road in town for some local, boutique shopping. Also check out the decorative pavement designs, with mosaics of windows and doors in the road tiling. 24 Hours | Free | 3.7km from port (6-min drive) 🌐

Igreja Matriz da Praia da Vitória: The Church of Santa Cruz was founded in 1456 by the first Captain of the region, Jácome de Bruges, and was completed in 1517. 9a-5p | Free | 3.7km from port (7-min drive) 🌐

Igreja do Senhor Santo Cristo: The Church of the Holy Christ is a traditionally designed church with a highly decorated façade. The church was ravaged by a fire and is almost entirely restored. Hours unknown | Free | 3.8km from port (7-min drive) 🌐

For more: www.visitportugal.com, www.exploreterceiraisland.com,

🇪🇺 card payment accepted

💰 cash payment accepted

🌐 link to map

ANGRA DO HEROISMO HIGHLIGHTS



Angra do Heroísmo is 30-minute drive from the port of Praia da Vitória. An hourly bus takes about 1.5 hours to complete the journey to this UNESCO World Heritage-listed site.


Sé Catedral de Angra: The Church of the Holy Savior's Cathedral is the leading cathedral on the island. The 16th Century Cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of Angra.

9:30a-5p (Mon-Sat), 9:30a-12p, 5-7p (Sun) | Free | 20km from port (25-min drive)  | 

Miradouro do Pico das Cruzinhas: Enjoy the hike to this monument at the top of Monte Brasil Park, with great views over the city of Angra. The monument celebrates Portugal's discovery of the island.

8:30a-8:30p | Free | 20km from port (25-min drive) 

Palácio dos Capitães Gerais: Visit the former palace of the Captain General, who governed the island on behalf of the Portuguese. Now a museum, as well as an official residence of the President of the Regional Government of the Azores. 10a-5p (Tue-Sun) | \$3 entry | 20km from port (25-min drive)  | 

Memória a D. Pedro IV: Imposing yellow and white monument for Dom Pedro IV (King of Portugal from 1826). Also known as Pedro I of Brazil. Accessible by walking from the Jardim Duque da Terceira, or by road. 8a-8p | Free | 20km from port (25-min drive) 

OTHER IDEAS ON TERCEIRA ISLAND

Museu do Vinho (Biscoitos Wine Museum): Family-run and renowned for its excellent Verdelho wines and fortified liqueurs. Tastings available at the end of guided tour.

10a-5:30p (Tue-Sun) | Price unknown | 25km from port (30-min drive)  | 

Algar do Carvão: In the heart of the island, this ancient lava tube is a fascinating underground volcanic landmark, 90m underground. The tunnels formed as a result of a massive eruption about 2150 years ago.

2:30p-5p (varies by month) | €10   | 23km from port (30-min drive)  | 

SOMETHING TO EAT

Alcatra: an authentic Portuguese pot roast, baked in a traditional earthenware pot, with Arabic roots. The dish is made with red wine and beef shank. It's rich and delicious

Dona Amélia Cake: sugarcane honey and cinnamon harmonize with currants and lemon in these cute and chewy teacakes. Purportedly linked to the visit of Queen D. Amélia to the island in 1901.

Alfenim: skilled sugar work, typical of the region and especially associated with the Festas do Espírito Santo. Local women craft the sugar paste into all manner of magnificent creations, from swans to flowers

Queijadas: the Azorean answer to Lisbon's Pastel de Nata. Sweet, cinnamon-laced custard meets flaky butter pastry in all manner of local variations of this Portuguese classic