

Fogo

(35 min drive time Hotel-Caldeira Velha)

Due to the parking situation, it is now not allowed to take a rental car up to the viewpoints from June to September, between the hours of 9:00AM to 7:00PM. Only Sao Miguel residents are allowed to drive the road during those times.

Instead you will need to park at one of two parking lots. These are located at Caldeira Velha (north) and Casa da Agua (south). From there, you will then hop on a 5 Euro shuttle that stops at the main two viewpoint areas (in addition to a third viewpoint spot).

Based on some reviews, many recommend to go first thing in the morning, well prior to 9:00AM. This allows you to avoid the shuttle system and instead drive your own car & be on your own schedule.

1) Miradouro da Barrossa

As you are making the winding journey up to the Lagoa do Fogo area, you will first come across a viewpoint area called Miradouro da Barrossa.

This is a great spot to get your first glimpse of Lagoa do Fogo and the incredibly beautiful surrounding nature and landscape.

There are actually two spots just seconds away from each other to pull over here and you can decide to just stop at one of them or you can stop at both.

The first viewpoint is highlighted on Google Maps simply as “Miradouros” and the second one will be named “Miradouro da Barrossa”. The map above clearly shows the two viewpoints if you are unsure where to stop.

The view will be quite similar, with the first viewpoint having the winding road in view while the second viewpoint is more unobstructed.

The parking areas here are not as big as the main viewpoint area (up next), but you should be able to safely get a spot off the side of the road to enjoy the view for a little bit. Note the “Miradouro da Barrossa” parking lot is just off of a hairpin turn so slow down as you are making your way there.



2) Miradouro da Lagoa do Fogo

The main viewpoint area is a bit closer to the lake at Miradouro da Lagoa do Fogo. Here you will find a larger parking area and plenty of space to take in another view of Lagoa do Fogo from above.

This view will have a different angle from before as you are able to see the “W” shaped lake down below surrounded by the immense greenery, and the Atlantic Ocean farther out in the distance.



3) Lagoa do Fogo Hiking Option

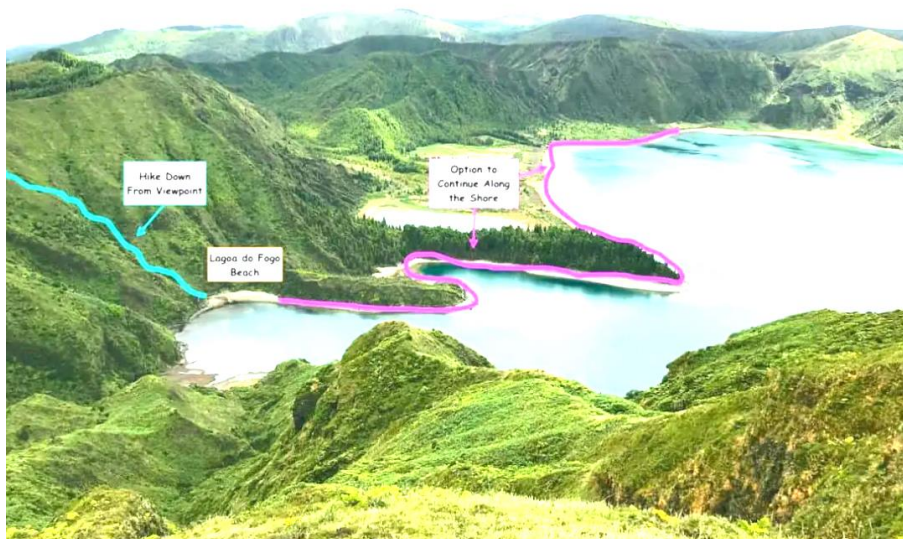
Right below the viewing area, you will find the start to a winding pathway to the bottom of Lagoa do Fogo.

The trail down should take around 30 minutes and can be steep and uneven in some sections, so do be careful on the way and down. Once you arrive down below you then get to enjoy the lake from a small sandy beach at the bottom.

However, if you do have some time, you can extend your route and head all along the shores of the Lagoa do Fogo (from just a few minutes to well over an hour).

You may find some other spots along the lake, where you can enjoy the entire area for yourself instead of situating yourself right by the first beach.

Once you have had enough time by the lakeside, you will head back on the same winding path to the viewpoint and parking lot.



4) Caldeira Velha

It is hard to beat a nice relaxing hot springs experience to wrap up your day. Just 10 minutes away from the main viewpoint of Lagoa do Fogo, you will find the Caldeira Velha thermal pools area. Here you can enter sit back and relax in a natural hot spring pool in the middle of the Sao Miguel forest with nature surrounding you in every which direction.

