

# Sete Cidades

(2 hr driving time)

## 1) Miradouro da Vista do Rei

The first stop of your day will be the Miradouro da Vista do Rei (Miradouro = Viewpoint). It is a 30 or so minute drive from Ponta Delgada as you weave your way higher up on the island.

Once you arrive here, you will see a bunch of different parking spots leading up to the viewpoint area on the left hand side of the road. There also is a bit larger of a parking area right next to the viewpoint as well.

One of the parking lots is directly next to the viewpoint, while the second parking lot is a few minute walk away. You will pass by this second part lot first if coming from Ponta Delgada.



As it is one of the more popular spots on the island you will also find some souvenir stands and restrooms nearby.

At the viewpoint you will see the two multi colored lakes of Lagoa Verde and Lagoa Azul (one green and one blue in color). Depending on cloud coverage and how much sun is out will dictate how clear that color differential is.

It is an incredible site to take in and enjoy for your first glimpse of the Sete Cidades area.

## 2) Monte Palace Abandoned Hotel

Right across the street from the viewpoint, you will see the abandoned hotel of Monte Palace. It is quite the eerie place to explore and should be done at your own risk.

Unfortunately (or fortunately?) a development company has purchased the property and will be renovating it to its former self.

This means that you may not be able to go inside anymore if construction has begun. If not feel free to explore this abandoned place.

## 3) Lagoa do Canario

It is now time to hop back in the car and onto the next part of your day. If you continue the same way down the road for about 5 minutes you will get to the Lagoa do Canario.

Simply park your car on the side of the road or in the lot nearby, and then walk down the dirt road for a few minutes until you see signs pointing you to the lagoon.

It is a quick 5 minute walk from the main road to the lagoon, where you can relax and take in the serene greenery.

#### **4) Miradouro da Boca do Inferno (Miradouro da Grota do Inferno)** *From the Lagoa do Canario parking lot*

It is now time for the view you have all been waiting for – the one and only Miradouro da Boca do Inferno. To get to the viewpoint you have two options: one is to walk from Lagoa do Canario (parking lot) further along the dirt road for about 15 minutes.

Or your second option is to head back to your car, and then drive down the dirt road all the way to the end where there are parking spots available (I would recommend the second option as it does cut down on about 30 additional minutes of round trip walking).

[Maps will lead you to an point where you can turn down a small dirt road off of the main road. This small road that appears protected by a gate that was open when we arrived. Many travelers were parking their cars on the main road and then walking through the gate to continue by foot down the dirt road.

This dirt road looked functional on the map so I insisted we try driving down it rather than parking early and walking. Sure enough, there was a small parking lot at the end of this road, so unless it's crazy crowded there's no reason to park on the main road and walk.]

Once you arrive at the end of the dirt road you will see signs pointing you to the left up to the miradouro. You will soon come across the famous viewpoint and be able to take it all in for yourself. As you walk along the trail to the end of the viewpoint, you will see Lagoa Azul out in the distance alongside some additional craters and lakes of Sete Cidades.

These include Lagoa de Santiago (the crater directly in front of you) and Lagoa Rasa (the smaller crater to the left). Take as much time as you would like taking in the view and enjoying one of the best spots of the island.

Once you have made it to the parking lot area, you will just be a few minutes walk away from the best viewpoint that The Azores has to offer.

Off to your left hand side you will see a wooden plank / dirt staircase, which you will head on up.



Within the next few minutes, you will reach the top viewing area of the Miradouro da Boca do Inferno viewpoint. The view from around the top area is the more notable spot that you see many of the pictures taken from.

Here is where you will get the angle with the dirt path going up and along the hillside towards the end of the viewpoint area.



After enjoying the view from further away, you can then begin to walk the path towards the end of the viewpoint. From here you will have a better view of the surrounding landscape with the craters, lake and town all coming into view.

You will also see an informative sign board with some geology history about the area.

### **5) Miradouro do Cerrado das Freiras**

Time needed: max 5 minutes.

Miradouro do Cerrado das Freiras is another nice viewpoint along the road from Vista do Rei to Sete Cidades. It offers an excellent view of the two lakes of Sete Cidades Lagoon from yet another angle.

And while you'd think it's just another viewpoint, this one is definitely worth a quick photo stop!

There's a small car parking at Miradouro do Cerrado das Freiras and it's just a very short walk to the viewpoint, so don't drive by.



Miradouro do Cerrado das Freiras

### **6) Miradouro da Lagoa de Santiago**

Miradouro da Lagoa de Santiago is one of the viewpoints located along the road between Vista do Rei and Sete Cidades town. It's the best place to see the dark-green lake of Santiago from close by.



Miradouro da Lagoa de Santiago

**7) Town of Sete Cidades**  
**Restaurant Lagoa Azul**  
**Restaurant Green Love**

You can also just walk through the streets and explore the ins and outs of a traditional Azorean town.

**8) Miradouro da Ponta do Escalvado**

**9) Ponta da Ferraria (check tide forecast; best visit at low tide)**