

YCC Azores Cruise 2015

Preparation meeting

Port Choiseul – 21 May 2015

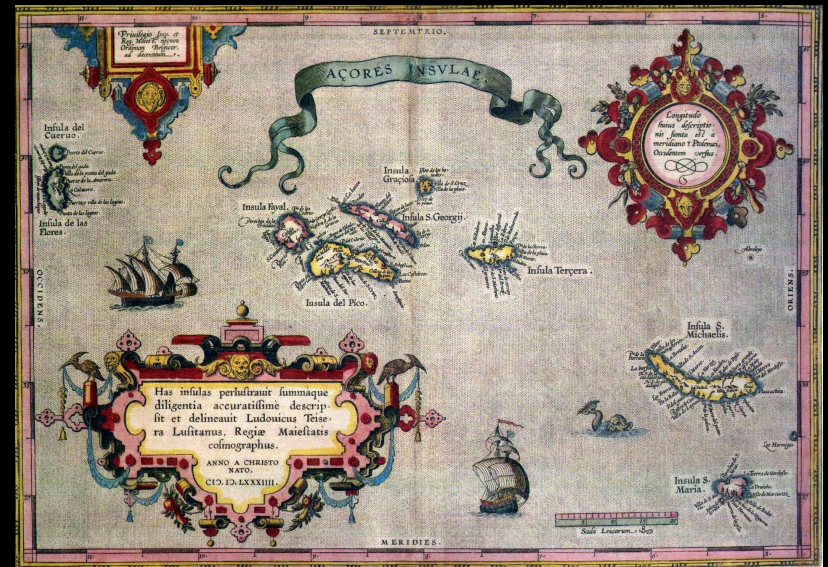
Overview

- The Azores
- Night out in Lisbon
- Weather & Tides
- Recommendations
- Harbours
- Possible routes



A bit of history

- Possibly known by the Phoenicians and the Carthaginian since VI century b.c.
- Reference to nine islands NW from the Canaries by Sherif Mohamed al Edrisi in 1154
- Unpopulated when (re-)discovered by the Portuguese in 1432
 - Captain Gonçalo Velho Cabral just missed it one year before, when discovering the “Formigas” rocks, a mere 20nm from Santa Maria
 - São Miguel known by 1439
 - The “central group” – Terceira, Graciosa, São Jorge, Pico and Faial – in 1450
 - Flores and Corvo discovered in 1452
- Colonised by emigrants from Portugal but also Flanders, Brittany, Scotland, Ireland and Italy
 - Economy based on agriculture but also on artisanal whaling until 1981 when it became forbidden
- Christopher Columbus stopped in Santa Maria in 1493 returning from America
- In 1498 João Fernandes Labrador left Terceira to map out the Labrador
- Vasco da Gama stopped in Terceira on his way back from India in 1499
- A frequent port of call since then
 - Herman Melville writes in 1851 about whalers from Nantucket stopping in the Azores in search of provisions and crewmen
- In 1976 became a portuguese Autonomous Region with its Regional Government



Geography and geology

- Nine volcanoes formed at the junction between the eurasian and the african tectonic plates
 - Age between 8 million years (Sta.Maria) and 270 thousand years (Pico)
 - Many interesting geological curiosities: lava tubes, volcano craters
 - Lava rock is a traditional construction material here
- Being a set of volcanic islands, there are only few places to drop the anchor, all unprotected, also quite some distance between islands
 - Advice from Sailazores is to spend nights in a marina
- In second week we are likely to stay in the “central group”:

- Graciosa
- Terceira
- São Jorge
- Pico
- Faial



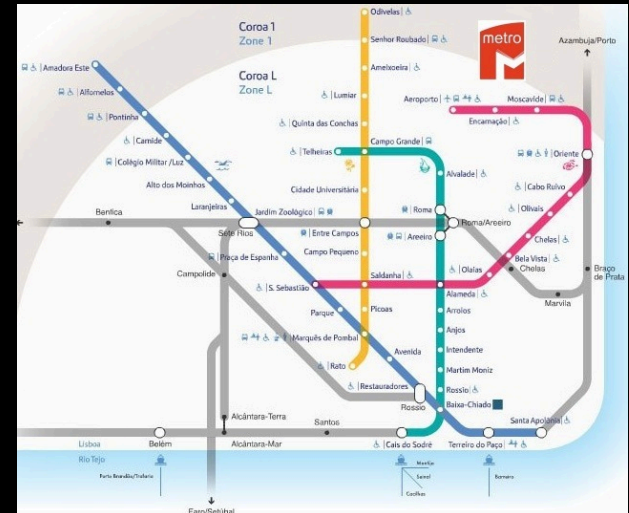
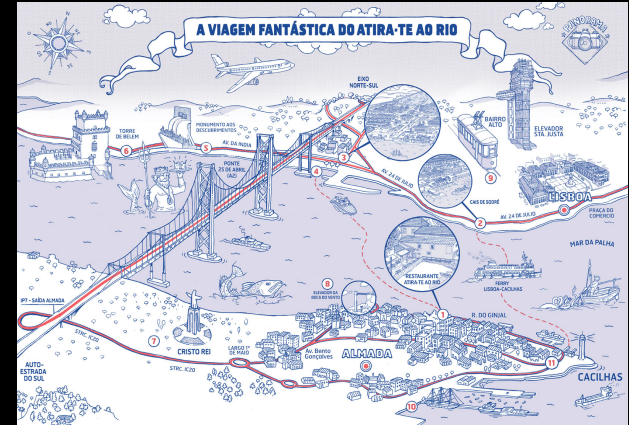
Fauna and flora

- Whales and dolphins!
 - Several species: roaz, comum, pintado, etc – can be seen in family groups
 - Sperm whales (yes... Moby Dick!) – usually females with youngsters and old males stay around the islands while young males go travel the world
- Birds:
 - Cagarra, ou Pardela (Calonectris, Procellariidae family) – migratory sea birds; spend most of life at sea, coming always to the same island to hatch; largest world concentration in the Azores
 - Azores bat (Nyctalus azoreum) endemic from the Azores islands – only bat species which hunts by day
- Flora:
 - More than 60 endemic species originating from the Tertiary (20M years) and isolated from outside world
 - Laurissilva forest includes trees and bushes, some are living fossils



Travel to the Azores

- Spirito's crew spending one night in Lisbon:
 - TP0953 GVA 04 Sep 18h15 to LIS 04 Sep 19h45
 - TP1843 LIS 05 Sep 08h00 to HOR 05 Sep 09h40
- Propose to go out in Lisbon:
 - Dinner suggestions:
 - Atira-te ao Rio (<http://www.atirateaorio.pt>) in Cacilhas across the Tagus
 - A bit expensive for Lisbon (not Geneva...) but glorious view and good food
 - Cross by ferry from Cais do Sodré, walk 500m along pier towards river mouth
 - Casa do Alentejo (<http://www.casadoalentejo.pt>)
 - Traditional food from southern Portugal
 - In a small 17th century palace hidden in Baixa's popular historical district
 - Followed by a visit to lively Bairro Alto bar area and Tasca do Chico for Fado
 - Or go to a restaurant where Fado is sung (wide selection), e.g. <http://www.clube-de-fado.com> (a bit expensive, but seems nice)
- From airport to city:
 - Lisbon airport very close to city
 - Taxis are cheap but **make sure** counter is running! 10-15 euros to city centre
 - Aerobus: €3.50 (10% discount when bought online and printed) not valid for other public transport
 - Line 1 (every 20min) to the city center (Rossio, Praça do Comércio, and railway/ferry terminal at Cais do Sodré). First trip from Cais do Sodré to airport at 7:45 am
 - Line 2 (every 30min) to the Oriente bus/railway terminals with 30min intervals
 - Line 3 (every 30min) to the central bus station at Sete Rios via Entrecampos train station
 - Metro (subway): from airport
 - €1.90 single trip to any place in the centre; daily pass €6.00 (plus €0.50 for the reusable card) valid for 24 hours after first activation; good on all public transportation (metro, bus, eléctrico); count 30mins to centre



Our boats

- Three yachts rented from Sailazores: <http://www.sailazores.pt>
- One week (Horta, Faial; 5 – 12 September):
 - Trevi: Dufour Grand'Large 450 (2011)
 - Skipper: Michel Chevallier
 - Spirito: Dufour Grand'Large 405 (2013)
 - Skipper: Manfred Willenbrock
- Two weeks (29 August to 12 September):
 - From Ponta Delgada, S.Miguel to Horta, Faial
 - Primo: Dufour Grand'Large 450 (2014)
 - Skipper: Michel Cornevin
- Boats are practically new and seem well equipped
- Marina fees at departure port are included
- Sailazores do a briefing on the first day to explain routes, ports, etc
- Standard equipment:
 - Furling genoa; Bimini; Sprayhood; Electric windlass; Autopilot; GPS; VHF; AIS;
 - Hotwater; Head and cockpit shower; Oven; Microwave; Electric fridge; Ice box; LCD w/ DVD and/or USB, CD, radio and iPod plug, 4 speakers; Binoculars (100 euros deposit, fully refundable)
 - Linen and towels provided; kitchen equipment (including corkscrew!)
 - Snorkeling gear (4 x); Inflatable dingy with outboard engine; Liferaft



Weather in September

- Average air temperature: 23 (high) 19 (low)
- Average precipitation: 80mm (Geneva 100mm)
- Average days with rain: 17 (4 seasons each day...)
- Wind:
 - Average speed/direction: 9kts from NE
 - Probability of ≥ 4 Bft: 30%
 - Route choice may depend on actual wind direction (island shadow)
 - Catabatic winds possible near island cliffs

<http://www.windfinder.com/> <http://www.weatherbase.com>

Climate data for the Archipelago of the Azores (1971–2000)

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Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average high °C (°F)	16.0 (60.8)	15.8 (60.4)	16.3 (61.3)	17.1 (62.8)	18.6 (65.5)	20.9 (69.6)	23.6 (74.5)	24.8 (76.6)	23.8 (74.8)	21.2 (70.2)	18.8 (65.8)	17.0 (62.6)	19.49 (67.08)
Average low °C (°F)	11.5 (52.7)	11.1 (52)	11.6 (52.9)	12.1 (53.8)	13.4 (56.1)	15.5 (59.9)	17.7 (63.9)	18.7 (65.7)	18.1 (64.6)	16.1 (61)	14.1 (57.4)	12.6 (54.7)	14.38 (57.88)
Average precipitation mm (inches)	111.7 (4.398)	108.6 (4.276)	99.6 (3.921)	85.2 (3.354)	59.6 (2.346)	48.5 (1.909)	32.6 (1.283)	56.9 (2.24)	96.3 (3.791)	124 (4.88)	129.5 (5.098)	136.3 (5.366)	1,090.5 (42.933)

Source: Instituto de Meteorologia, IP Portugal.^[33]

Weather forecasts

- Sea area “Azores” (Pt area 5)
- Coastal radio: Ch. 16, 25, 26, 28 (24h/24)
- VHF – coastal waters:
 - Weather report, forecasts, navigation warnings
 - Within 20nm of Faial, Graciosa, Pico, São Jorge, Terceira: Ch. 11 at 09:00 and 21:00
 - Within 20nm of Flores: Ch. 11 at 10:00 and 19:00
 - In english and portuguese
- Radio (LW):
 - Horta (518kHz): every 4h from 00:50 in english
 - Las Palmas (518kHz): every 4h from 01:20 in english; weather reports at 09:20, 13:20, 17:20
 - BBC4 (198kHz): 05:20, 12:01, 17:54 (UTC+1)
- NAVTEX:
 - Identification letters F (518kHz, english) and J (490kHz, portuguese)
 - Horta station (NAVAREA 11)
 - <http://weather.gmdss.org/>



NAVTEX:

WEATHER BULLETIN FOR
SHIPPING FOR THE ATLANTIC
ZONES
LIMITED BY MERIDIANS 40W-22W
AND BY PARALLELS 30N-45N.
NO WARNINGS.
WEATHER SUMMARY AT
251200UTC:
...
5 - ACORES:
NW 3 TO 4 SOMETIMES 5, VEER
S QUAD AND INCR TO 5 TO 6 IN
W.
GOOD VIS, BECMG MOD TO POOR
IN W.
NW WAVES 2 TO 3 M, BECMG S
AND INCR TO 2.5 TO 4 M IN
FAR W.

Tides & Navigation

- Information from portuguese Instituto Hidrográfico (navy): <http://www.hidrografico.pt>
- Tidal current runs to N, NE or E during rising tide and reverse direction in falling tide
 - Strongest tidal currents in Faial channel in front of Horta – up to 2 knts
- Declination: average 11°33'W 2014 (9' E) – changes by 2°40' between east- and west-most islands

Horta (Faial) - September

Ponta Delgada (S.Miguel) August September

29 SÁB ☺	0 38 6 45 12 57 19 16	1.7 .2 1.9 .2
30 DOM	1 22 7 29 13 41 20 0	1.8 .2 1.9 .1
31 SEG	2 7 8 13 14 25 20 44	1.8 .2 1.9 .1
h m m		
1 TER	2 51 8 58 15 11 21 29	1.8 .2 1.9 .2
2 QUA	3 38 9 46 15 59 22 17	1.7 .3 1.8 .3
3 QUI	4 27 10 37 16 51 23 9	1.6 .4 1.6 .4
4 SEX	5 23 11 37 17 51	1.5 .5 1.5
5 SÁB ☾	0 12 6 29 12 52 19 6	.6 1.4 .6 1.3

4 SEX	5 12 11 25 17 39	1.5 .6 1.4
5 SÁB ☾	0 3 6 20 12 41 18 52	.6 1.4 .7 1.3
6 DOM	1 22 7 42 14 13 20 19	.7 1.3 .7 1.3
7 SEG	2 48 9 5 15 37 21 38	.7 1.3 .7 1.3
8 TER	3 58 10 10 16 38 22 36	.7 1.4 .7 1.3
9 QUA	4 49 11 0 17 22 23 20	.6 1.5 .6 1.4
10 QUI	5 30 11 40 17 58 23 57	.6 1.5 .6 1.4
11 SEX	6 4 12 15 18 29	.5 1.5 .5
12 SÁB	0 30 6 36 12 47 18 59	1.5 .5 1.6 .5
13 DOM ☺	1 1 7 6 13 18 19 28	1.5 .5 1.6 .5

Angra do Heroísmo (Terceira)

August

29 SÁB ☺	0 41 6 47 12 59 19 18	1.6 .3 1.8 .2
30 DOM	1 25 7 30 13 43 20 1	1.7 .3 1.8 .2
31 SEG	2 10 8 14 14 28 20 45	1.8 .2 1.9 .2

September

h m m		
1 TER	2 54 9 0 15 13 21 30	1.8 .3 1.8 .3
2 QUA	3 40 9 47 16 0 22 18	1.7 .4 1.7 .4
3 QUI	4 28 10 38 16 50 23 10	1.6 .5 1.6 .5
4 SEX	5 22 11 37 17 47	1.5 .6 1.5

5 SÁB ☾	0 11 6 27 12 50 18 59	.6 1.4 .7 1.4
6 DOM	1 29 7 49 14 20 20 29	.7 1.4 .7 1.3
7 SEG	2 55 9 16 15 44 21 53	.7 1.4 .7 1.3
8 TER	4 8 10 23 16 48 22 52	.7 1.4 .6 1.3
9 QUA	5 2 11 13 17 34 23 36	.6 1.5 .6 1.4
10 QUI	5 43 11 52 18 11	.6 1.5 .5
11 SEX	0 11 6 18 12 26 18 42	1.4 .5 1.6 .5
12 SÁB	0 43 6 50 12 58 19 12	1.5 .5 1.6 .4

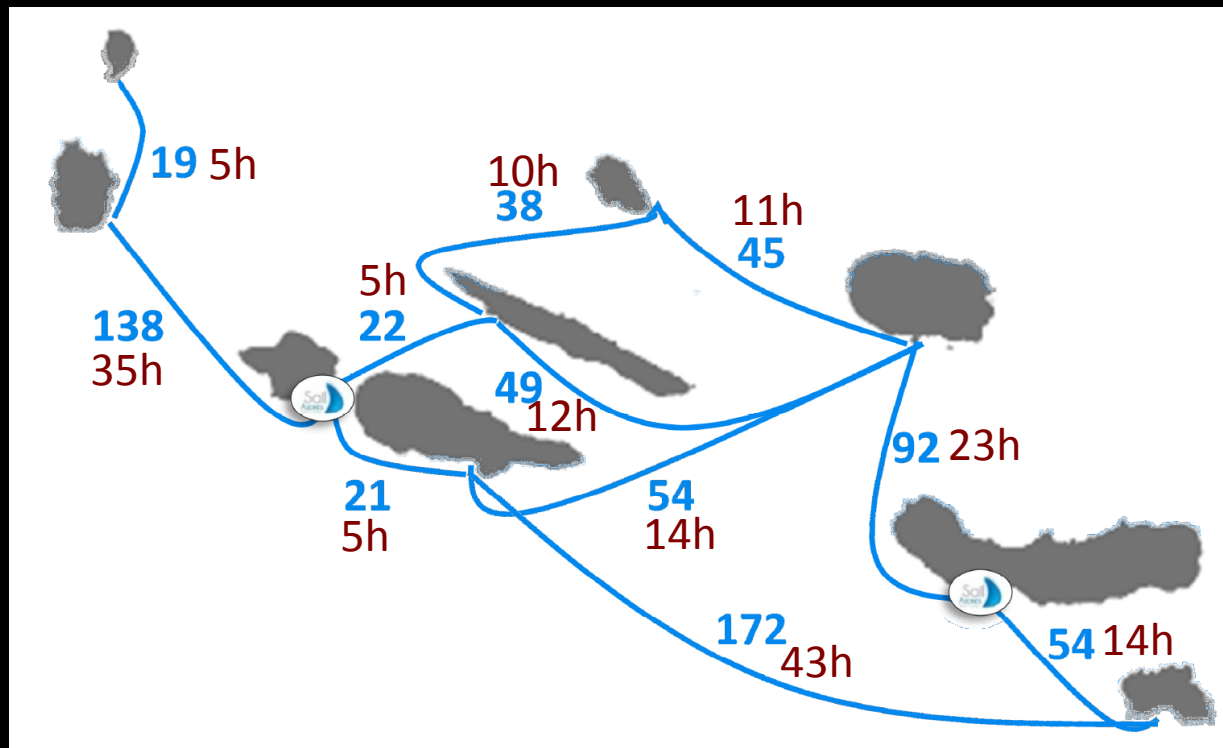
Customs and procedures

- Marinas between 10 and 20 euros/night depending on boat length
- Azores are European port of entry, so expect some customs bureaucracy
- May need to go to immigration (SEF, Serviço de Estrangeiros e Froonteiras) or the police (GNR, Guarda Nacional Republicana) each time we go into port – and when we leave!
- But probably no need since the boats have portuguese pavillion
- In any case, keep papers filled in Horta to help with formalities later
- And of course don't forget passports...
- Briefing from Sailazores should make procedures clear



Possible routes

- Focusing on second week (5 – 12 September)
- Trevi will depart from S.Miguel to join others in Horta on the 5th September – proposed routes for second week in following slides
- Distances and sailing times considering a poor 4 knts boat speed

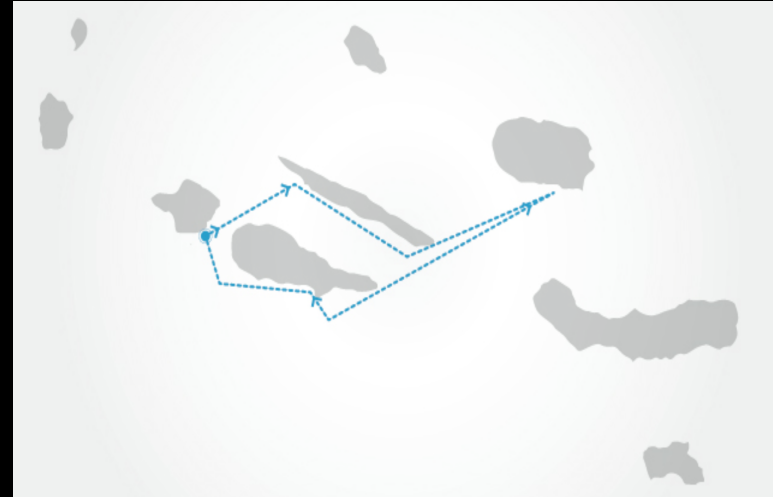


Suggested Itinerary - I

Company website suggests:

- 5/9: Arrival in Horta (Faial)
- 6/9: Horta to Velas (S.Jorge) – 22nm
- 7/9: Velas to Angra (Terceira) – 49nm
 - Whalespotting
- 8/9: visit Angra do Heroísmo
 - UNESCO heritage city centre
 - Algar do Carvão volcanic caves
- 9/9: Angra to Lajes (Pico) – 54nm
- 10/9: visit Pico
 - Whalemen museum
 - Climb Pico mountain
 - Scuba diving
- 11/9: Lajes to Horta – 21nm
 - Gin at Peter's Café Sport
- 12/9: departure from Horta

<http://www.sailazores.pt/charter/itineraries>



More advice from Sailazores (phone)

- Usual route for 1 week:
 - Horta to either Lajes (Pico) or Velas (S.Jorge)
 - Lajes has a small marina with a difficult entrance – ok for the 40ft but difficult for the 45ft – only port where a tide table is needed
 - Velas has a very nice marina – north coast of S.Jorge is beautiful and worth visiting
 - Graciosa – nice small island with particular architecture
 - Terceira – must see Angra – marina in the town centre
 - Return via Pico (Lajes) or S.Jorge (Velas) depending on option taken above
- Other advice:
 - Flores some 24h from Horta (i.e. ≥ 2 days return trip) and small marina – not worth it for a 1-week cruise
 - Weather – good temperature with occasional light rain – T-shirt and shorts weather but bring a sweater for the evening and rain gear
 - Wind – May-June great; July-August calm; September variable but good, generally < 20 knts
 - North coast of S.Jorge is quite exposed to the weather – surfers' paradise...
- **Briefing** by Sailazores before we take the boat on the 5th September

Suggested Itinerary - II

Adjusting slightly Jens's proposed route:

- 5/9: Arrival in Horta (Faial)
- 6/9: Horta to Lajes do Pico – 21nm (take receding tide)
- 7/9 Lajes to Angra do Heroísmo (Terceira) – 54nm
- 8/9 Angra to Graciosa
- 9/9 Graciosa to Velas (S. Jorge)
- 10/9 Velas to Horta – 22nm
- 11/9 Free for tourism
 - Climb Pico from Madalena (1nm)
 - Visit recent volcano – Capelinhos (taxi)
 - Gin at Peter's Café Sport
- 12/9: departure from Horta

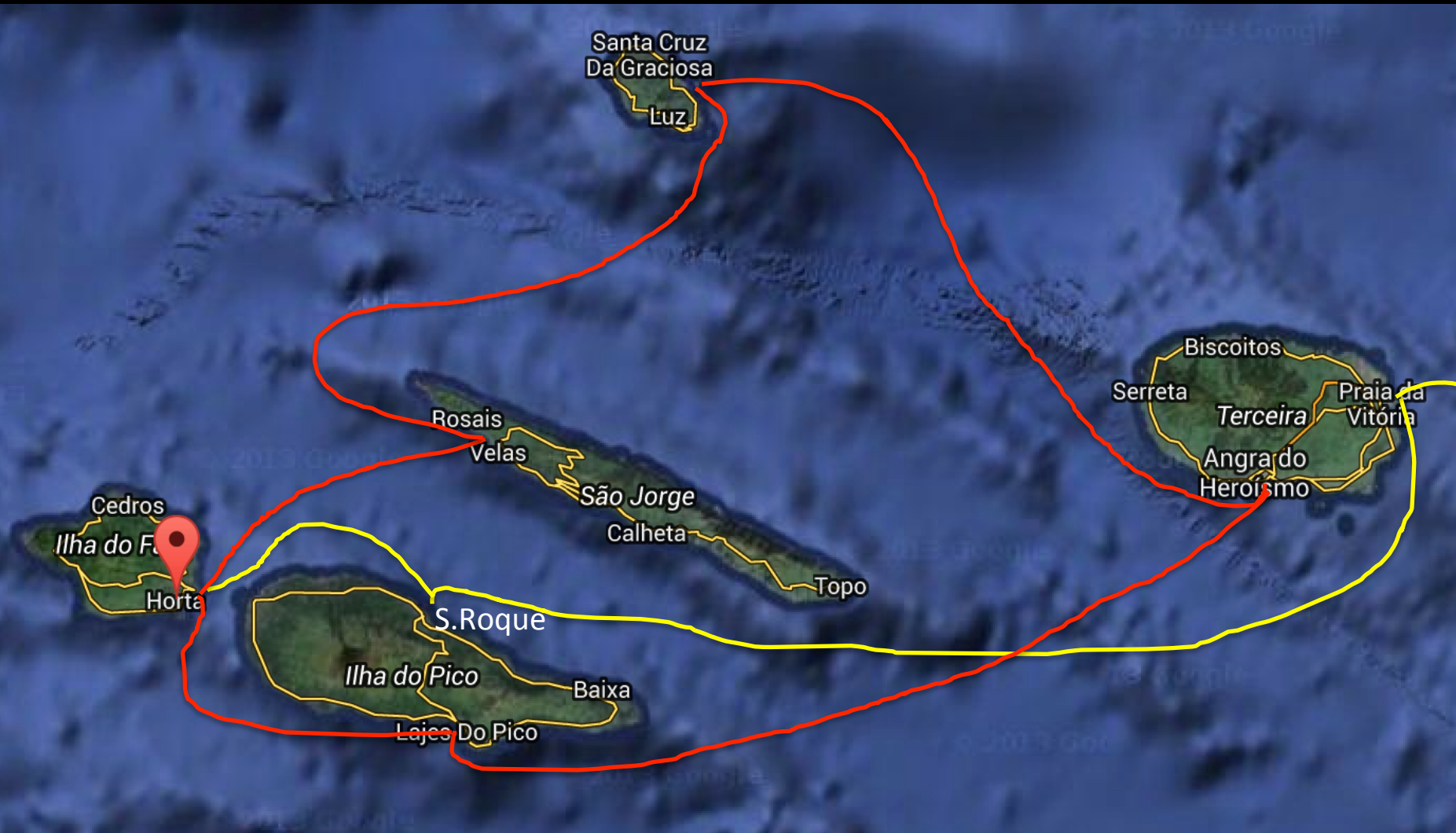
Adjustment to Jens's proposal so we could all visit Angra (and Graciosa?)



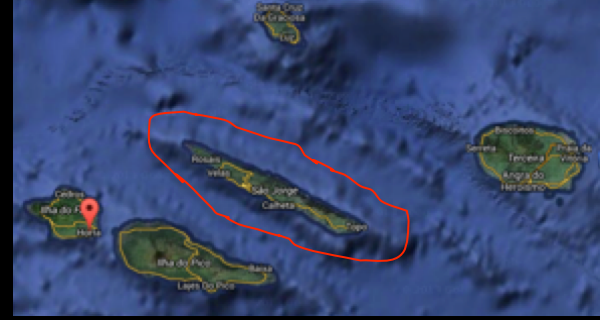
— Week 1: Trevi coming from Sta. Maria to Horta

- Suggested changes to allow other boats to visit Angra, Velas and Graciosa
- Allows short last day from S. Roque (Pico) – similar distances to Jens' plan

— Week 2: all together from Horta and back to Horta



São Jorge



- Ports:
 - Velas – main town
 - Small but very good Marina according to Sailazores
 - Approach: ok by day or night
 - Calheta – small quiet port half way the S coast
 - Protected from NW to E
- Anchorages:
 - Urzelina – good weather anchorage; protected from NW to SE
 - half-way between Velas and Calheta
 - Fajã do Ouvidor – only anchorage in north coast; good for weak S wind
- Places to see:
 - By taxi:
 - Fajãs (do **Santo Cristo** and do Ouvidor) – villages by the sea; access on foot from top of cliffs
 - By the port:
 - Try the local cheese!
 - Sta Catarina cannery in Velas – good canned fish to take home
- Restaurants:
 - Fornos de Lava – fish *cataplana* or veal with cheese crust
 - Café Gambão – try the traditional *espécie* cake

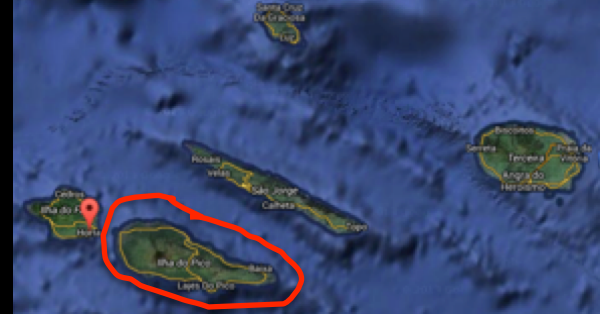


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Pico



- Ports:
 - Lajes – South coast – small marina, a bit shallow; narrow channel partially obstructed by rocks
 - Approach: ok by day but difficult by night – marina entrance partially obstructed by rocks after a recent storm
 - Madalena – West, facing Horta in Faial (15mins away by ferry) – ferry port and small commercial harbour
 - Approach good from N or NW: if approaching from south of the (very obvious) Madalena rocks, make sure to stay close to them to avoid a sandbank; anchor on sand in south part of the harbour; watch out for the ferry
 - São Roque – north coast; fishing and commercial port on the north side of Pico
 - Approach stay 200m clear of Baixo do Cais rocks; by night approach between 130° and 295° from the light at end of pier (Fl.G.3s) and stay at least 50m away from pier; moor to buoy or anchor (11-15m depth, rocky bottom) inside port
- Anchorages:
 - Calheta dos Nesquim – south coast – small day anchorage but open to south; watch for some rocks as approaching
 - Santa Cruz das Ribeiras – south coast – small port; seems open to swell from East; anchor by 5m on sand and rocks
- Places to see:
 - By car/taxi:
 - Vineyards enclosed in lava walls (Lagido de Santa Luzia)
 - Gruta das Torres – Lava tunnel which carried lava down from the Pico volcano – 450m open of a total 5km explored length!
 - By the port:
 - Wine museum in Madalena – 15mins from the port – closed Mondays and holidays
 - Whalemens museum in Lajes – very good museum documenting whaling in small boats done here until the 70's
- Restaurants & food:
 - Ancoradouro – fish and seafood – a reference in Pico – 15mins from port in Madalena



Graciosa



- Ports:
 - Vila da Praia (S.Mateus) – small town with a fishing and commercial port on the eastern coast; seems to be the only well-sheltered harbour in the island; not a marina!
 - Approach – the port is just in front of the small (500m long) Ilha da Praia island; leave coast and little island clear by 300-500m and avoid the Baixa dos Remedios bank if approaching from S; by night follow alignment lights at 307° until the pier is at the beam
- Anchorages:
 - Santa Cruz – anchor at Cais do Freire or at Cais da Barra – both seem little better than bays open to E with poor rocky bottoms – better leave the boat in Vila da Praia and visit by taxi
- Places to see:
 - By car/taxi:
 - Furna do enxofre – rare geological phenomena in a crater at the islands SW end with bubbling
 - Visit Santa Cruz – the town seems pretty; the main church is partly from the XVI and partly from the XVIII centuries
- Restaurants & food:
 - Could not find much information; better ask Sailazores people upon arrival

