



# ATLANTIC PARADISES

*Led by Jack Wheeler and Rebel Holiday*  
**Friday, June 28 – Monday, July 8, 2024**

EST.  1976



WHEELER-WINDSOR  
EXPEDITIONS

# Welcome to Atlantic Paradises

We hope you consider joining this expedition because you will see and discover magically beautiful places and have truly relaxing, energizing experiences. We enjoy the best hotels, carefully selected restaurants, and outstanding guides for tours and activities – all designed by us personally and our team.

Atlantic Paradises is unique in what we experience, how we experience it, and in value. . We call them *Atlantic Paradises*.... Unique experiences on three islands in the Azores and the island of Madeira, all Portuguese islands.

The dates are ***Friday, June 28 to Monday, July 8, 2023***. You need to arrive in Funchal, Madeira on the morning of June 28. Anyone from the U.S. or Canada will leave June 27, at the latest, from the East Coast and take an overnight flight to Madeira from New York or Boston. Or you may fly through Lisbon or other European cities. If you'd like assistance from a travel agent, we suggest John Spielman, [john@spielmantravel.com](mailto:john@spielmantravel.com) who has helped us and our travelers for 20+ years.

This one will captivate you... and it will fill quickly! Feel free to email us at [explore@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com](mailto:explore@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com)

We'd be happy to discuss the details of your participation.

Blue Skies!

Jack, Rebel, & Eddy



**Arrival Day - Day 1 – Friday, June 28** We will all meet in beautiful Funchal, Madeira to begin our exploration.

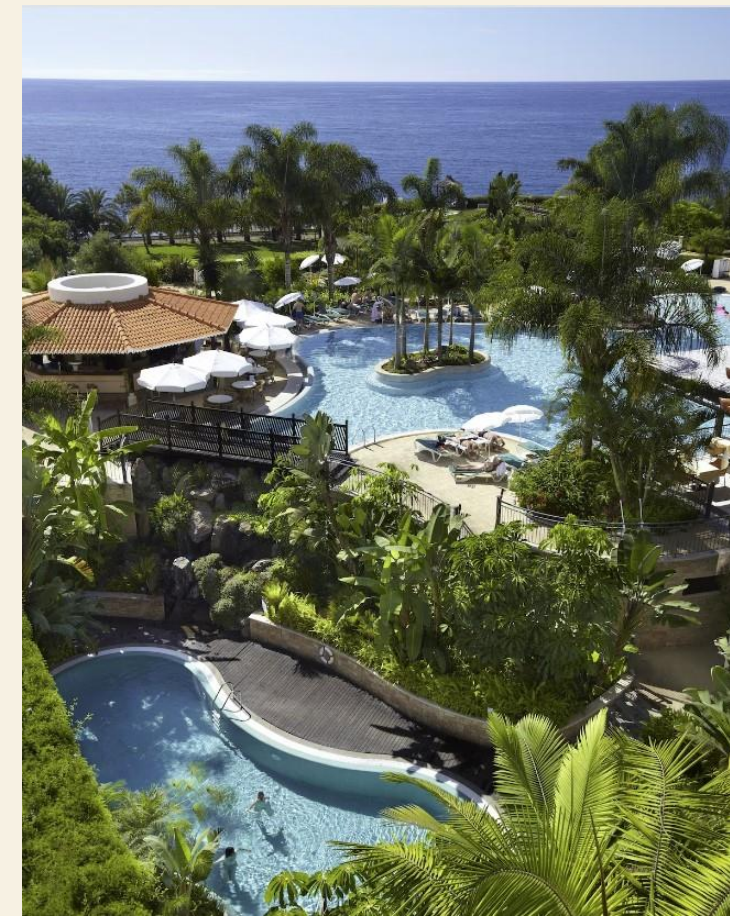
Each of these Atlantic Paradises is an Eden in its own distinct way. Each is a blissful wonderland of joyful surprise. Departure Day from home would likely be Friday, June 16 if you are coming from the U.S. or Canada. You'd likely depart on an evening flight from *Boston* overnight to Funchal, Madeira via Ponta Delgada, Azores.





**Day 1** We check-in to our favorite hotel resort and spa overlooking the sea. It has been designed with landscaping of exceptional quality allowing you to enjoy both the proximity to the Atlantic Ocean and the mountains.

We'll enjoy stunning water views from our rooms. Since it is a spa resort, there are various special facilities and services available to schedule on your free time.





**Day 1** (*continued*) After a sea view lunch, we ride the spectacular Funchal cable car to the hills above Funchal...

...then we explore the world famous Monte Palace Tropical Gardens, considered by many to be among the most beautiful on earth.



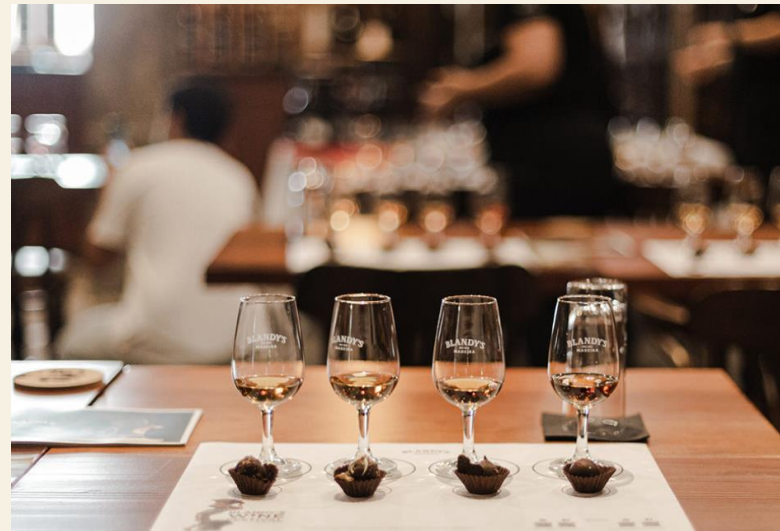


**Day 1 (continued)** After a relaxing stroll through such a luxuriant haven of serenity, we have a shot of adrenaline returning downhill to Funchal via Madeira's uniquely famous [Carros de Cesto Wicker Toboggan](#). There's nothing like it, it's a Madeira tradition for over 100 years, it's safe, fun, and exciting.



Returning to the our hotel for a break and perhaps a swim, we'll reassemble this evening for our Welcome Dinner.

You may want to try the local specialty wine, made here for over 200 years, since 1811. Blandy's is famous for making Madeira's most renowned wine and were awarded in the World's Top 100 list. Time to get to know each other over a glass or two.





**Day 2** Let's explore this fascinating island. We drive along the south coast to the traditional village of *Camara de Lobos*. The picture perfect little harbor is filled with fishing boats, while most of the village is perched high on a cliff above.





**Day 2** *(continued)* Further along the coast, perched on top of a massive sea cliff, is the astounding Cabo Girão Glass Skywalk. Standing here is an experience you don't forget.



We go up a valley to the island's center with views like this:





**Day 2 (continued)** We drop down to Madeira's north coast where we find these amazing natural lava pools for unforgettable swimming fun – there are a series of them, so bring your bathing suit in case you can't resist the water...





**Day 2** (*continued*) We'll be back at the hotel before the party begins in Funchal this evening. Dinner in Funchal. This evening, *spectacular* doesn't *begin* to describe what we'll see.

Tonight, from a catamaran, we witness one of *the* world's greatest fireworks displays - Madeira's celebration of the summer solstice on this Saturday night.



June weekends feature Madeira's *Atlantic Festival*, so Old Town Funchal hosts concerts, street performances, parades, and parties. If you're energetic, join in!





### Day 3

Unique to Madeira are a series of irrigation channels called *levadas*. The Portuguese have been digging, building, and maintaining them for over 400 years to bring water from the mountains to towns and agricultural areas. There are maintenance trails along them, thus *levada walks* are immensely enjoyable.

Some involve rugged steep hiking. Ours today will not be that, just easy walking along a breathtakingly beautiful levada. We'll start mid-morning and enjoy a nice picnic next to a waterfall along the way.



### Day 3 (continued)

We'll be back at our hotel for free time to relax and enjoy. Or explore the town and shop. If you're in the mood to experience *Afternoon Tea on the Terrace at Reid's Palace*, a time-honored Madeira tradition. How honored? It's exactly where and how Winston Churchill ordered it when he stayed here in 1950.

However you enjoy the afternoon, we will all enjoy a wonderful dinner this evening.





## Day 4 – Funchal, Madeira to Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel

Relax poolside with a leisurely breakfast this morning, or go shopping in Funchal, Madeira. Early afternoon we must leave this paradise and depart for another beautiful island group – the Azores.

As you can see, there are nine islands in the Azores, each one distinctively interesting. Obviously, we don't have the time to explore all nine, so we have chosen the three most fascinating. Today we venture to the Azores island of Sao Miguel and its port city of Ponta Delgada. *(We may offer an “add-on expedition” for those who want to see more.)*





**Day 4** It's a short flight to Ponta Delgada. We arrive mid-afternoon and check in to the number one rated hotel right in the center, near the marina, and overlooking the Atlantic. After a short walking tour, we'll have free time until dinner.





**Day 5** Today we explore the *Gruta do Carvão*, a huge multicolored ancient lava tube – walking through it is breathtaking.



This evening you might enjoy a stroll through Ponta Delgada. It's a very pretty place, even at dusk when we take a stroll to dinner.





**Day 6** Get ready for the magic. Today we're on a private drive to the photographic wonders of *Sete Cidades*. Enroute we stop at the *Pico do Carvão* to see how this is an island of volcanic cones, lakes, and craters.



*Sete Cidades* means “Seven Cities,” referring to the seven volcanic craters and lagoons within one large caldera at the western end of the island.

There is an iconic trail leading to one famous viewpoint called the *Miradouro Boca do Inferno* and *Miradoura do Rei*. (top)





**Day 6** (*continued*) We'll drive along the North Coast noting the flower hedges that line the roads and characterize this island.



We reach the beautiful garden city of *Ribeira Grande* for an ocean view lunch.





**Day 6 - (continued)** We then get to relax at a magical spot hidden in a tropical forest nearby where a waterfall pours out of a hot springs into a thermal pool: *Caldeira Velha*.

We have time for a nice warm soak.



On the way back to Ponta Delgada, we take time to linger at the idyllic *Lagoa do Fogo* – Fire Lake. The view is mesmerizing.



**Day 7** Amidst all the volcanism, we find a haven of beauty and serenity, the *Terra Nostra* botanical garden well over two hundred years old. When the Portuguese who first settled Sao Miguel (there were no native inhabitants of the Azores) in 1449!

With over 2,000 different kinds of trees and flowering plants from everywhere on earth, plus geothermal streams and pools, immaculately cared for and manicured, Terra Nostra is considered one of the most astoundingly beautiful botanical gardens in the world.





**Day 7** – Terra Nostra is considered one of the most astoundingly beautiful botanical gardens in the world. *(continued)*



We arrive back at our hotel in time for a sundowner or two before dinner.



## Day 7 (continued)

Today we observe and learn about the custom of how the locals prepare food and have their lunch in a furnace.

It's actually a volcanic wonderland of thermal pools, mineral baths, hot springs, boiling fumaroles and mini-geysers called *Furnas*.

The food is cooked in the ground and emerges as a unique dish.

Then we go to a nearby restaurant who serves us our meal!





## Day 8 – Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel to Horta on Faial

Today we venture to the Azores island of *Faial* (Fi-ahl) and its port city of *Horta*, familiar to all trans-Atlantic yachtsmen. Again, it's a short flight (included in the program) we'll be there in time to have a full day!





## Day 8 (continued)

Arriving late morning, we check-in to Horta's best, the [\*Hotel do Canal\*](#) overlooking the waterfront.

During our stroll along the marina, we can't help noticing the huge volcano of Pico looming above on the nearby Pico island – and all the sailboats and yachts in the marina.

Let's hop on the ferry and explore Pico! After a fun day visiting Pico and seeing what is distinct about the island, we'll take the ferry back for dinner.



For over a hundred years, sailors and yachtsmen sailing from the Caribbean across the Atlantic to Europe having been stopping at Horta's welcoming harbor to reprovision. They meet their fellow trans-Atlantic compadres at a famous sailor's bar Peter's Café. Sailors and landlubbers alike, all are welcome.



## Days 8 & 9 – Horta & Pico Islands (*continued*)

We came to Horta because here is best place on earth to see – and be close and personal with – *whales*.

The Azores are right in the middle of the migratory route of many of the world's whale species from the Arctic and Northern Atlantic to Southern Atlantic waters at this time of year – fin whales, humpback whales, sei whales, minke whales and others. The iconic sperm whales are resident here all year long.

And of all the Azores, the best place to see them – plus all kinds of dolphins – is the *Canal do Faial* channel between Horta and Pico. We depart early this morning on our own chartered boat. Trained spotters with high-powered binoculars on lookouts on land called *viagas* tell our skipper by cellphone where the whales are.

Before we know it, there are huge flukes rising in front of us. Or a sperm whale, near our boat.





## Days 8 & 9 Horta & Pico Islands (*continued*)

Over the next two days, we'll have a chance to observe whales and dolphins in the wild.

It's a common habit of most whales is to *breach* or leap out of the water. It's a thrilling sight. Here's a humpback breaching.



Then there are the dolphins! They're wonderfully playful and gentle.

(No promises, but depending on the weather and luck, we may get to be in the water with the dolphins.)





**Day 10** There's so much on the island of Faial – and in its waters as you've seen. We'll see the giant *Caldeira do Faial*, the crater of the stratovolcano that created Faial 400,000 years ago... and the latest volcanic addition to Faial, the *Capelinhos* (cap-a-leen-use) created just 62 years ago in 1957...



Then stop by the Varaduro Lava Rock Pool... or the Porto Pim Beach, next to Horta.





**Day 10** This afternoon, it's a short flight to Ponta Delgada. We arrive by about 4pm and check in to the same hotel we enjoyed on the marina over looking the Atlantic. We'll have time to relax, walk around the town, or pick up gifts for those at home.

Tonight, we're going out to a special restaurant to celebrate our time together.



**Day 11 Monday, July 8, is Departure Day.** Most flights leave in the mornings. You will be driven to the airport at the correct time for your flight check-in. We'll always keep our happy memories of our time in these Atlantic Paradises – and look forward to our next adventure!



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## ATLANTIC PARADISES DETAILS Friday, June 28 – Monday, July 08, 2024

*All Inclusive per person:* \$7,800 (\$2,800 deposit at registration; then flexible payments)

**Register:** [WWX Atlantic Paradises-2024 Jun 28-Jul 08](#)

*All Inclusive:* This includes the best hotels, meals at the best restaurants. Transportation during expedition, including inter-island flights with group. All accommodations (double occupancy), all meals with group, all group activities and excursions in itinerary.

*Cost Excludes:* International flights (home to Funchal, then Ponta Delgada to home.) Any meals, services, or activities not with group. Personal items: laundry, alcohol, gratuities, hotel single room supplement (\$800 for private room.)

*Travel:* If you do not have a travel agent, we recommend John Spielman, [john@spielmantravel.com](mailto:john@spielmantravel.com) or (240) 423-7708.

*Travel Insurance and Refunds:* Full refund of payment on the condition of a fully-paid acceptable replacement for you. We highly recommend trip cancellation insurance. A travel agent can assist you with this.

**Contact Rebel to discuss:** [holiday@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com](mailto:holiday@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com).

**Important caveat:** *Every effort will be made to adhere to the itinerary above. Due to the nature of travel, the itinerary may need to be altered. Participants agree to accept any modification with a cheerful mindset.*





**Jack Wheeler**



**Rebel Holiday**

EST.  1976



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## **Our Expedition Leadership Team for Atlantic Paradises**

This exploration combines natural beauty with options for various types of adventure and fun. We'll show you an incredible part of the world that few ever have the privilege to see. Join us to experience it!



**Dr. Jack Wheeler**, has been called the “real life Indiana Jones” by the Wall Street Journal has traveled to all 193 countries on all seven continents. He’s had two parallel careers: one in adventure and exploration with *Wheeler Expeditions*; the other in the field of geopolitics. After receiving his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Southern California, where he lectured on Aristotelian ethics.

His adventures began early. The youngest Eagle Scout in history at age 12, he climbed the Matterhorn at age 14, swam the Hellespont (LIFE Magazine 12/12/60) and lived with Amazon headhunters at 16, hunted a man-eating tiger in Vietnam at 17, and started an export business in Vietnam at 19. He wrote *The Adventurer’s Guide* (New York: Mackay, 1975), described by Merv Griffin as “the definitive book for anyone wishing to lead a more adventurous and exciting life.” He has three “first contacts” with tribes never before contacted by the outside world: a clan of Aushiri in the Amazon, the Wali-ali-fo in New Guinea, and a band of Bushmen in the Kalahari. He retraced Hannibal’s route over the Alps with elephants; led numerous expeditions in Central Asia, China, Tibet, Africa, the Amazon and elsewhere, including 21 expeditions to the North Pole; and has been listed in *The Guinness Book of World Records* for the first free fall sky-dive in history at the North Pole. His company has conducted exclusive expeditions to dozens of countries across the globe for over 35 years.

Jack founded Wheeler Expeditions in 1976, today he and his sons lead bespoke expeditions each year to unusual destinations. The company has conducted exclusive expeditions to dozens of countries across the globe for over 35 years. On a personal note, in the early 80’s he married Ms. Rebel Holiday in St Tropez, France, and these days, Wheeler Expeditions is a family affair. They are delighted to work with their two grown sons also living adventurous lives and leading expeditions: Brandon Holiday Wheeler and Jackson Holiday Wheeler.

**Rebel Holiday** has traveled to 89 countries and has co-led expeditions for 3 decades. She has lived in 5 countries and speaks three languages (English, Spanish, and Portuguese.) Professionally, she is involved in business and the arts. Wherever she goes in the world, Rebel is most interested in people and cultures. She is passionate about cuisine and finds the best restaurants, and special activities on trips. She enjoys sharing the beauty of the world.