



# ATLANTIC PARADISES

*Led by Jack Wheeler & Rebel Holiday*

*Madeira & Azores Islands*

*June 5-14, 2026*

EST. 1976



WHEELER-WINDSOR  
EXPEDITIONS

# Welcome to Atlantic Paradises

On 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 me personally and our team.

Atlantic Paradises is unique in what we experience, how we experience it, and in value. . We call them *Atlantic Paradises*.... four island territories of Portugal, in *Madeira* and the *Azores*.

You will arrive in Funchal, Madeira to begin on June 5, 2026. Anyone from the U.S. or Canada will take an overnight direct flight to Madeira from Newark Airport. Return is Sunday, June 14, from Ponta Delgada, leaves at 11am-arrives 1:30pm. Both flights are on United Airlines.

Feel free to email us with any questions [holiday@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com](mailto:holiday@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com)

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

Blue Skies!

WWX Team

Wheeler & Windsor



**Arrival Day - Day 1 – Friday, June 5, 2026.** 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.



**Ready for an aperitif after that?** There's no better place than Blandy's Wine Lodge. Blandy's has been here for over 200 years, since 1811. They make 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.

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



**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 Girao 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)

You'll have your first taste of the island's favorite adult beverage, "poncho" in one of the villages we visit. We'll enjoy lunch overlooking the water...



Then after a stunning drive, we'll be back at the hotel in time for a break before dinner in Funchal.

**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, overlooking the city, 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. This afternoon we must leave this paradise and depart for another 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 two most fascinating. Today we venture to the Azores island of Sao Miguel and its port city of Ponta Delgada.



**Day 4** It's a short flight to Ponta Delgada. We arrive early afternoon and check in to a highly rated resort and spa, overlooking the Atlantic. (We could get spoiled with all these ocean views!)



We'll lunch and see Ponta Delgada.



**Day 4 (continued)** After lunch, we start by exploring the *Gruta do Carvão*, a huge multicolored ancient lava tube – walking through it is breathtaking.



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



**Day 5** 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 Carvao* 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 5 (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 5 - (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 6** – 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.



**Day 6 (continued)** 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.



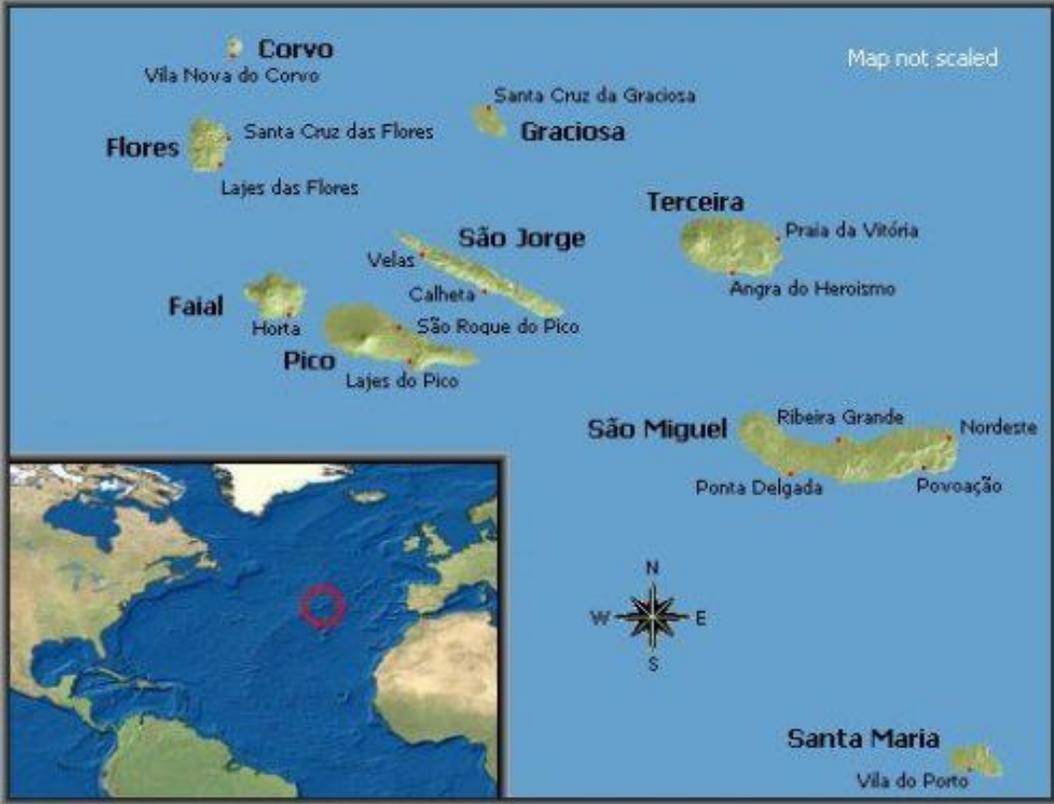
**Day 6 – (continued)** Terra Nostra is considered one of the most astoundingly beautiful botanical gardens in the world.



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

# Day 7 – 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.



## Day 7 - (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.



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.

We'll have a great time here at lunch then set out to explore the island.

**Day 7 (continued)** 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...



## Day 8 – Horta

Last night was fun, but 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.



## Day 8 (continued)

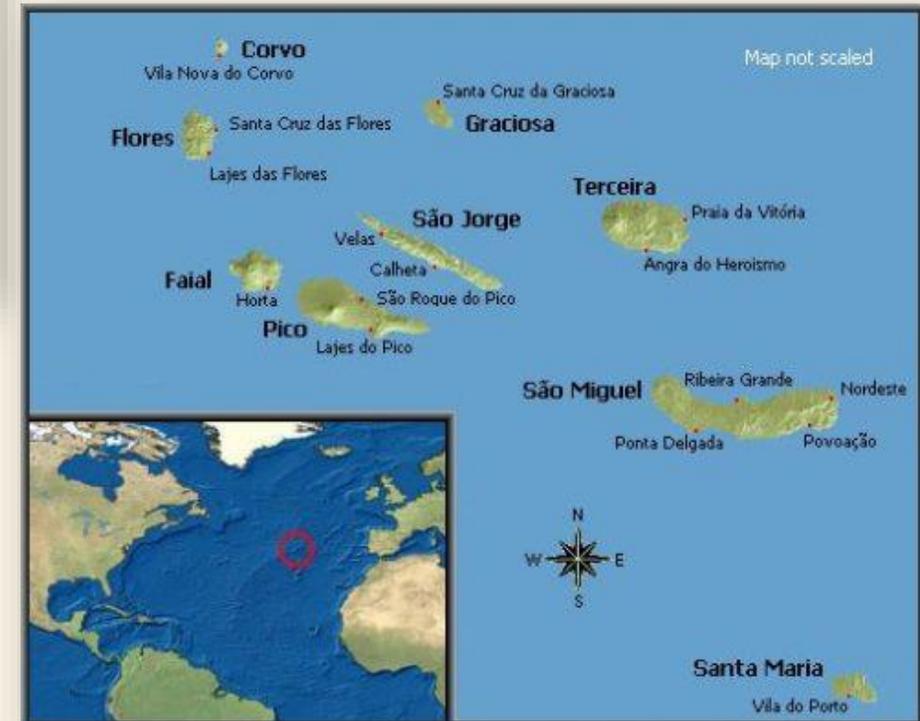
It's a common habit of most whales is to *breach* or leap out of the water. It's a thrilling sight. Here's a humpback breaching.



This will be a morning to remember. Then there are the dolphins! They're wonderfully playful and gentle. Only a snorkel is required, no need to scuba dive here.



**Day 8** *(continued)* Another option you have today is just relaxing at the beach of Porto Pim right next to Horta. After a leisurely lunch, we fly back to Sao Miguel where tonight we celebrate with our Farewell Dinner!



**Day 9** - It's your day to make it as special as you want. You've had an overview of the beautiful island, now you can choose to rappel down a waterfall... fly a motorized parasail over the island...



...go big game fishing... or scuba dive.



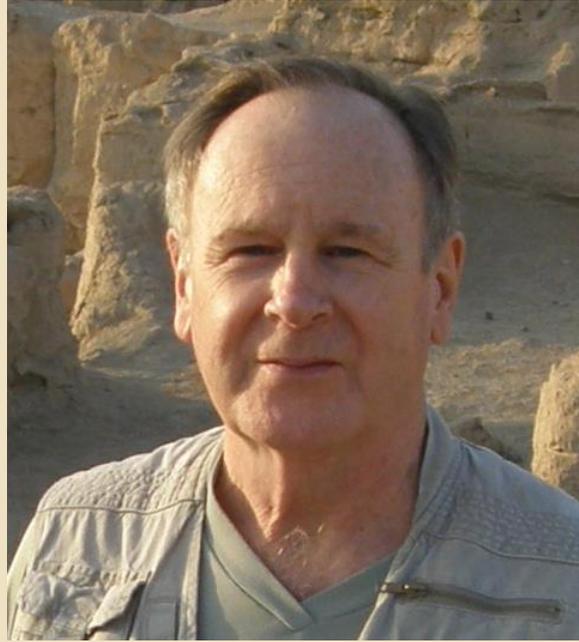
**Day 9** –Or you could go on a flower-strewn coastline walk...



Or, soak up some rays at a postcard-perfect beach... and there's more you could do.



**Departure is tonight.** We will share our stories when we reassemble in the airport for departure to return home with memories of Atlantic Paradises.



**Jack Wheeler**



**Rebel Holiday**



**WHEELER-WINDSOR**  
EXPEDITIONS

### **Our Expedition Leadership Team**

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!

**Jack Wheeler has traveled to every country in the world.** He started out as 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.

Jack founded **Wheeler Expeditions in 1976**, which has conducted exclusive and bespoke expeditions to unusual destinations across the globe for over 40 years. On a personal note, in the early 80’s he married **Ms. Rebel Holiday** in St Tropez, France, who is a partner in the business.

**Rebel Holiday** has traveled to 87 countries and has co-led expeditions for 3 decades. She has lived in 5 countries and speaks three languages (English, Spanish, and Portuguese.) 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 currently enjoys sharing the beauty of Portugal, her favorite European country.

## ATLANTIC PARADISES DETAILS *June 5-14, 2026*

***All Inclusive per person:*** \$8,700 (\$3,200 deposit at registration; then flexible payments)

**Register here:** [Atlantic Paradises Madeira and Azores Islands June 5-14, 2025](#)

***Includes:*** This is all-inclusive, we stay in the best hotels, dine at the best restaurants. Transportation during expedition, except for international airfares (inter-island flights Sep 19-27 are included.) All accommodations (double occupancy), all meals with group, some alcoholic drinks, all group activities, tours, and excursions in itinerary. Airport transfers.

***Cost Excludes:*** Visa fees (not required for U.S. or E.U. citizens), international flights from your home to Funchal, then Ponta Delgada to home. There is a single supplement for a guaranteed solo room. Any meals, services, or activities not with group. Personal items: laundry, alcohol, gratuities.

Refund of payment on the condition of a fully-paid acceptable replacement for you. Consider trip cancellation insurance.

Contact to discuss: [holiday@wheelerexpeditions.com](mailto:holiday@wheelerexpeditions.com)



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**Cancellation and Refund Info:** This expedition is expected to be completed as scheduled. In the event of any unforeseen situation we will reschedule to a mutually agreeable date. In the event that you have a complication with the date, you can transfer to a future date. Or, on the condition of a fully-paid acceptable replacement for you 60 days before departure, we can refund your payment less the air tickets we must purchase for you. We advise good trip cancellation insurance. Let us know if you need assistance with this.

To discuss, email: [holiday@wheelerexpeditions.com](mailto:holiday@wheelerexpeditions.com)

**Important caveat:** *Every effort will be made to adhere to the itinerary above. In the unexpected event of a governmental rule that requires us to reschedule, this will be done for the group. Sometimes unpredictable nature of travel, the itinerary may end up becoming altered. It is important that participants are comfortable with this and that they enter such an adventure with a cheerful mindset.*

Contact: [holiday@wheelerexpeditions.com](mailto:holiday@wheelerexpeditions.com)



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