



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

MRT/JHS

12 July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Expedition to The Azores, Thursday 23 May – Tuesday 28 May 2024 (dates to be confirmed)

We are delighted to be able to offer your child an exciting opportunity to visit The Azores, in May half-term 2024. Whilst the official dates have not been confirmed by Hampshire County Council, it is highly likely to be Thursday 23 May to Tuesday 28 May 2024.

The Portuguese archipelago of The Azores benefits from a sub-tropical marine climate which, coupled with the rich volcanic soil, combines to produce a green and verdant land with humid forests and shrub land. There are numerous opportunities to study physical geography including crater lakes, lava tunnels and geothermal activity. The study of tectonic landscapes is a key component in GCSE Geography. There are also opportunities to see dramatic coastal landscapes and some spectacular waterfalls flowing over the resistant basalt lava flows. In addition, there will also be a focus on development of the island's economy linked to resource management (sustainable usage and agriculture) that are also core components of the Geography curriculum.

The expedition may be a 'once in a lifetime' experience for your child, providing an insight into a completely different and fascinating culture. The students will bathe in the warm waters of an artificial geothermal lake, visit the hot springs of Caldeira Velha which have a real Jurassic Park feel to them, where they will be able to explore the waterfalls and hot springs. Students will also take a scenic bike ride along the dirt trails and cobbled pathways of Sete Cidades.

The provisional itinerary is:

Thursday 23 May Flight from London-Azores, via Lisbon. Transfer to hotel.

Friday 24 May Tour of a traditional tea factory before visiting the Terra Nostre Botanical Gardens and bathe in the geothermal warm waters. Visit one of the massive volcanic lakes and calderas at Lagoa das Furnas and see fumeroles, hot springs and bubbling geysers. Time in the evening to explore the town of Ponta Delgada.

Saturday 25 May Drive to the viewpoint of Pico de Verosa to see the spectacular panoramic view across the island and take in its unspoilt beauty. A short hike to the waterfall at Salto do Cabrito. Visit the hot springs of Caldeira Velha. An opportunity to go in the visitor centre and biosphere reserve. Tour of a geothermal power station.

Sunday 26 May Visit to a volcanic lake for photographic opportunities before descending into the remains of the caldera. Scenic off-road bike trip (dirt trails and cobbled pathways)

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and a picnic lunch. Visit to Mosteiros beach to enjoy the incredible coastal landscapes before returning to the hotel for dinner. Time in the evening to explore the town of Ponta Delgada.

Monday 27 May Time to explore Ponta Delgada in a guided tour and some last minute souvenir shopping before visiting a local pineapple farm to stock up on pineapple jam! Trip to the lava caves to learn about how these caves were formed. Time in the evening to explore the town of Ponta Delgada.

Tuesday 28 May Flight from Azores to London, via Lisbon. Transfer back to school.

We will be travelling with a reputable travel company, 'Kipling Tours', who are experienced in successfully arranging school trips, including The Azores. We will be staying in a 3-star hotel in the town of Ponta Delgada. **The cost of the trip will be approximately £1,450** and will include all travel expenses, accommodation, breakfast, packed lunch and dinner during the visit. It will also include all entry fees and excursion costs. As you will be aware, the final price cannot be confirmed until the airlines release the flights (usually 12 months before departure date). Students will require their own passport.

Teachers accompanying residential visits carry an enormous responsibility for the students in their care. We therefore reserve the right to refuse a place to any student whose behaviour in school has been or becomes a problem.

You can apply for a place by completing the registration form and paying a **£150.00 deposit** via our online payment system (if your child is unsuccessful in gaining a place, the deposit will be refunded). The registration form and deposit will officially open from **Tuesday 6 September 2022** and must be completed by **Friday 23 September 2022**.

If your child is successful in gaining a place on this residential visit, we will inform you by email. We will set up the schedule of payments on Scopay and when you sign into your Scopay account you will be able to activate alerts when payments are due. The payment plan will require £100 per month from October 2022 up to the final payment of £100 in February 2024. Please note that this payment plan does not require payments to be made in the months of December 2022, January 2023, December 2023 and January 2024. The links to the registration form and for deposits via Scopay will become available on **Tuesday 6 September 2022**.

Having secured a place, should you wish to cancel your child's place, the school will try to fill the place from any waiting list. If this is not possible, the deposit will be lost and further cancellation charges made by the travel company will be incurred. These will vary according to the notice given.

You may, of course, make a claim on the insurance if your cancellation comes within the terms of the policy. Please bear in mind that the itinerary may have to change due to conditions or circumstances beyond the school's control.

If you have any further enquiries do not hesitate to contact Miss Roodt. May we take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the Geography department.

Yours sincerely

Miss Megan Roodt
Coordinator of Humanities/Head of Geography

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