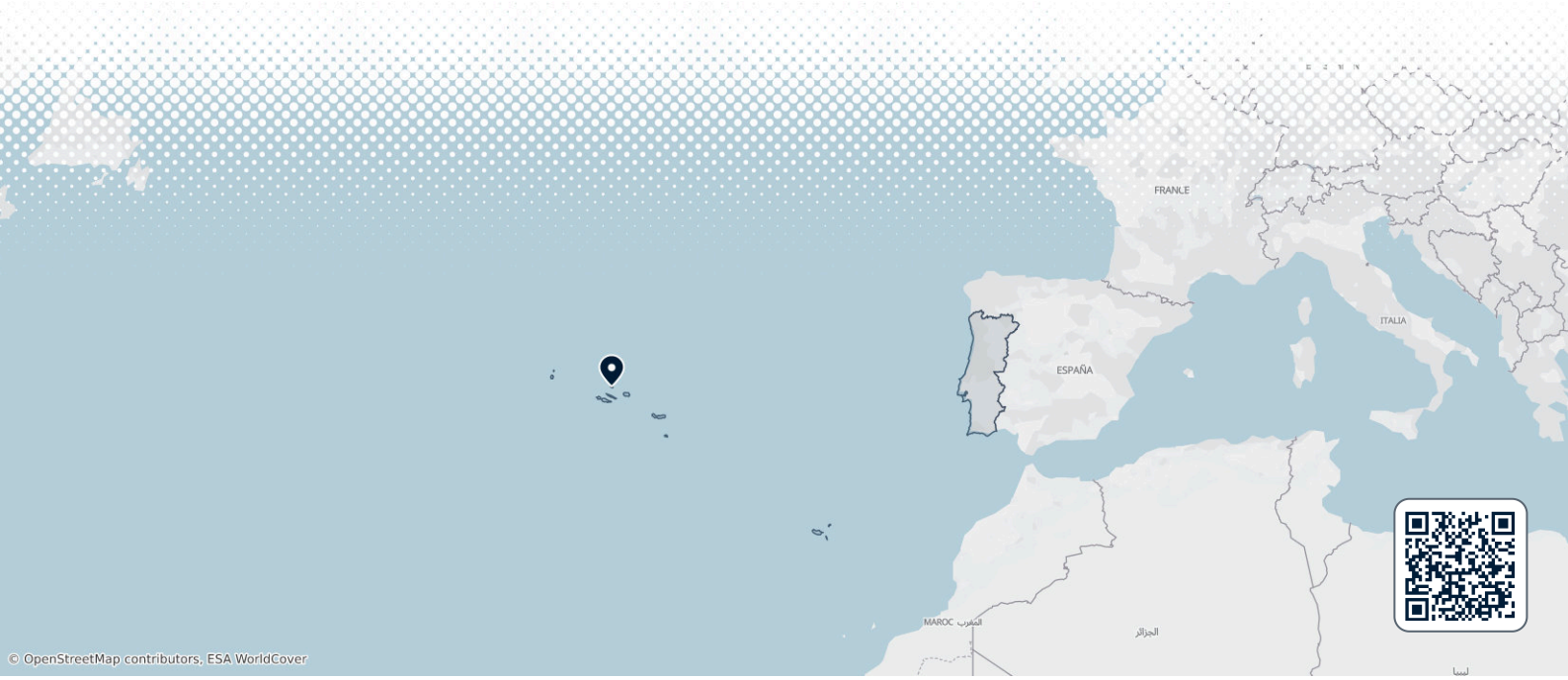


Graciosa Island

Azores · Portugal

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Graciosa is a small, quiet island in the central Azores. It is about 12 km long and has gentle hills, windmills, vineyards and a few villages. It is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

The main town is Santa Cruz. Most visitors come for a few days of slow walking, swimming and volcano sights. The island has far fewer visitors than its neighbours.

When to visit

June to September is the best time. Days are warm and the sea is calmer. Ferries and some flights run more often in summer. Winter is windy and wet.

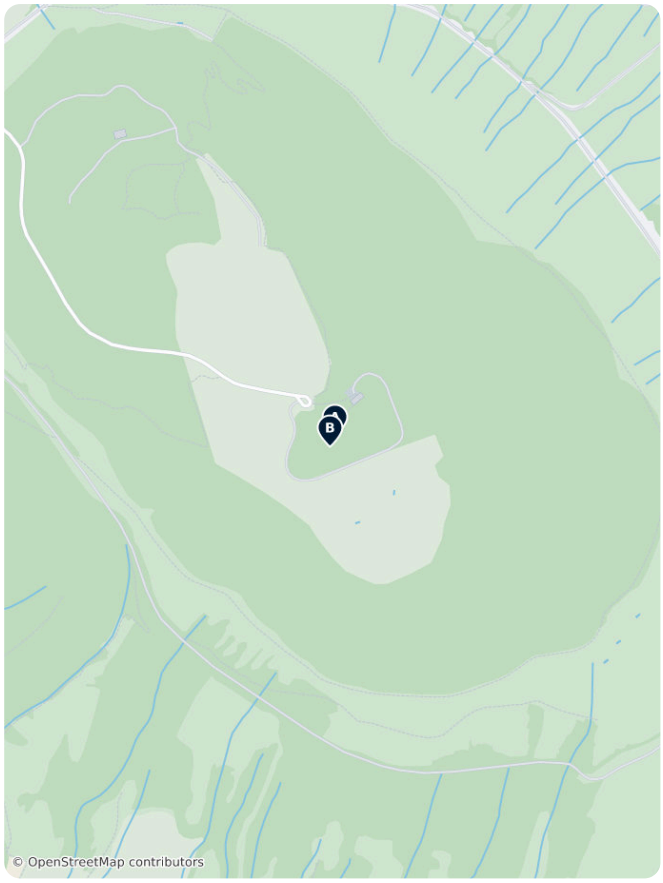
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for hiking	15° / 17° Feels like 10°	14° / 12°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Windy
February	Good Good for hiking	15° / 17° Feels like 10°	13° / 11°	14 rainy days · Dry air
March	Good Good for hiking	15° / 17° Feels like 10°	14° / 11°	13 rainy days · Dry air
April	Good Good for hiking	15° / 17° Feels like 11°	14° / 12°	12 rainy days · Dry air
May	Good Good for hiking	17° / 19° Feels like 13°	15° / 13°	12 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 21°	17° / 15°	
July	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 23°	20° / 18°	Humid air
August	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 24°	21° / 20°	Muggy, humid air
September	Good Good for sightseeing	22° / 24°	20° / 18°	Humid air
October	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 22° Feels like 17°	18° / 16°	15 rainy days
November	Fair Fair for hiking	18° / 20° Feels like 14°	16° / 14°	14 rainy days
December	Fair Fair for hiking	16° / 18° Feels like 11°	15° / 12°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Windy

Best months: June, July, August

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Furna do Enxofre is a lava cave under a volcanic crater. You go down a long stairway to a lake inside the hill. Access can change, so check before you go.
- B Vulcão da Caldeira da Graciosa is the volcanic crater in the south of the island, with a rim you can walk.



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Getting there

- **By air**: Graciosa Airport (GRW) has flights from Terceira and some other Azores islands. Check the current timetable.
- **By sea**: Inter-island ferries run mostly in summer. See Atlânticoline.
- **On the island**: A rental car or taxi is the easiest way to get around. Distances are short.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Portugal at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

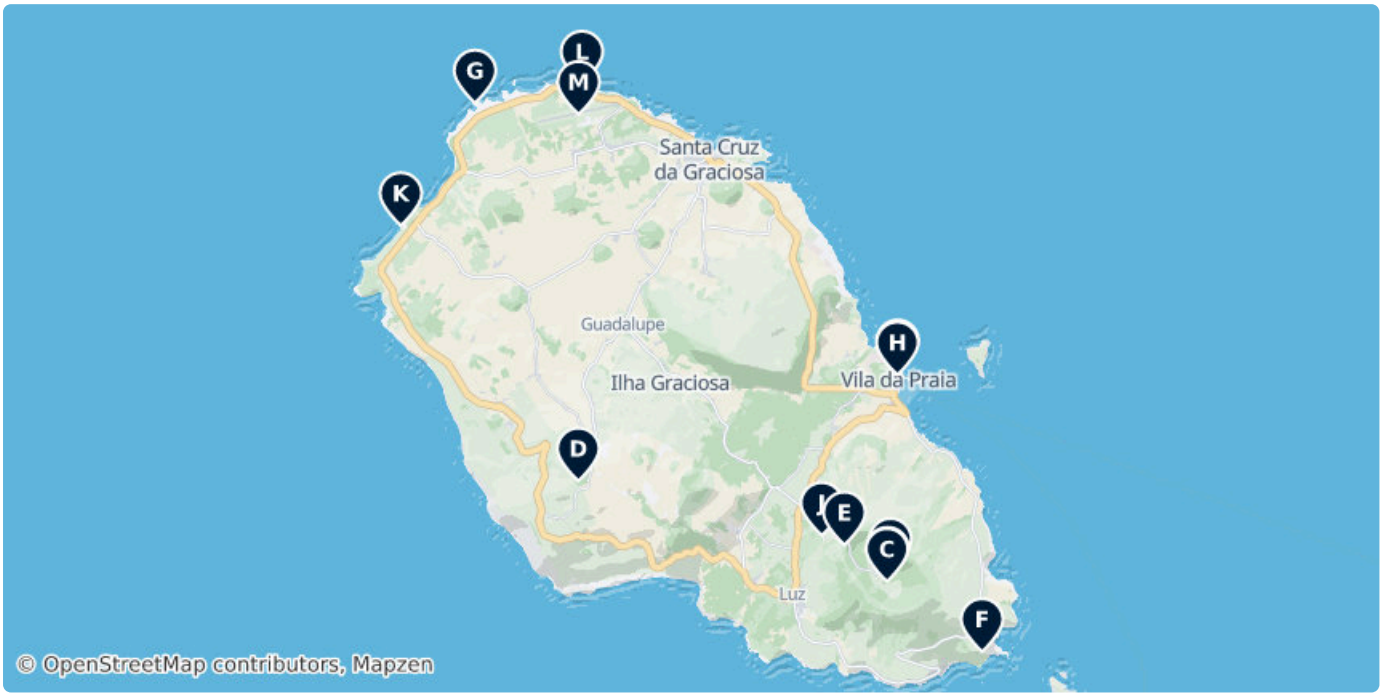
Portuguese

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Ilha Graciosa's Absolute Essentials

Ilha Graciosa, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, is defined by its volcanic geology and traditional architecture. The island features the Caldeira Natural Monument, home to the Furna do Enxofre lava cave with its massive basaltic dome and subterranean lake. Along the coast, visitors find natural basalt swimming pools, historic lighthouses like Ponta da Barca, and iconic red-domed windmills that reflect the island's Flemish heritage. These sites highlight the unique geothermal activity and rural traditions of the Azores' 'White Island.'





A Furna do Enxofre

A massive volcanic cave featuring a 40-meter high basaltic dome and a cold sulfur lake. It is accessed via a 183-step spiral staircase housed within a stone tower.

(Unnamed Road), 9880, Portugal (39.02447, -27.97242)

visitazores.com/en/explore/furna-do-enxofre-visitors-cen...



B Caldeira da Graciosa

A large volcanic crater and Natural Monument. The rim provides views of the island's interior and the Atlantic, surrounding the lush vegetation of the caldera floor.

(Unnamed Road), 9880, Portugal (39.02576, -27.97190)



C Vulcão da Caldeira da Graciosa

The island's central volcano, containing a significant collapse caldera. It houses the Furna do Enxofre and represents the most prominent geological formation on Graciosa.

(Unnamed Road), 9880, Portugal (39.02429, -27.97253)



D Caldeirinha

A volcanic peak and crater located in the western region of the island, forming part of the Serra Branca volcanic complex.

9880, Portugal (39.03885, -28.03013)



E Furna da Maria Encantada

A lava tube situated on the northern rim of the Caldeira. It is notable for its natural openings that function as windows overlooking the crater interior.

(Unnamed Road), 9880, Portugal (39.02959, -27.98049)

F Farol do Carapacho

Located on the southeastern tip near the Carapacho thermal baths, this lighthouse guides vessels along the rugged Ponta da Restinga coastline.

9880, Portugal (39.01413, -27.95481)

G Farol da Ponta da Barca

A 23-meter tall lighthouse on the northwestern coast. It features one of the highest towers in the Azores and overlooks the whale-shaped Ilhéu da Baleia.

(Unnamed Road), 9880, Portugal (39.09356, -28.04938)

H Moinho de Pedra

A traditional stone windmill with a red-domed roof, a style unique to Graciosa influenced by Flemish settlers.

(39.05419, -27.97060)

I Moinho de Pedra

Traditional stone windmill used historically for grinding grain, featuring the island's signature red conical roof.

(39.05450, -27.97054)

J Furna do Abel

A volcanic lava tube located in the vicinity of the Caldeira, historically utilized as a natural shelter.

(39.03095, -27.98471)

K Poceirões piscinas naturais

Coastal natural pools formed by volcanic rock formations, providing a sheltered area for Atlantic sea bathing.

(39.07581, -28.06320)

L Piscinas naturais

Natural swimming area formed by volcanic basalt formations along the shoreline.

(39.09629, -28.02944)

M Graciosa Airport

Graciosa Airport is an airport located 2 km west northwest of Santa Cruz da Graciosa on Graciosa Island in the Azores .

9880, Portugal (39.09190, -28.03007)

DATA SOURCES

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- Caldeirinha — "Pico da Caldeirinha, pormenor da cratera, Santa Cruz da Graciosa, ilha..." by José Luís Ávila Silveira/Pedro Noronha e Costa, Public domain
- Furna da Maria Encantada — "Furna da Maria Encantada, Abatimento do tunel, ilha Graciosa, Açores, Portugal" by José Luís Ávila Silveira/Pedro Noronha e Costa, Public domain

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