

Ilha de Santa Maria

Azores · Portugal

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Santa Maria is the oldest and most south-eastern island of the Azores. It is known for its sunny and dry weather, white villages and golden-sand beaches. Terraced vineyards cover the east coast.

It is a relaxed island for beach days, short walks and a taste of local wine. It is the easiest Azores island to reach from the mainland by air.

When to visit

June to September is warm and the best time for the beach. The island is drier than most of the Azores. Mid-August brings a music festival at Praia Formosa. Winter is mild but windy.

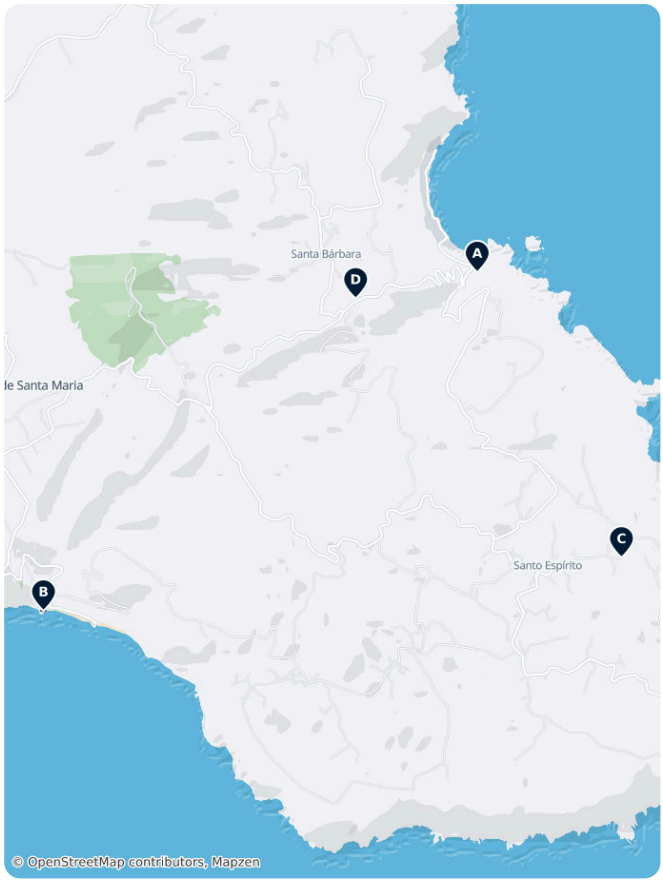
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for hiking	16° / 17° Feels like 11°	15° / 12°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Great Great for hiking	15° / 17° Feels like 10°	14° / 12°	Dry air
March	Good Good for hiking	15° / 16° Feels like 10°	14° / 12°	Dry air
April	Great Great for hiking	15° / 17° Feels like 11°	14° / 13°	Dry air
May	Great Great for hiking	17° / 18° Feels like 13°	16° / 14°	Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 20°	18° / 16°	UV 8 (Very high)
July	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 23°	20° / 18°	Humid air · UV 9 (Very high)
August	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 24°	21° / 20°	20 sunny days · Humid air · UV 8 (Very high)
September	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 23°	21° / 19°	Humid air
October	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 22° Feels like 17°	19° / 17°	13 rainy days
November	Good Good for hiking	18° / 20° Feels like 14°	17° / 15°	
December	Fair Fair for hiking	17° / 19° Feels like 12°	15° / 13°	15 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: June, July, August, September

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

Top sights

- A São Lourenço Bay is a small bay with terraced vineyards that drop to the sea.
- B Forte de São João Baptista da Praia Formosa is an old fort above the main beach at Praia Formosa.
- C Moinho da Lapa is a traditional windmill on a hill.
- D Moinho do Arrebentão is another old windmill on the island.



Ilha de Santa Maria – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play

Scan to download the app

Getting there

- **By air**: Santa Maria Airport (SMA) has flights from Ponta Delgada and some from the mainland. Check the current timetable.
- **By sea**: Ferries run only in summer. See Atlânticoline.
- **On the island**: A rental car is the easiest way to get around.

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

Top sights





A São Lourenço Bay

Protected landscape area featuring a shell-shaped bay with a natural amphitheater of terraced vineyards. The site includes a beach and natural swimming pools alongside coastal villas and white houses.

Ramal para São Lourenço, 9580-114 Santa Bárbara, Portugal (36.98333, -25.05000)

visitazores.com/explorar/casa-do-oleiro

B Forte de São João Baptista da Praia Formosa

(36.95149, -25.10098)

C Moinho da Lapa

(36.95649, -25.03304)

D Moinho do Arrebentão

(36.98085, -25.06429)

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikidata, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites

IMAGE CREDITS

- São Lourenço Bay — "São Lourenço islet and nearby range light, Santa Maria, Azores, Portugal..." by Jules Verne Times Two / www.julesvernex2.com, cc-by-sa-4.0

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 28, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.