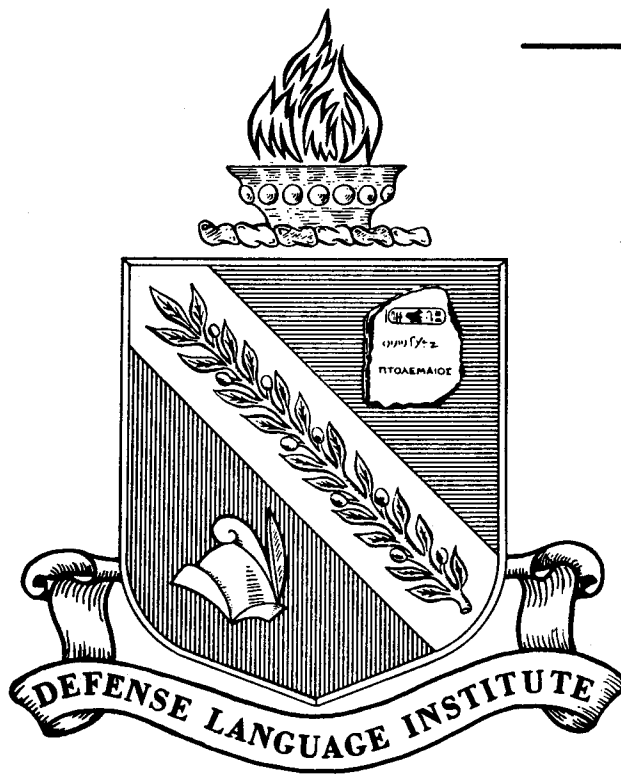


HEADSTART

PORTUGUESE PROGRAM

CULTURAL NOTES

THE AZORES



OCTOBER 1979

Prepared by
DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE, FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER

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Background materials on the Azores are difficult to obtain, and it is hoped that this module will, in some part, supply needed information for U.S. personnel about to establish residence on these islands of the mid-Atlantic.

PREFACE

The Portuguese Headstart Course has been designed to impart a basic level of proficiency in Portuguese encompassing comprehension, speaking and minimum useful skills in reading and writing. Someone who completes the program successfully will be able to understand and express a range of daily needs which include simple social demands, as well as certain service-oriented uses of the language.

Special emphasis has been placed on teaching useful phrases from common-life situations, and the materials provide expressions and terms related to activities of special interest and importance to service personnel.

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PART I

THE AZORES

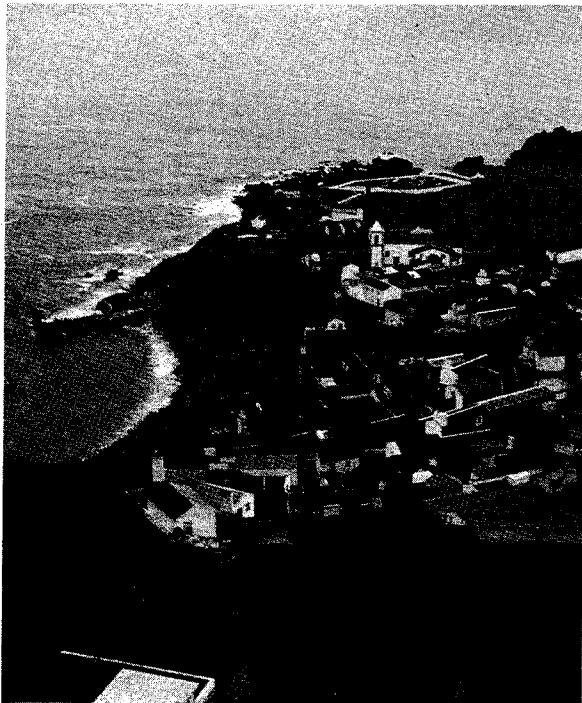
ISLANDS OF THE MID-ATLANTIC



the islands

The Azores are located in the mid-Atlantic some 2,300 miles east of New York and 900 miles west of Lisbon, Portugal. Consisting of nine islands, they are, in fact, the tops of a series of volcanoes. Fertile, and lush green throughout the year, the islands were discovered and populated by the Portuguese in the mid-15th century. When first discovered, the only signs of life on the islands were sea birds and the land hawks (os açores) for which the archipelago was named. The islands are the oldest Portuguese possessions of what was once one of the largest colonial empires in European history. This empire included millions of square miles and hundreds of thousands of subject peoples. It stretched around the world from Africa, Indonesia, and India to Labrador and Brazil and was ruled by one of the smallest and most underpopulated nations of Europe. Even today, Portuguese cultural traditions continue as the core element of many of these diverse areas, especially of the Azores.

The people who settled in the islands came from the agricultural sections of Portugal--the northern area (Minho) and the extreme south and southwestern sections (Alentejo and Algarve). The new settlers were farmers from the day they arrived. Their chief interest was agriculture. To this day, the Azoreans are an agricultural society supplying Portugal's needs, as well as its own. Each year, the Azores ship thousands of tons of dairy products, beef, wheat, and corn to Portugal in exchange for the industrial output of Portuguese industry.



Besides agriculture, the Azoreans have also developed extensive fishing fleets which search the North Atlantic for its undersea wealth. Each year much of this fleet leaves the islands in search of the codfish along the shores of Labrador and Greenland. As with its agricultural output, much of this ocean wealth goes to Portuguese markets.

the climate

The climate of the islands is temperate, protected from extremes of heat and cold by the Gulf Stream. Summers are generally pleasant, with sunny days, cool evenings, and occasional rainy periods. The warm period extends from April through October, when temperatures range from 55 to 75 degrees. Winter on the islands can be unpleasant, with high winds, heavy rains, and overcast skies. From November to March, gale-force winds lash the islands for days on end, interrupting inter-island sea traffic. Winter temperatures remain relatively mild (45-70 degrees), but the ever-present combination of extremely high humidity and constant wind makes the climate seem colder than it actually is.

Warm clothes such as sweaters and raincoats are essential in this ocean climate. Contrary to popular belief, the Azores are not a group of tropical islands.

background

The Azores were discovered in the mid-15th century by Portuguese explorers sent out by Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal to explore the then unknown seas of the North Atlantic. Sometime between 1427 and 1432, Gonçalo Velho Cabral landed at the Azores and claimed them for Portugal. Settlement of the islands began after 1450, when Portuguese were encouraged to move to the islands and establish agricultural communities. Because of their location, the Azores soon became a center for further exploration of the North Atlantic, with Portuguese searching the shores of what are now Labrador, Greenland, and New England. Columbus used the islands as a stopping-off point to replenish food and water supplies on his voyages to the Caribbean, as did later Spanish conquistadores, including Francisco Pizarro and Hernan Cortés. British, French, Dutch, and Swedish explorers also joined the visiting fleets at Azorean ports in the 16th century. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the whaling industry based much of its operations at Azorean ports and the first American sailors joined the fishing fleets of Europe in searching out the whale.

During this period, many Azoreans joined the crews of American ships and later emigrated to the coastal ports of

New England to establish Azorean communities. Many Azoreans traveled to the Pacific on whalers and established large communities in Hawaii and California.

During World War I, the Azores served the British as a base of operations in the undersea war against the German U-boat threat. The Azores again grew in strategic value to Britain in World War II, when Germany attempted to dominate North Atlantic shipping routes with its submarine fleet. The United States established its bases in the Azores in 1943, when the Azores served both cargo and combat aircraft being ferried to North Africa and Europe. By 1945, major airfields were established at Santa Maria and Terceira Islands. After the war, the Azores served the new trans-Atlantic commercial airlines of America, Portugal, Britain, and France as an essential stopover. Lajes Field is now the center of military aviation in the Azores, while the international airport at Santa Maria handles most of the commercial traffic.

the economy

Wherever you go on the islands of the Azorean archipelago, you see the small farm communities and villages upon which the Azorean economy is based. Agriculture is not only a significant portion of the occupations of most Azoreans--it is a total way of life. Almost all population centers are really nothing more than expanded public agricultural markets. Until very recently, the only occupation of the son of a farmer was farming. The only way to break this cycle was to flee the islands and go to other Portuguese colonial possessions or join the crew of a ship and emigrate to large Portuguese communities in the New World--Canada, the United States, Venezuela, or Brazil. To remain in the Azores meant long hours in the fields, a limited existence, and poverty. The only other possible escape for many Azorean males was to join the Portuguese Army or Navy, a choice which did not promise economic improvement. There was little industry or, for that matter, a money-based economy. Many of the needs of the agricultural family were met by the barter system in the marketplace.

In the Azores, if you were not a farmer you would probably be a fisherman. Large fleets were located at São Miguel and Terceira. These fleets, largely unmechanized, fished the major North Atlantic fishing grounds in competition with the more advanced fishing fleets of America, Japan, Canada, Norway, Russia, Germany, France, and England. The Azoreans are still facing increasingly difficult times as major North Atlantic fishing grounds are slowly being exhausted by these much larger, mechanized fleets. The primary food staple of most Azoreans and Portuguese is the codfish, which is rapidly disappearing.

Agricultural production is also limited. Farms tend to be very small. When a father dies, he passes his farm on to his sons, who then divide the land and, in turn, will pass the remaining land on to their sons. After centuries, most plots of land cannot be efficiently farmed; because they are very small, large machinery cannot be used even if available. Stone walls surround each plot of land and serve as dividers. Since the land is of volcanic origin, much of the soil is extremely rocky and unsuitable for effective agricultural production. Corn is a basic staple, along with some wheat, rye, oats, beans, potatoes, and tea. Almost every house has a nearby vegetable garden.

The military base at Lajes employs more than 500 domestic workers and contributes significantly to the economy of Terceira Island. Basic wage limits are set by agreements between the base commander and the Portuguese government. Outside the base, the effect of Americans is easily noted. Since many Americans rent their housing in the local towns and hire maids and gardeners, their infusion of money into the local economy has become significant.

Tourism is now beginning to significantly contribute to a money-starved economy. Substantial funds come from Americans of Azorean ancestry who visit the Azores, especially in the spring and early summer, contributing thousands of dollars to the local economy. Many Azoreans living overseas remit funds to family members remaining on the islands. Slowly, international tourism is finding the Azores a pleasant place to stop on the way between Europe and America. However, because most airlines no longer have to stop on the trans-Atlantic route, there has been a decline in the number of tourists visiting the islands. Additional efforts to spread the word about the beauty and charm of the Azores still need to be made before larger numbers of tourists will be attracted to the islands. More tourist facilities, hotels, restaurants, and roads must be built before tourism has a significant impact on the Azorean economy.

the azoreans

The Azoreans are probably some of the most pure-blooded Portuguese there are, for the original Azoreans were rural Portuguese who arrived and inhabited unoccupied islands in the mid-1400s. By 1500, the culture, language, mores, and traditions of Portugal's agricultural communities were firmly established in the Azores. Most of the small agricultural communities on the islands were affected by the foreign visitors from trans-Atlantic crossings. There were some Flemish settlers who arrived in the 1500s; they were the only significant group not of Portuguese descent. Thus, the Azores developed one of

the most ethnically and culturally homogeneous societies in the western world. This grouping of Portuguese from Minho and the Alentejo created an extremely conservative, religious, hard-working, tough people accustomed to long hours of toil in the fields, with little in the way of luxury. The only educational system was directed by the church. Almost all social life revolves around the church, and the village leadership tends to devolve upon the local priest. No public institutions of higher learning were available, and until recently, through radio and television, few modern ideas penetrated the censorship imposed by the Portuguese government. Portugal maintained a tight control over all aspects of life in the islands.

Foreign trade and currency were required to pass through Lisbon. Foreign residents were required to have visas issued in Lisbon. A Portuguese governor general was the source of all legal political power and was directly appointed by the central government. If an Azorean wished to obtain a higher education, he was required to obtain it in Portugal--for the islands had no institutions of higher learning. Export of all food production was tightly controlled; imported industrial goods had to pass through the Lisbon docks.



The Portuguese language that was spoken in rural communities in Portugal in the 1400s became the language of the islands. As each island developed its own communities, unique speech patterns evolved which were different from those of the other islands to the extent that today, an Azorean can easily tell which island another Azorean comes from. Yet, even on the large islands of São Miguel and Terceira there are language differences between, for example, the farming and the fishing communities. The standard language comes from Lisbon itself. The Azores are rich in local tradition and many expressions and idioms have become unique in the Portuguese-speaking world. Because of the conservative infrastructural development that has taken place over the centuries, the class structure is based upon one's birth, education, and wealth. The different classes mingle freely with one another, frequently living side by side in the same neighborhoods. The Azorean has developed great respect for the dignity of the individual regardless of social standing. However, more important than any other factor today, the possibility of acquiring a higher education or technical skill has become the primary means by which an individual can increase his social and economic position. With increased education or technical skills, the Azorean can leave the islands and find new opportunities in Portugal, Canada, the United States, or Brazil. It is this factor that has helped the individual Azorean and hurt the Azores, for its most educated and talented people have tended to leave the islands to find their futures elsewhere.

The Azorean tends to be a very friendly and polite individual. Most Azoreans genuinely like Americans and will treat them with warmth and kindness. An invitation to an Azorean home is an honor and special privilege. Azoreans tend to dislike loud, boisterous, undignified behavior and strongly dislike behavior brought on by alcoholic excess.

More than 99% of Azoreans are Roman Catholic. Religious festivities are a major source of entertainment, with the church having a dominant place in all social and cultural life of the islanders. Most major religious holidays are observed with village festivals and colorful processions along the roads that link the major towns and villages. The most colorful festivals occur in spring, with the highlight festivals in May and June.

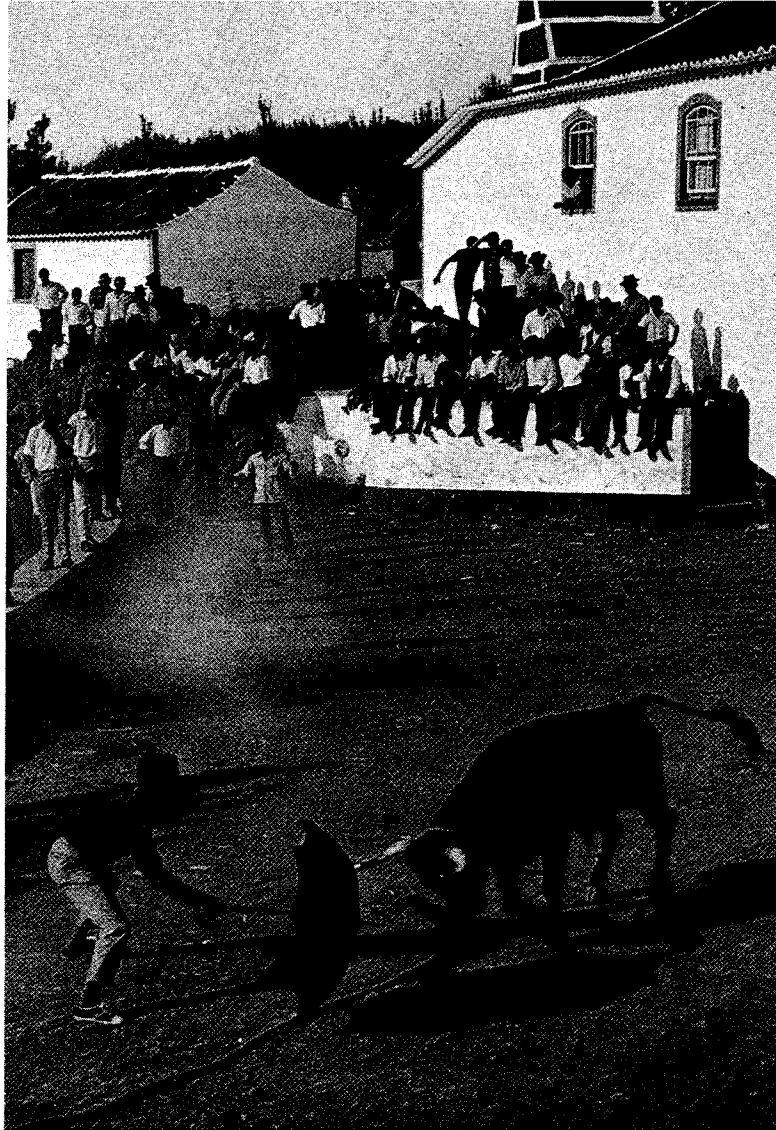


Crime, violence, and serious social misconduct are practically unknown in the islands. Since most of the people are employed in either agriculture or fishing, few have the time, money, or energy to venture forth in the evenings to enjoy nightlife. Nightclubs, discos, and the like are, for all practical purposes, nonexistent. The local pub or restaurant may be the sole source of entertainment in the evening hours.

sports

Bullfighting (touradas) is unique in the Portuguese world--for the bull is not killed. The bull is taunted, harassed, wrestled, and then freed. On the island of Terceira, the bullfight (touradas à corda) is even more unique. In the town of Angra, the bull is let loose in the streets and chased through the center of town with only a rope on its neck. Youths attempt to taunt the bull by pulling on the rope.

As in Portugal, soccer occupies the center of attention among all sports. Visiting teams from different islands compete for titles and the right to represent the Azores against the best Portuguese mainland teams. Village pride and inter-island rivalry reach their peak in the summer, when the best teams represent Portugal in competition against some of Europe's best players.



Bullfight in Angra

Swimming is a sport that requires some caution, because the waters off the Azores are teeming with the sharks that inhabit the mid-Atlantic Gulf Stream waters. Many sharks will venture close to the beaches, presenting a very serious hazard to swimming enthusiasts.

Boating is a popular activity, and it is possible to rent a boat for an excursion or an interisland trip.

food

The local culinary specialities are directly related to island food production. Fresh vegetables are available in season with limited availability in wintertime. Because there are no commercial refrigerated storage facilities, no great variety of fruits or vegetables can be found at any one time. Fresh fish is available at local fish markets year-round. However, shellfish, and lobster in particular, tend to be expensive.

Beef, pork, liver, and kidney are available. Portuguese hams are delicious but, like shellfish, tend to be very expensive. Fresh meat must be sold (and prepared) daily because of the lack of refrigeration. Turkey and chicken are readily available but also expensive. Rabbit, quail, and dove are hunted and are local favorites.

A delicious sausage is linguiça. A mainstay in the Azorean diet, it is common and popular, as is carne de cacoila. Carne de cacoila (called alcatra on Terceira Island) is a special beef dish similar to a beef stew but made in a delicious wine sauce and best had either in an Azorean home or at restaurants specializing in it.

Two primary sources of carbohydrates are massa sovada, a sweet bread, and the inhame, a yam that can be found in every Azorean garden. On the islands of Pico and Faial, a thick cornmeal pancake is commonly eaten instead of bread. On the other islands, wheat bread is eaten with soups and with the fish stews. Eating in the Azores can be an exciting and delicious experience.

domestic help

You may want to consider hiring an Azorean maid or gardener during your stay on the islands. Live-in maids are hard to find. Most common are part-time maids (mulheres-a-dias) who generally get about 90 escudos per day and should be provided with a free lunch. Live-in maids are paid about 2,000 escudos

per month, and a cook up to 3,000. All meals and a private room and bath must be provided.

A gardener earns 200 escudos per day. Severance is a month's salary. You, as the employer, are expected to pay all medical expenses for anyone accidentally injured while in your employ. The Caixa de Previdência is the social security plan employed in the Azores as in Portugal. This plan provides old age and other medical care for employees and is paid for by the employer. You must, by law, pay a set amount each month directly to the Caixa, which is a government agency.



transportation

The roads on the islands are generally narrow, hilly, and winding. On Terceira Island an extensive network of these single-lane, often unpaved, roadways permits internal communication and is used by every farmer on the island. You will find many horse- and bull-drawn wagons mixing with small trucks and buses, competing for space. The narrowness and steepness of the roads tends to encourage the use of small cars, most of which are German, Japanese, and Italian imports. Large American cars have serious problems going through the streets of the island's villages and interior roads.

Just as in Portugal, Azorean drivers will never give a slow driver a chance. Always impatient, the otherwise polite, calm Azorean turns into a "Mr. Hyde" behind the wheel. If he can pass you, even to go one kilometer per hour faster, he will risk his life, his family's lives, and his most valued possession--his car. Your driving must be totally defensive or totally offensive--there is no in-between. Accidents are common, often resulting in material damage to vehicles, as well as the loss of human life. The winter rains increase the driving danger.

There are only two international airports in the Azores: Santa Maria is serviced by Portuguese Airways (TAP) and TWA; Lajes, on Terceira, is served by TAP. Air traffic between the islands is provided by SATA, the local Azorean airway.

There are no railroads on the islands. Intervillage travel is usually by bus, truck, or private auto.

Taxicabs in the Azores are distinctively colored green and black (most are Mercedes, Toyotas, or Datsuns), and a trip anywhere within the city costs about 50 cents. A 10% tip is normally given to the driver.

Interisland boats can be hired for travel between the islands, which can be an enjoyable experience.

local industry

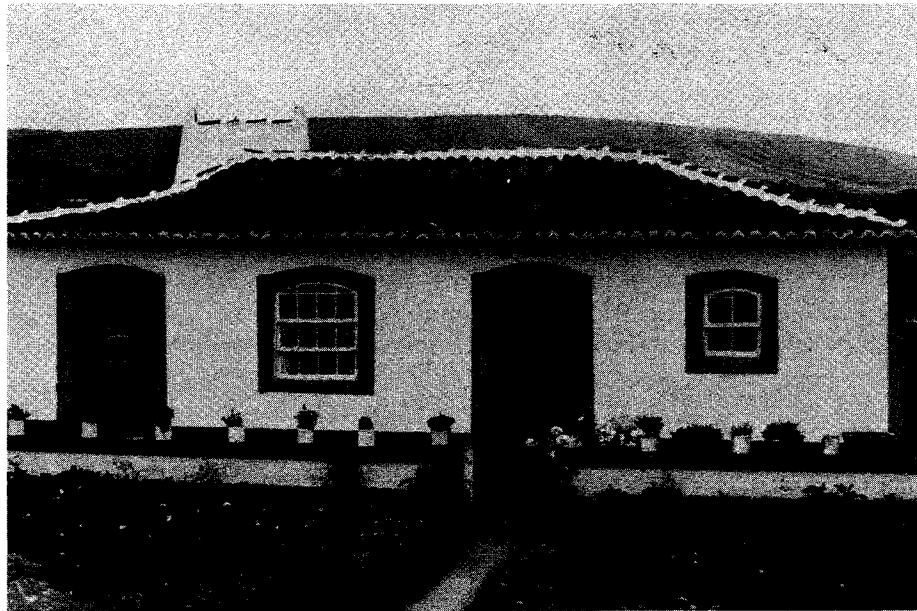
There is little manufacturing in the islands. Most interesting purchasable products, like the home-woven shawls and other cloth products, are from cottage industries. Some leather goods are locally produced and worth buying. Local wines are of good quality and the local brandy, aguardente, is excellent. Locally produced teas are also of good quality.



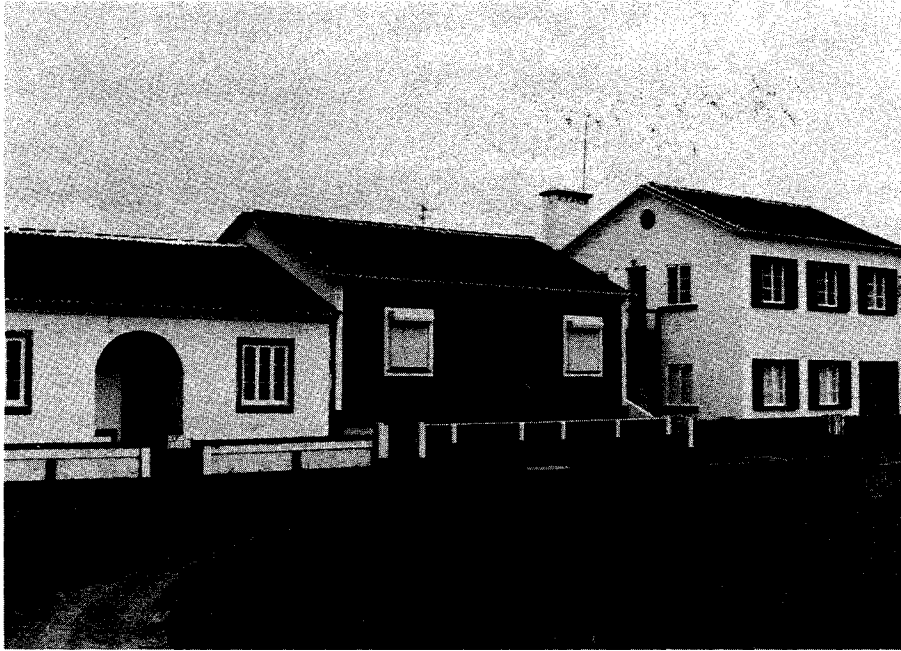
housing

Should you elect to rent a house while in the Azores, be prepared for a challenge. Most houses you will find will not be furnished. They will be completely stripped--even of light fixtures. Curtains, heating system, wall-to-wall carpeting, and shower curtains are not included. In fact, just walls, floors, and ceilings constitute the rental.

The islands are composed of volcanic rock, which is the main building ingredient in all structures. Floors and walls, which are two feet thick, are made of stone. A red tile roof covers your new abode. But remember, you are in the middle of the Atlantic and it is cold and damp most of the year. Living in a stone house may increase your discomfort; therefore space heaters and dehumidifiers are essential, particularly in the winter, for the prevention of mildew and rot due to dampness, as well as for your own comfort. Even with heaters you will need to dress warmly inside the house.



Plumbing is adequate. Gas or electric water heaters normally do not come with the house. Electricity is subject to interruption and fluctuation. Bottled gas is less expensive and more dependable. Electric current is 220-volt, 50-cycle AC. Most of your American appliances will probably need converters. As local voltage varies considerably, a voltage regulator for the protection of sensitive appliances such as radios and televisions should be considered.



clothing

Temperate zone clothing is suitable most of the year. Lightweight garments can be worn only a short time in summer. Bring a trench coat or overcoat/raincoat for the rainy, cold winters. It is advisable to bring lots of sweaters, flannels, and wools for the winter. Lightweight winter clothing, appropriate in centrally heated buildings in the U.S., is not sufficient inside an Azorean home. Dress among Azoreans is conservative to extremely conservative.

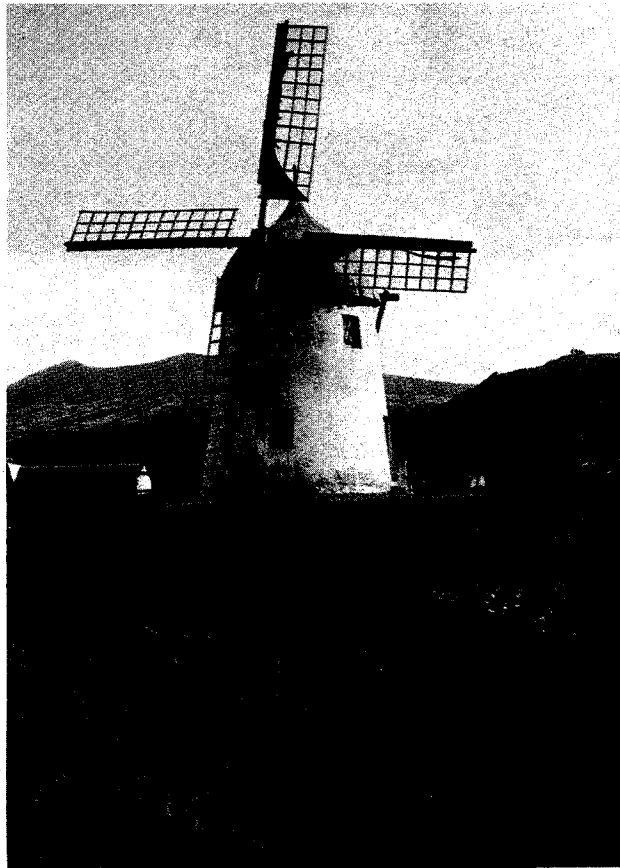
radio and tv

There are two radio and TV broadcasting stations in the Azores, which broadcast in Portuguese. One is located on Terceira, the other on São Miguel. These stations broadcast in the evening only. However, on weekends they broadcast during the day as well. About 50% of the programming is in Portuguese, the rest in English, German, or French with Portuguese subtitles. The American station at Lajes Air Force Base delay-broadcasts U.S. network shows as well as local productions. Televisions must be modified for European transmission signals.

PART II

THE NINE ISLANDS OF THE AZORES

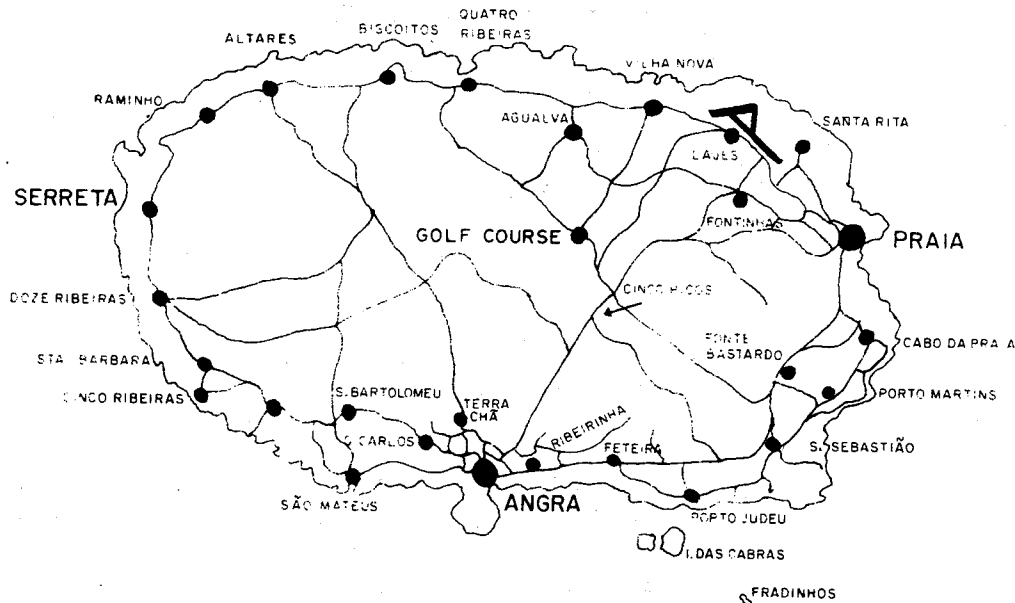
**TERCEIRA • GRACIOSA • SÃO JORGE
CORVO • FLORES • PICO
SANTA MARIA • FAIAL • SÃO MIGUEL**



terceira

Terceira was the third island discovered by the Portuguese; hence its name, which means "The Third." This will be your home during your stay in the Azores. Lush, green, peaceful, and colorful, it has over 250 square miles of land surface and 150 miles of roads. From anywhere on the island you can see the omnipresent ocean. There is much to see on this island, from magnificent parks to volcanic ocean pools and from towns dating back more than 500 years to beautiful beaches.

Its chief city, Angra do Heroísmo, has a population of some 20,000 and is graced by beautiful homes hundreds of years old, great churches, castles, and coastal forts. Surrounded by mountains and covered with subtropical vegetation of all kinds, the city offers many hours of interesting experiences. Angra contains the major cultural, educational, and commercial institutions on the island and is the center for entertainment and sports. A first-class, 18-hole golf course is 10 minutes' drive away. Scuba diving, hunting, fishing, boating, camping, and hiking make the island a vacation wonderland. There are two castles worth visiting: São João Baptista and São Sebastião.



One of the island's better hotels is located in Angra, as is its most beautiful municipal park.

Once you have arrived at Lajes and settled down, it's a good idea to take a drive about Terceira. Be sure to visit the beautiful towns of Biscoitos, Quatro Ribeiras, Altares, Terra Chã, and Doze Ribeiras. If you like wine, stop at a local restaurant in Biscoitos for verdelho--it's great! The park of Serreta is surely one of the most beautiful you will ever visit. Located on the extreme western side of Terceira, it's a great place to go hiking or picknicking or just to gaze at the ocean through a tropical rain forest. It contains the island's best hotel; all the rooms have a breathtaking view of the Atlantic.

The island is famous for its food, especially a beef stew made in a wine sauce called alcatra à moda da Terceira. Also worth trying are its fish stews, acordas, and lobster salads. A special dessert called papos de anjo is a must.

Downtown Angra



graciosa

One of the smallest islands (population 7,000) of the Azores, Graciosa offers a unique treat. Ancient whaling boats line its harbors and offer a view into the past. More than 100 years ago all whaling fleets looked like this. Now, the only remaining wooden fleets still hunting the whale come from here.

Don't miss the seafood at the local restaurants. Especially worth trying are the lobster, squid, and shellfish stews. Locally produced wines are also worth experimenting with.

são jorge

This island is a great pasture with some of the most breathtaking views anywhere. The main towns are Velas and Calheta-- both located on the southern part of the island. This island is only 38 miles long and 2 miles wide and has about 15,000 inhabitants. Like Terceira, it is intensively cultivated. It is said that the best cheese in the Azores comes from São Jorge.

CORVO

The smallest island in the Azores is almost solely devoted to agriculture and cattle grazing. There is an interesting volcanic lake at Calderão.

flores

The island means what its name says, flowers. Millions of them, especially hydrangeas, gave the name "flores" to the island. Here you will find some of the best fruits, especially bananas and oranges, grown in the archipelago.

Farming is the principal occupation of its inhabitants, but fishing is also important.



pico

Pico is more than 7,000 feet above sea level, the highest point in the islands. The expression "You can see forever" becomes the literal truth on this island. Strange lava rock formations known as misterios have created the background for vast forests of chestnut and pine trees. The ocean surrounding the island has some of the best fishing in the world and some of the best scuba diving areas in the Atlantic. Also on the island are interesting lakes, grottos, and a whaling museum.

santa maria

The island contains the Azores' International Commercial Airport, which offers the best air connections to the other islands. It also has the oldest church in the Azores. It was here that Columbus, on his return trip from the New World, stopped to pray.

faial

This island gets its name from the forests of beech trees that covered it when it was discovered. It's a horticulturist's dream--covered with vast gardens of hydrangeas bordering its agricultural land. There are numerous sea caves, volcanic lakes, extinct craters, and hot springs. The town of Horta is situated on a magnificent bay and contains churches dating back to the 15th century, forts that defended its coasts from pirate attacks, hundreds of houses built of black volcanic rock, and many functioning windmills. It also has a four-star hotel.



são miguel

This is the largest island in the Azores and the most populous (160,000). The island has the largest city in the Azores, Ponta Delgada (30,000), which offers some of the most interesting sightseeing areas in the islands. Numerous ancient churches, forts, and monuments can be found here in addition to the best museum in the islands. The Caldeira das Sete Cidades (the Crater of the Seven Cities), a gigantic crater, has two volcanic lakes--one emerald green and the other deep blue. Its name comes from a legend which states that one of the seven cities of Atlantis was submerged under this crater. On the island you can also find numerous hot springs, sulphur and mud springs, tea plantations, volcanic lakes, waterfalls and luxuriant vegetation such as tree ferns, bamboos, cedars, palm trees, and hydrangeas. There are also large naturally heated swimming pools. The island is only 90 miles from Lajes Field and well worth a visit. The U.S. Consulate is located at Ponta Delgada.



PART III

U.S. FORCES IN THE AZORES



u.s. forces in the azores

Terceira, the third largest island, is the home of Lajes Field. The island is about 18 miles long and 10 miles wide. The hilly terrain is dominated by volcanic ranges which are covered with lush, green vegetation. Innumerable stone walls set off small farm plots throughout the island. The farmers clear their fields of volcanic rock, which is then used for building houses and other farm structures. Terceira has two major towns, Angra do Heroismo and Praia da Vitória.

Lajes Field is the home of all U.S. Air Force, Navy, and Army military forces in the Azores. In 1953, the U.S. Forces Azores Command was organized as a subordinate Unified Command under the Commander-in-Chief Atlantic. In peacetime, the U.S. Forces Commander (COMUSFORAZ) is assisted by a small joint staff responsible for contingency planning. The Commander (COMUSFORAZ) is the local representative for the U.S. Ambassador to Portuguese military and civil authorities concerning all military activities in the Azores.

In wartime, the commander assumes operational control of all U.S. military forces in the Azores and its adjacent waters. The command mission would be to support NATO forces in this area, to assist in providing local defense, if requested, and to protect and evacuate U.S. civilians, if necessary.

air force

The 1605th Air Base Wing is the largest U.S. military organization in the Azores and serves as host command for all other service organizations. Its primary mission is to provide en route support to Department of Defense aircraft transiting Lajes Field, and to provide support services and facilities for other U.S. military organizations in the Azores. Additionally, Lajes services aircraft from other nations, including Belgium, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Iran, Italy, the Netherlands, and Venezuela.

The 1936th Communications Squadron at Lajes Field is a unit of the Northern Communications Area. The unit's mission is to provide local and intercontinental communications and air traffic control services in support of the 1605th Wing and all other U.S. military organizations in the Azores.

navy

The senior U.S. naval officer in the Azores, a Navy captain, is the Commander of U.S. Naval Forces in the Azores, the Naval Air Facility, the Antisubmarine Warfare Sector Group, and the Azores Patrol Group.

The Naval Air Facility provides maintenance and en route support to P-3 Orion aircraft which are used for antisubmarine surveillance over an area of 2.5 million square miles of the Atlantic. The other naval unit in the Azores is the Naval Security Group Activity. This unit provides communication for defense of the U.S.

army

The U.S. Army Transportation Terminal Unit represents the Army in the Azores and is responsible for port operations and related terminal services at Praia da Vitória, on Terceira, and at other Azorean ports. The unit also conducts water research and rescue operations and provides surface transportation with Army craft in local Azorean waters.

driving

Terceira Island is hilly; it is therefore recommended that you insure that the brakes in your car are in excellent condition prior to shipment. It is also suggested that a corrosion preventive be applied to your automobile prior to shipment because of the excessively corrosive conditions.

Large automobiles are not recommended because of the narrow roads, which are poor in both repair and construction. The only gasoline available through the Exchange service station is 90 octane.

A valid stateside driver's license helps in obtaining the local driver's license required for the Azores. Stateside vehicle title and registration may be used to obtain Lajes Field registration.

Automobile insurance requirements consist of a public liability and property damage policy of at least 200,000 Portuguese escudos. This type of insurance is available locally at reasonable rates. Local insurance policies, however, differ significantly from the usual U.S. policies. It is recommended that you not obtain an insurance policy from a

U.S. company prior to your arrival. Rates on these policies apply primarily to mainland Portugal, not to the Azores.

private rental housing

Most private housing rented by Americans is located in the town of Praia da Vitória or along the main roads between that town and the base. Other rentals are located in Porto Martins, Fonte do Bastardo, and Angra do Heroísmo. Rental units are obtained from Portuguese landlords at very reasonable prices. Quality and size, however, leave something to be desired. Because of heavy rains and poor building construction, mildew and dampness are constant problems. It is highly advisable to exercise judgment concerning shipment of things that you value and wish to keep permanently. Furnishings for off-base rentals are provided by Housing Supply on a priority waiting-list basis. Water and sewage systems are just adequate.



usaf hospital

The Lajes USAF Hospital is a modern, attractive, and well-equipped 15-bed medical facility. Speciality care is normally available in internal medicine, general surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, and flight medicine. Patients requiring special care are air evacuated to Wiesbaden Air Base, Germany, or to the U.S.

religious services

Lajes Field has a comprehensive chapel program including services for many denominational groups. A variety of study groups, Sunday schools, youth and adult fellowship programs, prayer groups, and choirs are available.

dependents' schools

Schools for dependent children of American military and Department of Defense civilian personnel in the Azores are operated at Lajes from kindergarten through grade 12. Pre-school is also available.

commissary

The commissary sales store carries a well-rounded assortment of frozen and canned food and other commodities. In all the commissary stocks about 4,000 items. There is always an adequate supply of meats. U.S. choice frozen meats are received monthly from the States.

Fresh pasteurized milk and milk products are supplied by a local Portuguese dairy. A U.S. government-operated bakery furnishes an assortment of baked goods.

exchange

The Lajes Field Exchange is operated for the benefit of U.S. military personnel, Department of Defense civilians, and their dependents. In addition, certain Portuguese military and civilian personnel are authorized to use the Exchange facilities.

Exchange facilities at Lajes Field are modern and well equipped and include:

- Main Retail Store
- Family Shopping Center
- Main Cafeteria and Snack Bars
- Service Station
- Barber Shop
- Beauty Shop
- TV/Radio Repair Shop
- Tailor Shop
- Watch Repair

Laundromat
PMV Inspection Station
Auto Repair Garage
Auto Paint Shop

domestic employment

Portuguese domestic help must be at least 18 years of age and may not be employed without clearance through both the Azores Zone Civilian Personnel Office and the Base Domestic Employment Office.

You may employ a live-in maid (empregada) on a monthly basis. You must furnish three meals a day and allow one day off every two weeks. You may want to hire a maid for five or six days per week at a monthly salary and one meal per day, or a part-time maid (mulher-a-dias) by the day.

All domestic help must be paid in Portuguese escudos. Employers of domestics must obtain liability insurance for their employees. Also, under Portuguese law, all domestic workers employed on a regular basis are covered by social welfare (Caixa de Previdência). Each employer is required to make monthly payments to the Caixa. The amount is determined by the employment agreement and provisions of Portuguese law. It is your responsibility to make these payments for all your domestic help.

leisure time at lajes

The Lajes Special Services Program is designed to fill recreational and entertainment needs and interests of all Lajes personnel and their families. Facilities include a photo hobby shop, poolroom, audio tape center, ceramic hobby shop, wood hobby shop, auto hobby shop, library (23,000 volumes), bowling lanes, skating rink, 18-hole golf course, gymnasium, golf driving range, tennis courts, swimming pool, steam bath/sauna complex, a private beach for Americans, and special adult education center programs. Also available are Ping-Pong, shuffleboard, bridge clubs, barbecues, drama productions, and art shows.