

Azores' Stone Age

Flores Take a step back in time and overnight in a basalt stone house. At Aldeia da Cuada on Flores, the modest cottages seem to be on the edge of the world, off the main road, down a cobbled walkway. Picnic tables overlook the sea. Inn rates start at 40 euros, 011-351-292-590-040, www.aldeiada cuada.com. Hire a taxi driver, like Silvio, to tour the seven volcanic lakes.

São Jorge A German couple renovated old cottages at Jardim do Triângulo. Output from the hens, goats and their garden puts breakfast on the table, 40 euros, 011-351-295-414-055, www.ecotriangulo.com.

Pico At Pocinho Bay, enjoy breakfast on a terrace that faces the sea. Dip in the pool or walk across the street to the natural pools in the Atlantic. The classy boutique is on a 5-mile marked footpath that runs through UNESCO vineyards, from Verdelho to Criacão Velha. Rates start at 125 euros, 011-351-292-628-460, www.pocinhobay.com.



Breakfast at Pocinho Bay

Faial Casal do Vulcao is near the village buried by the 1957-58 volcano, Capelinhos, which now looks like a lunarscape. Four stone cottages have been turned into 8 separate apartments. Rentals come with a bike. Walking trails are nearby, but you'll have to drive to get to Horta. Rates start at 60 euros, 011-351-292-943-869, www.casal dovulcao.com. The granddaddy of stone is the Pousada de Santa Cruz in Horta. This is a 16th-century fortress gone luxe. In the mornings, walk out on your private balcony that faces Pico and the marina. Rates start at

105 euros, 011-351-218-442-001, www.pousadas.pt.

Boston on Azores Express, 800-762-9995. WALK and walk some more. The Azores are known for the hikes. MUST TASTE each of the island's different cheeses and Pico's white wines. SEE IVORY in the displays of scrimshaw at the Whaling Museum on Pico or at the Scrimshaw Museum at Peter Café Sport on Faial.

GET THERE On a 4-hour

nonstop flight from

TAKE TO THE SEA See whales on Pico or Faial; or, on Flores, skirt the coves and then boat over to nearby Corvo. READ Azores: The Bradt Travel Guide, by David Sayers. GET TOURIST INFO from 011-351-292-200-500, or www.drtacores.pt. 1 Euro = \$1.19

