

# **THE SOLAR BRANCO ECO ESTATE GUIDE TO FAIAL**

Last Updated Winter 2020

**#WELOVEAZORES**

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This guide aims to highlight the best local restaurants, experiences and activities on each island. Helping the recovery through sustainable tourism.

Instagram: @solarbranco  
Facebook: Solar Branco Eco-Estate  
Web: [welopeazores.com](http://welopeazores.com)

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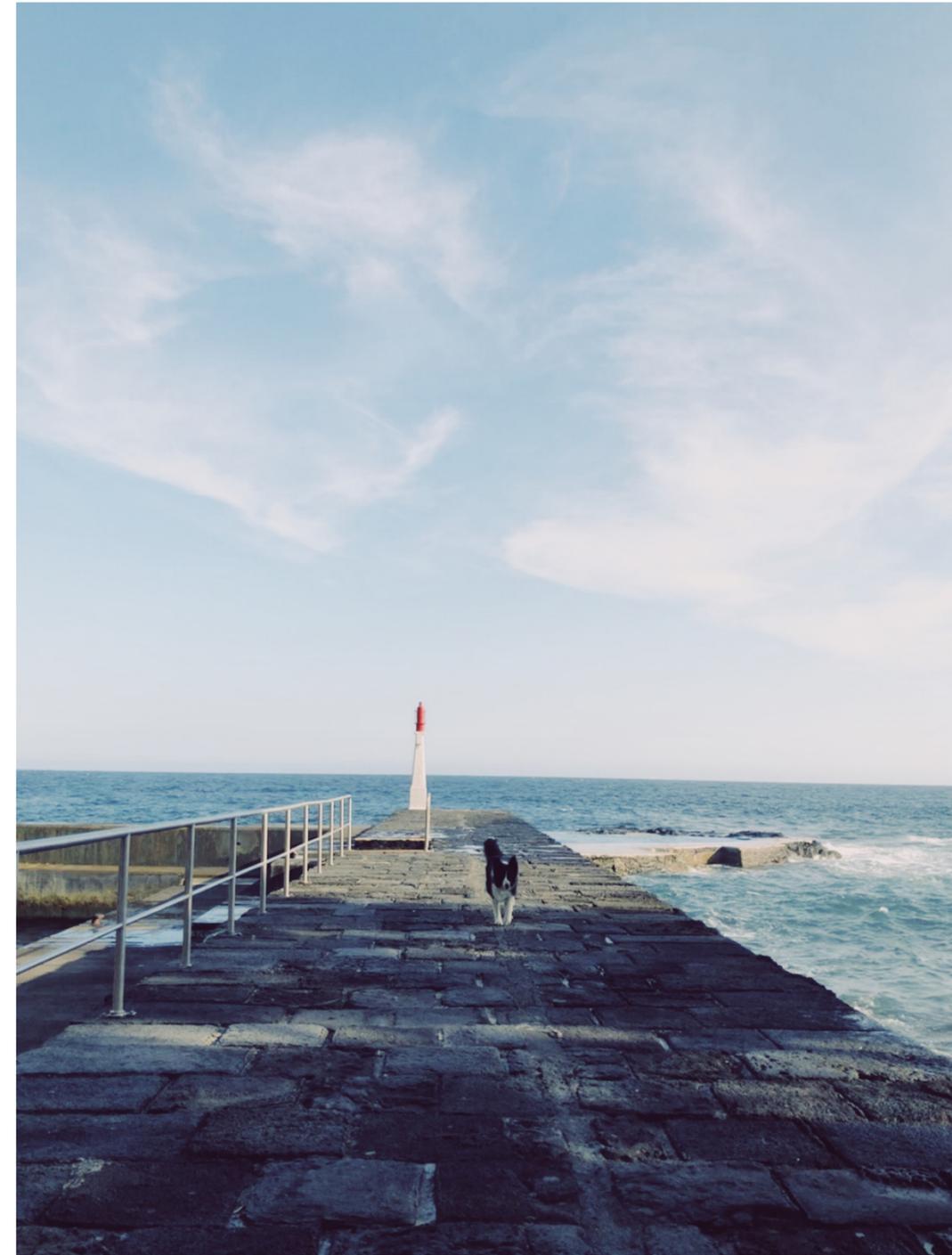
# FAIAL

(THE BLUE ISLAND)

The blue island gets its nickname for two main reasons:

The sheer number of hydrangeas decorating the streets and towns, as well as the island's maritime history. Horta, Faial's main city, is one of the islands' most popular seaports and Faial is the home of the Azores' Semana do Mar festival, a week-long celebration that takes place each year in August highlighting the area's connection and history to the sea.

Many locals add blue accents to their homes and businesses in honor of "the blue island".



# WHAT TO SEE & DO

**Whale watching** and the museums Faial is one of the best places to go dolphin and whale watching in the Azores if not the world.

The dolphins are playful around the boats as they glide through the water. The whales are the most majestic creatures of the sea, they dive when the noisy, party-friendly dolphins come along, which always makes me chuckle. Tours are plentiful and the prices are all fairly similar. Every operator is conscious of their environmental impact and this is something that everyone is aware of.

It has to be remembered that these animals were once cherished for a more deathly reason. There are several small museums close to the city of Horta who can take you through the whaling history of the Azores. You can also go scuba diving, Faial is a key departure point in summer for divers searching for sharks and other aquatic species.

June – August are popular for recognising many migrating creatures.

Hang out on the **beach** Faial's foremost beaches are Praia do Porto Pim. The dark volcanic sand that contrasts splendidly with the intense blue sea. You can also visit Praia do Almoxarife as well. Other beaches include Praia da Conceicao and Praia do Norte.

**Horta city** and marina Horta is a splendidly picturesque city with a number of yachts from all around the world make anchor within the marina, taking a break from their travels throughout the Atlantic. Don't miss a stroll along the harbour to check out the colourfully painted square slabs. Sailors and visions come here to paint messages, traditionally a way to pass the time and the belief these murals will convey good luck to their voyage.

**Peter Sports Cafe** "If you sail to Horta and you don't visit Peter's, you have not actually been to Horta." Peter Sports Cafe is a must visit when on Faial. This is an institution as much as a bar. It started as an assembly spot for sailors on a break from cruising the Atlantic ocean and continues in this role today. The cafe is stuffed wall to wall with sailing memorabilia, with many flags left by their crews, as well as historic images.

**Caldeira** Just outside of town (you will need to drive or take a taxi) you will come to the volcanic crater at Caldeira. From the top, you will have the most gorgeous view of Faial. Only go there on a clearance day, otherwise, you will not get the view! It is possible to hike across the crater's edge, which takes about 2 hours. It is advised not to do this on on wet or muddy days for obvious reasons.

# WHAT TO SEE & DO

Hike around **Capelinhos** At Capelinhos, on the western coast of the island, an entire new coastline island emerged after a volcanic eruption in 1957. The lighthouse along with this he village houses became submerged in layers upon layers of mud and volcanic rock. A must see when visiting Faial. Hike to the highest point of the crater for some stunning views as you look down onto the moon-like landscape and ocean waves crashing into the volcanic bay below..

# EATING

## **Restaurante Mitos**

Zona industrial de stª Bárbara lote 119 fracção B,  
Horta

[Google Maps](#)

## **Praya Restaurante**

[Google Maps](#)

## **Genuíno Restaurante**

Rua Nova, 9900-038 Horta

[Google Maps](#)

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