

Thank you for your decision to join us on the Azores. We look forward to personally welcoming you soon. We would like to take this opportunity to make your pre-trip planning a little easier by answering some of the questions you may have.

PRE ARRIVAL

What's included in your vacation: Typically the boat vacation includes accommodation, all meals, diving and the boat open bar. If you are not traveling with a group or tour leader please ensure you have our contact details with you. Airport maps and details of how and where to contact our service providers are available from our reservations team.

What's NOT included in your vacation: As of February 1, 2012, the International Airport departure tax of PhP 550 collected at the airport in Peso cash or USD (equivalent). For guests using the domestic airport in Manila to Puerto Princesa, Dumaguete, Busuanga, or Tacloban there is a domestic terminal fees of PhP200 in Manila and around PhP30 at provincial airports. These fees are subject to change. There are charges on board for Marine Park Fees, equipment rental, Nitrox fills and land excursions.

Travel Documents: Please ensure your passport is valid for at least six months and that you have an onward or return ticket with you. U.S. and European nationals automatically receive a 21 day tourist visa on arrival. For guests staying longer or with other passports please visit www.immigration.gov.ph. You are required to fill out both the trip application and liability release at least 30 days prior to departure. Please also bring copies of your diving and travel health insurance with you.

Trip Insurance: In addition to medical and diving health insurance we also highly recommend each guest purchases trip cancellation and interruption insurance. This will protect you from financial disappointment in case unforeseen circumstances prevent you from making your trip or the unlikely event your trip is cut short or interrupted due to storms or medical emergencies.

Wire Transfers: If you are paying for your vacation via wire transfer, please send our reservations office a copy of the wire transfer details so we can credit your account faster.

TRANSFERS

Apo Reef and the Best of Anilao Safaris - travel to/from Puerto Galera (Island of Mindoro):

Port: Atlantis Puerto Galera

- Once you meet your driver at the airport (usually with a sign with guest or group name) upon exiting baggage area, your luggage will be loaded on the van/bus by our staff.
- Two hour private van/bus ride to the city of Batangas followed by a one hour private Banka ride to Atlantis Puerto Galera. Banka's are large outrigger boats with inboard diesel, seats approximately 20-24 persons comfortably.
- The van or bus will usually stop at a service station for refreshment. Please note that neither the beach/pier in Batangas where you meet the boat or the boat have toilets.

Southern Leyte Safaris - travel to/from Tacloban (Island of Leyte)

Port: Padre Burgos

- A 60 minute domestic flight from Manila (NAIA Terminal 2 or 3) to Tacloban (Airbus A320 or similar).
- We recommend taking the 1pm flight from Manila to Tacloban so your arrival to Azores is at our scheduled boarding time of 5 PM.
- Once in Tacloban, there is a 3 hour air-conditioned private van ride to Padre Burgos pier.
- When you disembark the plane please do not pick up you checked in bags. Look for the Azores rep who will take you to the VIP lounge while your bags are collected.
- For the return journey to Manila you leave Azores at approximately 8am and arrive in Tacloban at lunchtime. Lunch is in a mall at your own expense. The flight to Manila is at approximately 3pm arriving in Manila by 4pm.

Tubbataha Safaris - travel to/from Puerto Princesa (Island of Palawan)

Port: Puerto Princesa

- A 60 minute domestic flight from Manila (NAIA Terminal 2 or 3) to Puerto Princesa (Airbus A320 or similar).
- We advise traveling on the afternoon flight from Manila to Puerto Princesa. Arrival of this flight is close to the Azores boarding time. Early arrivals will not be permitted to board the Azores until boarding time due to the short turnaround time of charters
- When you disembark the plane please do not pick up you checked in bags. Look for the Azores rep who will take you to the VIP lounge while your bags are collected.
- 15 to 20 minute air conditioned van ride from the airport to the pier
- Depart Azores at approximately 8am for the 10:20am flight to Manila. Arrive in Manila by 11.30am.

Bohol Safaris - travel to/from Dumaguete (Island of Negros)

Port: Atlantis Dumaguete

- A 60 minute domestic flight from Manila (NAIA Terminal 2 or 3) to Dumaguete (Airbus A320 or similar).
- In Dumaguete please walk through the arrival building to the Atlantis representative and give him your luggage tickets. Do not try and retrieve your own luggage.
- The drive to the resort is about 30 minutes.
- Depart Azores at 7am for the 8:45am flight to Manila. Flight arrives in Manila approximately 10 am.
- If you are arriving via Cebu or are making other travel plans please contact our reservations office.

Transition Safaris - Please contact us for personalized transfer arrangements and details.

Domestic Flights: All domestic flights within the Philippines are limited to 7kg/15lbs of hand-carry luggage plus a purse or computer bag and this is strictly enforced.

Cebu Pacific Flights - Cebu Pacific operates out of Terminal 3. It is the closest terminal (5 minutes) to Resort World and our preferred hotel in Manila if overnights are required – the Remington Hotel.

Excess Baggage – Our tickets on Cebu Pacific include 30Kg/66lbs. One may upgrade to a total of 45Kg/99lbs for \$50. You will be asked how much luggage allowance you require during the reservation process. If purchasing additional luggage allowance that fee can be paid aboard Azores on your personal bill. There is no need for any type of application or card. The allowance is purchased with your ticket. At the airport, excess baggage is charged at Php154.00 (about \$3.75 USD) per kilo (2.2 lbs) and must be paid in cash (Php). This can change as this is set by the airlines.

DIVING

Unlimited Diving Rules: Typically five dives a day are arranged on Azores charters. This may vary slightly on some itineraries and due to weather or other concerns. Currents, conditions and logistics require that all dive groups stay together at all time. Typical dive time is 50-60 minutes with a maximum depth of 100 feet (30m). As general policy, Open Water Divers will only be allowed on dives below 60feet (18m) or night dives if they can show proof of previous experience and exhibit adequate in-water skills, adventure training dives are available.

As at our resort locations, we require divers to exhibit good buoyancy control at all times to respect the underwater environment and not wear gloves.

Liveboard diving can be more demanding than typical resort weeks and we highly recommend taking a refresher course prior to your trip if you have not been in the water for a while.

Rental Dive Equipment: Due to limited storage space, rental equipment is only available with prior arrangement (see trip application form).

Dive Computers: Please note that the use of dive computers is mandatory on the Azores.

Visual and Audible Signaling Device: Every diver must have their own visual (e.g. signal tube) and surface audible signaling device e.g. whistle (not tank banger or underwater device) while diving aboard Azores.

Cameras: The Azores features a large camera table and rinse tanks.

Diving Documents: Please bring your certification card and log book. If you require Nitrox please bring a Nitrox certification card and if you plan to do technical dives please bring appropriate documentation with you. All divers are asked to sign a waiver on arrival. Please ensure that any diving medical concerns are addressed before you travel.

Nitrox: Is available on all trips for an additional fee of \$131 USD for a 7 night charter.

For Technical/Rebreather divers: Available by prior arrangement only. Please clarify your equipment requirements and dive plans with our reservation staff prior to arrival.

Tanks: The boat has 40 x 80cf/11l tanks with DIN / Yoke Valves and 2 x 100cf/15l tanks with DIN / Yoke Valves.

Dive Courses: The Azores caters for a wide variety of PADI specialty courses including Nitrox and Underwater Photography as well as the PADI Adventure or Advanced ratings. If you plan to take any course other than these please contact our reservations staff prior to your trip to check prices and arrangements.

ABOARD AZORES

Room Amenities: All staterooms have climate controlled air conditioning, a hairdryer and en suite facilities.

Towels: Bath towels are provided in rooms and dive towels are available on the dive deck.

Internet Access and Phone Calls: Please check with our staff for details and rates. Wireless internet connection and cell phone coverage is available on most trips (not Tubbataha).

Clothing and what to bring: Dress is very casual and traveling light is recommended - swimsuits, shorts, t-shirts and possibly a sweatshirt or light jacket for the evenings. There is no specific dress code. Hat, sunglasses and sun screen/protection are of course highly recommended as the sun is very intense even on partially cloudy or cooler days. If you plan to dive a lot we recommend bringing extra layers, a hooded vest or thicker suit as during the week you will lose body heat despite the warm water.

Please note that no form of wet clothing or dive equipment is allowed inside the living areas of the boat.

Temperature (approximate averages):

	Dec - March	Late March – May	June - August	Sept - Nov
Air (average day)	74-86 (24-30)	86-95 (30-35)	86-92 (28-33)	81-90 (27-32)
Water	74-79 (24-26)	82-86 (28-30)	80-84 (27-29)	77-82 (25-28)

Electricity and Charging: Power on board is 110V. Transformers and a charging station are available. Sockets are flat two pin (American style). We also have a battery charging station for 220V.

Food/Beverages: If you have special dietary requirements please contact us or your group leader ahead of your arrival. We offer a wide range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages throughout the day (diving is prohibited after drinking alcohol). You can contact us for a full list and/or you are welcome to bring your own drinks or wine to consume on the boat. Please note that this is NOT allowed at the resorts.

Boutique: Selected T-shirts, caps and other souvenir items are available from the Boutique.

Entertainment: Enjoy a wide selection of movies on our PS3 and wide screen TV. Evening marine life and other presentations are also available along with a small library and selection of board games & cards.

OTHER COMMON QUESTIONS

Children: Children under the age of 15 years are not allowed on Azores dive charters.

Currency and Money: The local currency is the Philippines Peso (PhP). You may change USD, UK Pounds, Euro and other major currencies for PhP on board however we have limited amounts of cash onboard. USD cash may be accepted at some local establishments where there is an opportunity for land excursions. You may settle your bill on the boat for incidentals such as souvenir items, courses, boutique items and etc with USD cash, Peso cash, (other major currencies in cash), USD travelers cheques (please bring the receipt of proof of purchase), VISA, MASTERCARD or AMERICAN EXPRESS (there are no charges for using credit cards). Gratuities cannot be charged to a credit card. We can offer a 5% discount if you pay by cash your onboard charges. If using Traveler's Checks, please do not fill in the "Pay To" portion. Banks in the Philippines require an exact "Pay To" name and the Azores staff will complete this portion.

Communications: On most Azores itineraries, we are close enough to land that we will have cellular and data (email) coverage. The Tubbataha itinerary is a bit different in that we are in the middle of the Sulu Sea and beyond cellular coverage. For this itinerary, we offer guests the ability to send and receive emails using the "Seawave" communications network. Guests can log on to Seawave on Azores and establish a personal account to send and receive emails during their charter. The cost is approximately \$1.50 per minute and it is billed directly to Seawave via the guest's credit card. We strongly suggest that short text only emails be sent or received, as cost can be quite high otherwise.

Medical: The boat has comprehensive medical plans for diving and non-diving emergencies and has first aid kits, oxygen and defibrillators available. Emergency plans vary from itinerary to itinerary but you should consider that you might be many hours away from medical care or a recompression facility.

None of our itineraries are in areas that are considered a risk for Malaria but inoculations for Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Polio and Tetanus are recommended. As always, your physician should be consulted on these and other questions you may have about traveling to the tropics. We strongly recommend drinking plenty of water and other non-alcoholic fluids during your stay.

Gratuities: Gratuities are not included in your vacation and are not mandatory. If you feel the Atlantis Azores Team helped make your trip enjoyable may we suggest a gratuity of approximately 10% of your package price; envelopes are provided in your state room at the end of the trip. All crewmembers share equally in your tip. Gratuities cannot be charged to a credit card thus one should plan to bring enough cash for gratuities.

Online Check-in: We also have a new online check-in form that should expedite your check-in process. We would appreciate it if you would complete this at least 30 days prior to arrival so we will have all your details. The link is: https://booking.atlantishotel.com/online_forms.html

Please ensure you have also received our detailed 'Trip Info Sheet' and the 'Trip Application Form'

If you have other questions feel free to visit our web site, www.atlantishotel.com, email us at reservations@atlantishotel.com or talk to your group leader.

Once again we look forward to having you with us soon.