Landscape and traces of the Portuguese India Route

labit ent no salet wen tales on the tide! Flores e Corvo







Explore the same theme in other islands of the Azores

AZORES ARCHIPELAGO

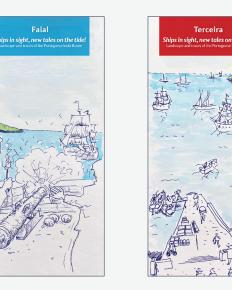




An itinerary with this theme is available for six islands. Learn more about our history.







(PT) "Em dous de junho de 1587 chegaram ao Porto da Villa das Lages

desta ilha das Flores cinco navios inglezes, armados com muita gente

de guerra, com pretexto de paz, e mandando em um barco um portu-

guez que lhes dessem mantimentos, conhecendo a fraqueza da terra,

entraram e em oito dias a saquearam roubando tudo até as egrejas, es-

capando algumas imagens e ornamentos que os sacerdotes livraram não

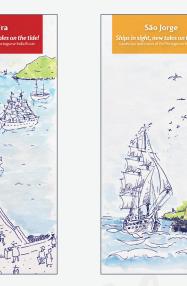
(EN) On the second day of June of the year 1587, at Porto da Villa das Lages of this island of Flores, a fleet of five English ships set anchor, teeming with men of war, with pretences of peace. From one of these vessels, a portuguese man ordered that sustenance should be

granted to them. Knowing of the weakness of the land, they came and in eight days, they plundered all's, including the temples, where they looted but few holy pictures and ornaments that the priests yielded with them amidst the fallen structures. The same was done

in Villa de Santa Cruz, and some things were saved at Ponta Delgada.

ficando casa em pé. O mesmo fizeram na Villa de Santa Cruz e algumas

coisas se salvaram no logar de Ponta Delgada."



Arquivo dos Açores, vol. X

Torts of Flores e do Corvo

Like many other places, some surviving forts built in Flores and Corvo along the years were reclassified and converted into scenic viewpoints. Despite this, some have entirely disappeared, and only their memory remains preserved in the place's toponymy.

Characteristics of the territory or the invocation of the churches that were close to it were generally adopted as the designation of forts. Therefore, some of the locations indicated are suggestions based on this evidence that can constitute discovery challenges for the traveller.

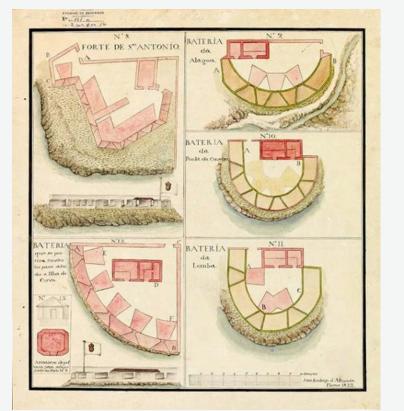
- 1. Battery of Alagoa, Cedros, Flores
- 2. Battery of Lomba, Lajes, Flores

Forts with unknown locations:

- 3. Battery of Ponta da Caveira, Santa Cruz, Flores
- 4. Fort of Pouças, Santa Cruz, Flores
- 5. Fort of Nossa Senhora do Rosário, Lajes, Flores
- 6. Fort of Nossa Senhora dos Milagres, Corvo
- 7. Fort of São Pedro, Ponta Delgada, Flores 8. Fort of São Sebastião da Ribeira da Cruz, Caveira, Flores

Fort of Laies, Laies, Flores Fort of Nossa Senhora da Conceição, Flores Fort of São Francisco, Santa Cruz, Flores Fort of Santo António, Lajes, Flores Fort of Espírito Santo, Lajes, Flores Fort of Monte Maio, Santa Cruz, Flores Fortlet of Nossa Senhora dos Remédios, Fajãzinha, Flores

Fortlet of São Caetano, Lomba, Flores Posto da Foz da Ribeira da Cruz, Santa Cruz, Flores Watchtower of Portinho, Santa Cruz, Flores



José Rodrigo de Almeida. "Forte de Sº António, n.º 8; Bateria da Ponta da Caveira n.º 10, Bateria da Lomba n.º 11; Bateria que se perciza construir para defender a ilha do Corvo n.º 12; Armazém da Pólvora para se fazer junto ao Forte de Sº António n.º 13" 1822



and cattle was fed. From sea herbs (patinha herb and seaweed), pastries were made, but, as expected, wisely seasoned with pepper.

The use of spices is common in Azorean gastronomy, which

This custom dates back to when they were abundant in the

Far from other islands and irregularly visited by vessels that

brought them sustenance from an early age, the populations

of Flores and Corvo found fundamental resources for their

nutrition in local products. From sedge grains, bread was made

islands' ports, and each locality adapted its use to its own taste.

surpasses the use of herbs, typical from the mainland's cuisine.

Influences on Faial's Cuisine

Ships in sight, new tales on the tide!

Landscape and traces of the Portuguese India Route

Run voyage was expected to return around the islands

Thematic Routes

Among the countless routes on the island, we propose three thematic itineraries: in one, you will be taken to places whose histories came across pirates and privateers; in another, you will uncover places where the means of surveillance and defence mechanisms were installed. In the last, you will be shown some episodes that happened to shipwrecked people who, with some frequency, came to Flores and Corvo.



REVOLVING AROUND SILVER

EPISODES OFSHIPWRECKS





deteriorated as they used poor quality materials and were Real accounts and legends tell of countless contacts

the nearby islands to resupply.

between the local inhabitants and the attackers and inheroic defences as, on many occasions, collaboration and

As you explore the island, we propose that you take a moment to appreciate some of the imprints and remnants that still testify to the passage of the ships from India and the memories they left in the westernmost islands of Europe. As the saying from Corvo goes,, there was always a ship on the tide carrying news, although not

1-4-5-6-7-9 10-12-14-16

8-13-15

2-3-11



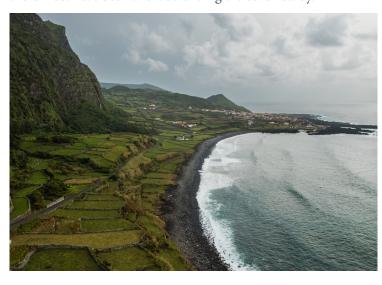
1. Islet of Monchique. Fajã Grande, Lajes

The islet of Monchique is located 1500 metres off the west coast of the island of Flores and is, therefore, the westernmost point in Europe. It is what remains of a volcanic cone that rises from a submarine platform 40 or 50 metres deep. However, in the time of astronomical navigation, it was an important point of reference and guidance that ships and galleons never failed to pay attention to



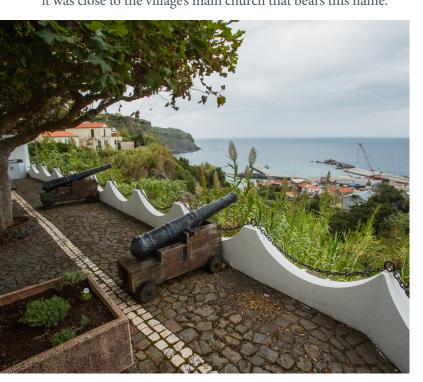
16. Pier of Estaleiro, Estaleiro, Fajã Grande

Although in Flores, the toponym "Estaleiro" (Shipyard) refers to places for drying cereals, it is natural that, initially, there was some type of facility here – such as a simple ramp – for ship repairs, equipment that would be useful both for local vessels and also for privateer and pirate vessels. For this same reason, there must have been a fort defending the cove nearby.



15. Fort of Nossa Senhora do Rosário, Baía da Calheta, Lajes

When the village of Lajes das Flores was invaded and plundered by five English vessels in 1587, the residents escaped to the outbacks, but this form of protection was possible due to the existence of a lookout that allowed them to alert others. At the beginning of the 18th century, this lookout was already designated as Fortlet of Nossa Senhora do Rosário, undoubtedly because it was close to the village's main church that bears this name.



14. Vila das Lajes

In the town of Lajes, its port location is very exposed and vulnerable to attacks by pirates and privateers, which may justify the location of the main buildings set back from the coastline. This is the case with the main church, which would immediately become a target for looting in the event of a robbery, and with the town hall building,



2. Ponta Ruiva, Cedros, Santa Cruz

An old local legend tells that in the Ponta Ruiva area, on the island of Flores, a fisherman found a girl who had escaped from a pirate boat that passed by, certainly after being taken hostage in another coastal location or vessel. Many red-haired and blue-eyed children were born from her marriage to the fisherman, which is why the place came to be called Ponta Ruiva.



3. Off the coast of Flores

In August of 1591, the largest Portuguese carrack ever built – the Nau Madre de Deus – sailed from Goa to Lisbon on its second voyage to India. Passing by Flores with an immense wealth of pearls, amber, fabrics, gold and silver, pepper, cloves, ebony, nutmeg, incense, Chinese porcelain and elephant tusks, among other precious things, it was attacked by six English privateering ships. After intense fighting, it is thought that the surviving crew was left in Flores, but the ship was seized and taken to England, where it amazed everyone with its impressive dimensions.



4. Ponta da Areia, Corvo

Baixa Rasa

Ilhéu do Cartário • Ponta Negra

Ponta dos Ilhéus

Legend has it that a citizen of Corvo, taken by pirates as a child, returned to the island as an adult to avenge the contempt he felt for being the son of a single mother accused of witchcraft. Their boats were seen from the Ponta da Areia area, and the pirate attack was repelled. The pirate from Corvo was killed, but his severed head still haunted the island's population for a few years.







Lomba eceira Coroa

Ponta Negra

onta do Capitão

Porto das Lajes

Lajes das Flores

w N

Ponta do Albarnaz Porto de Ponta Delgada Ponta do Ilhéu do Pão de Açúcar Quebrada Nova Ponta dos Fanais Peninha Ponta do Ilhéu do Pão de Açúcar Ponta Ruiva Ilhéu de Álvaro Rodrigues Burguilhão Ilhéu Garajau

Tapada Nova



Pico Negro

Fajã de Lopo Vaz

Ponta da

Pico do

Lourenço

Ponta Lopo Vaz

Vigia da Rocha Negra The image of Nossa Senhora dos Milagres (Our Lady of Miracles) in the church of the same name, is a wooden sculpture, a work of Flemish art from the 16th century that led to the temple's construction. It washed up on the coast of Corvo in a box with an inscription expressing the desire for a church to be built where it was found.

5. Sculpture of Our Lady of Miracles, Corvo



8. Fort of Nossa Senhora dos Milagres, Porto da Casa, Corvo

The Fort of Nossa Senhora dos Milagres, on the south coast of the island of Corvo, defended the Calheta anchorage, one of the three that served the town. It was probably built at the end of the 16th century because, as Gaspar Frutuoso reports, the coast was shallow there, and it was easy to embark and disembark. Around the same time, a high wall would have been built, five or six spans high and a league long, up to the steepest area – Pesqueiro Alto.



→ 7. Vila do Corvo

The tight concentration of Vila do Corvo's buildings on the tiny strip of land that, from the port area, rises up the hill overlooking it reflects the need to leave as much arable land free for subsistence crops and payment of the high rents owed to the island grantee. However, a town with narrow, cramped, and sloping streets also made it difficult for potential invaders to advance.

6. Church of Nossa Senhora dos Milagres, Corvo

Around 1570, a small chapel was built under the invocation of

of Vila do Corvo. In 1632, it was destroyed near the port during

a pirate raid, but legend says that the image of Our Lady, placed

in a strategic location, protected the population. Years later, the

people of the parish of Corvo gave way to the construction of

the parish church, and it was its second parish priest – Inácio Coelho – who, writing and publicising those events, attributed the miracle of the victory of the people of Corvo over the pirates to the Virgin Mary. From then on, the image came to be called

Nossa Senhora dos Milagres (Our Lady of Miracles).

Nossa Senhora do Rosário (Our Lady of the Rosary) in the village



● 9. The Privateer Peter Easton

The relationship of the English privateer Peter Easton with the island of Flores dates back to 1609 when he first resupplied meat, water and firewood here. In the following years, the visits were repeated, testifying to the convenience of a peaceful friendship for both parties. It is even said that the daughter of the captain-general of Flores was promised to Easton. However, the island's ombudsman and the captain-general would be arrested on charges of protecting privateers



● 10. Ribeira da Cruz Bay, Caveira, Santa Cruz

In 1591, the English privateer Richard Grenville, commanding a fleet of 15 ships, sought to intercept the Spanish fleet around Flores as it was returning to Spain loaded with the riches of South America. Grenville was defeated and died, but his epic was immortalised in a long poem descriptive of the battle entitled The Revenge – which was the name of his boat – by Alfred Tennyson:

At Flores, in the Azores, Sir Richard Grenville lay, And a pinnace, like a fluttered bird, came flying from far away:

"Spanish ships of war at sea! We have sighted fifty-three!"

One can imagine the grandiose naval battle in the bay of Ribeira da Cruz, where Grenville's fleet was ambushed.



13. Fort of Espírito Santo, Baía da Calheta, Lajes

The Fort of Espírito Santo was built in the 16th century next to the port of Lajes das Flores on the ruins of the original Chapel of Espírito Santo, which was later transferred to another location.



-● 11. Ponta da Caveira, Caveira, Santa Cruz

Ponta da Caveira (meaning Skull Point) got its name due to a shipwrecked man, undoubtedly an English Protestant, who ended up there and where he stayed for the rest of his life. When he died, a skull began to appear, and neighbours interpreted the phenomenon as a plea for masses in his name. Once the request was satisfied, the skull stopped bothering the locals... not without first building a niche to tell the story.

• 12. Gruta do Enxaréu, Caveira, Santa Cruz

Located on the east coast of the island of Flores, close to the parish of Caveira, the Gruta dos Enxaréus was a place of refuge for pirate and privateer vessels who, in addition to hiding, could ambush anyone seeking to approach the port of Santa Cruz.



