Located in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, the Azorean Islands and their shores provide some of the best conditions in the world for wave sports. From beach breaks to point breaks, it is possible to enjoy wave sports all year round, as the water temperature is always mild. In the summertime, the waves are smooth and perfect, so the Azores also provide conditions for those who are at a learning stage or for a family surf trip. But in the wintertime there are intense, hollow and challenging waves, as those in the dreams of every surfer, breaking onto the rocky bottoms of the islands.

Every year the World Championship Tour makes a stop at the Azores, with the SATA Airlines Pro, the prime event of the ASP qualification series. This is, in fact, one of the favourite events in the World Series, considering the strong, hollow waves of the Azores. The archipelago also hosts one event of the Euro junior, a surfing championship for younger athletes who compete in several areas of this sport.
WindSurf/KiteSurf

In a region where, during the wintertime, there are several weather fronts, wind is a constant, providing therefore great conditions for both windsurfing and kitesurfing. The Azores feature several ports, coves, beaches, and lakes, so it is possible to enjoy both sports in the ocean and onshore. Windsurfers can enjoy strong, consistent conditions. For the windsurfers, there are off shore and side shore winds, allowing long rides along the islands’ coasts. For those in search of adrenaline, beach breaks with on-shore winds provide great conditions for both windsurfing and kite surfing. The same lake is suitable for both sports but it suits strong winds best. Safely, the lakes of Furnas and Sete Ciadades offer world-class conditions for windsurfing or kitesurfing, as well as good low wind conditions for beginners.

In addition, the Azores host an event of the Formula Windsurf and Slalom world championships on a yearly basis.

CanYoning

The Azores are located in the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Composed of nine volcanic islands, the archipelago provides excellent canyoning conditions. Santa Maria, São Miguel, São Jorge and Flores offer a vast supply of beautiful itineraries, each of them with its own specificities. The islands of Terceira and Ela also provide good canyoning conditions for beginners. However, the Island of Flores provides the most diversified itineraries, from large vertical descents to simple tracks. Following Flores, the island of São Jorge features several spots of great interest and potential. There are also interesting spots on the islands of São Miguel and Santa Maria.

The interest for canyoning has been growing in the Azores from the part of both visitors and locals. This interest has been leading to the creation of several companies that invest in the development of this activity.

Cycling/Mountain Biking

The mountain bike is the nature exploration vehicle par excellence. Destinations such as the Azores, where nature and trails are a constant, represent perfect environments for those who are looking for an exhilarating experience.

From ultra-technical single tracks that connect mountains, basalt and rocks to roads surrounding lakes or crossing mountain ranges. Flow tracks with waterfalls and rivers make the Azorean islands an activity for all taste and technical skills. If you would rather ride on the road, every island provides a large road network formed by licorice and Japanese cedar. These roads connect interesting landscapes and sites of culture, as well as beautiful villages, small hamlets, and high mountain peaks. In addition to all these nature adventures, you have the possibility of ending your bike ride day at a bathing site, whether to enjoy a warm water bath, the crystal clear ocean water or a tidal pool.

Paragliding

The Azores are deemed a singular paragliding destination, providing several spots, as well as take-off and landing areas that combine adventure with amazing landscapes.

It is possible to paraglide all year round, but summer months are the best to practice this sport.

Technical cross-country flights, which allow covering volcanic craters, lakes, beaches and cliffs, are ideal for every level of paraglider. In fact, the village of Sete Ciadades, on São Miguel Island, has been elected by a European jury as one of the most beautiful sites of free flight in Europe. The Azores Paragliding Festival is in its 20th edition and takes place in August, inviting many national and international pilots to, during a week, exchange experiences in the best paragliding spots of São Miguel Island.