



An aerial view of the northeast coastline of Terceira. Visible is Lajes Field/Air Base 4, and the runway that serves both the base and Lajes International Airport. Farms can be seen at the north end and to the west of the runway, and on the east side of base. Directly to the south is the city of Praia. (Courtesy photo)

THE THIRD

Terceira known to Portuguese navigators as No. 3 to be discovered

The island of Terceira, or the Island of Jesus Christ, as it was known to the Portuguese navigators during the discoveries era was third to be discovered, hence its name which means "third."

With an elliptical shape, Terceira has an area of approximately 148 square miles and is the third largest Azorean island with a population of approximately 57,000 people.

History

The island, namely the port of Angra do Heroismo, played an important role in the 15th and 16th centuries as a port of call for sailing ships carrying the wealth of the Americas, Africa, and India. In fact, Vasco da Gama's brother was buried in Angra in the church that is located next to Angra Museum during their return from Vasco da Gama's first voyage to India.

With the fall of the Portuguese throne to Phillip II of Spain in 1580, the island became a center of resistance against Spanish rule. In fact, the first attempt by Spanish troops to invade the island resulted in their complete defeat when a group of Terceira natives led by a brave woman named Brianda Pereira and an Augustinian monk named Friar Pedro, inflicted an absolute defeat on the invaders in the famous battle of Salga Bay in 1581. With the restoration of Portugal's independence in 1640, the Spanish were expelled and life returned to normal.



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The struggles between two political movements in the early 19th century, the Absolutists and the Liberals, led Terceira to once again

play an important role in Portugal's history. Terceira had supported the Liberal cause since 1820. After several struggles, the Absolutists were dominated and the island became the liberals' main base. On Aug. 11, 1829, the town of Praia heroically resisted an attack and attempted landing by an Absolutist fleet of 21 ships, defeating them. The event resulted in the town being granted the title of Vitoria (victory) in 1837.

The end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries were marked by a significant reduction of Terceira's role in the life of the Azores. However, the existence of an important air base, airport and the construction of a commercial port in Praia da Vitoria has since broadened the island's development perspectives.

The island's main towns are Angra do Heroismo and Praia da Vitoria with approximately 14,000 and 7,000 inhabitants respectively.

Angra do Heroismo

Angra do Heroismo, located at the base of Mount Brazil, features some old churches, a museum and monuments, the most notable of which is the fortress of São João Batista. This fortress is about 3.7 miles long and was built during the Spanish occupation. It was designed as both a bastion against pirates and a

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Mag solves 'what's on?' quiz

by 1st Lt. Aaron Wiley
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"What's on tonight," a common question of the American Forces Network viewer is now answered by two products at Lajes: a magazine and a website.

Public affairs replaced the local AFN television guide, that used to consume three pages of the Crossroads, in January with a commercial publication called "R&R TV." The magazine caters to the European-stationed American military member by providing a monthly AFN cable and satellite schedule alongside articles on European travel, automobiles, movie reviews, shopping and kitchen ideas.

"Lajes wasn't getting issues of 'R&R', a service available at other USAFE bases, because they didn't know we were out here," said Tech Sgt. Jason Tudor, NCOIC of public affairs. "The guide is a cost effective way to provide viewers with the same information while freeing up room for news in the base paper."

The monthly TV guide can be picked up in the base post office next to the Crossroads or the Commissary at the beginning of each month.

"Eight hundred issues are available; which should be enough for the AFN audience at Lajes," says 1st Lt. Yvonne Levardi, Chief of public af-

The base newspaper and "R&R" magazine are available at the post office each week at about 11:30 a.m.

fairs.

"R&R" magazine also offers an online TV guide at www.rmagazine.com if the magazine version is not available.

For viewers unfamiliar with the guide, the schedule uses Central European Time, a two hour time difference from Azorean time. This means shows will air here two hours earlier than listed.

"One thing to note, however, is that we delay the Atlantic station, channel 37, by two hours as a courtesy to Lajes members so that primetime showings actually take place during primetime," said Senior Master Sgt. Jesse Hall, Chief of Detachment 6, Air Force News Agency. "That way people aren't missing their favorite shows while they're trying to get home from work."

A second alternative to the "R&R" service is the online TV guide at www.myafn.net. Users can enter their local time, the date and the viewing format that best suits them, to get a listing of programs. The online guide does not account for the time delay on channel 37. Users must factor this in for themselves.

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means for the Spanish to defend themselves from the island's population, who had never accepted the Spanish domination.

The most important sites the city has to offer are the Palace of the Captains Generals, the main cathedral, town hall, the garden, the museum, Mount Brazil and the fortress that surrounds it.

The city is currently the headquarters for the Regional Government Offices' of Education and Social Affairs, the Office of the Minister of the Republic for the Azores, and one of the University of the Azores's departments and the Episcopal church.

The reconstruction of the city following a 1980 earthquake observed all the rules in place in order to preserve the style of the damaged buildings and monuments. This led the United Nations's organization "UNESCO" to classify the city as a World Heritage Site in 1983.

Praia da Vitoria

Praia da Vitoria, located about three miles from the base, was the seat of the island's government in the early settlement period (1456-1474) and became a town in 1640. It too was partially destroyed by an earthquake in 1841. Its economic importance and growth during the past few decades justified it being raised to city status

on June 20, 1981. Praia also features the only sandy strip on the island. Other sites of interest in Praia include the Matriz Church, Town Hall, the Praia overlook (where you can enjoy a breathtaking view of the city) and the Fort of Santa Catarina on the other side of the bay, next to the commercial port.

Terceira has several other villages whose beauty and tourist attractions make them worth a closer look. They include Biscoitos (where the wine museum is located), Porto Martins, Porto Judeu, Serreta, São Sebastião and São Mateus. Visitors will also enjoy the luxuriant island-wide landscape as well as two caves (Furna d'Água and Algar do Carvão, featuring stalagmites and stalactites) and the sulfur pits at the center of the island.

For those who enjoy spending the weekend outdoors I suggest you try the campgrounds next to Salga bay, which is similar to the American KOAs. For an afternoon out, try the Duck Lake in the middle of the island, Serreta Park, top of Mount Brazil or Salgueiros near Porto Martins. All of these are calm and pleasant places that provide relaxing and enjoyable moments.

Culture

As for cultural events, Terceira probably has more summer festivals and cultural activities than any of the other Azorean islands. Following Easter Sunday, the

island's streets come to life with revelers celebrating the Holy Ghost festivals, an old religious tradition brought to the Azores by the first settlers around 1432. The first of May brings one of the most popular events on the island: the street bullfighting. This tradition goes back to the 16th century and came to the island by the hands of the Portuguese noblemen although, likely influenced by the Spanish here at the time, as well.

Then in June is time for the island's largest festival called "Sanjoaninas." This nine-day festival sponsored by Angra City Hall takes place during the last two weeks of the month and features parades, musical concerts, displays, sports activities, street and arena bullfights as well as other cultural events. The City of Praia also sponsors a similar event every year during the first week and a half of August.

Cuisine

Alcatra, grilled or boiled fish, Holy Ghost and vegetable soup, sweet bread and the beef stew are just some of the island's gastronomic delights that you don't want to miss before you leave the island.

Lastly, I would like to encourage all members of the American community at Lajes Field to get out of the base and experience the island's beauty and culture. Although this island is very small, it still has a lot to offer the visitors and residents in terms of history, culture and gastronomy.



Movies showing at the base theater.

Today: "The Big Bounce," 7 p.m., PG-13, 88 minutes. Owen Wilson and Morgan Freeman. Jack, a likeable drifter whose talents lie just outside the law, heads for Hawaii hoping the scenery will bring him luck. On the exotic North Shore of Oahu, he soon discovers that whether he's looking for a new con or a little romance, temptation is everywhere. Rated PG-13 for sexual content and nudity, violence and language. "The Perfect Score," 10 p.m., PG-13, 93 minutes. Erika Christensen and Chris Evans. Six high school students desperate to get into top-notch colleges develop a plan to break into the Princeton Testing Center to steal the answers for the S.A.T. in order to prevent the test from unfairly defining who they'll become. Each has his or her own set of circumstances that leads to the conclusion that the only way to truly decide one's own fate is to beat the system. Rated PG-13 for language, sexual content and some drug references. **Saturday:** "Calendar Girls," 7 p.m., PG-13, 108 minutes. Julie Walters and Helen Mirren. Chris and Annie are best of friends living in a small village in the Yorkshire Dales. Chris enlists the support of her fellow Women's Club members in a fund-raising initiative for the local hospital. Her seemingly traditional idea to produce a calendar has a radical twist – the women will be in the nude. Before they know it, the women are hitting the headlines at home and abroad. Amidst the hype and glamour, the friendship between Chris and Annie is put to the test. Rated PG-13 for nudity, some language and drug-related material. **Sunday:** "The Big Bounce," 2 p.m., "The Perfect Score," 7 p.m. **Tuesday:** "Calendar Girls," 7 p.m. **Wednesday:** "The Big Bounce," 7 p.m. **Thursday:** "The Perfect Score," 7 p.m.