Sites to visit on Terceira Island

What historical places or monuments can be visited on Terceira Island?

Terceira Island has several historical sites and monuments that can be visited throughout the year.

Starting in the city of Angra, the first town in the Azores to be raised to the status of city in 1534, and a port of call for the ships plying the oceans during the 15th and 16th centuries, you can visit the Fortress of St. John the Baptist.

One of the most impressive Portuguese fortresses of the 16th century, this current military structure is a thick wall approximately 3.7 miles long that surrounds the base of Mount Brazil facing the city of Angra. The Spanish built it during their occupation of the island between 1582 and 1640.

On top of Mount Brazil lies a monument with a Portuguese cross. The monument was erected in 1932 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the Azores by Portuguese navigators.

On the other side of Angra bay lies the Fort of São Sebastião. This small fortress is also known as “Castelino,” which means small castle, and was used by the Portuguese and British forces during World War II. Its installations inside are currently being renovated to accommodate a small inn in the near future.

On top of the city’s park is the “Memória” monument, an obelisk built in 1834 to recall the presence of Portuguese King Dom Pedro IV on the island. From this place visitors have a dazzling view of the entire city of Angra.

Other places to visit in Angra include the Museum, which features many old artifacts and military items; the Town Hall; and the Palace of Captain Generals, a former Jesuit monastery that features a valuable collection of ancient furniture and other works of art. The main Cathedral and the Churches of Colégio, Misericórdia, S. Francisco and S. Gonçalo display a variety of carved woodwork, glazed tiles, sculptures and panel paintings.

One of the most famous historical places on the island is Salga Bay. This small bay, located in the village of Porto Judeu, was the site of a famous battle on July 25, 1581 between the Spanish troops who were trying to invade the island and Portuguese forces joined by the local population.

According to history records, the Spanish fleet was defeated when a young woman named Brianda Pereira and a monk, Friar Pedro, thought of a stratagem to defeat the invaders. They gathered more than 1,000 cattle and drove them against the enemy. The Spaniards fell back to the shore, where almost all of them perished while trying to reach their ships.

Another historical place worth a visit is the Fort of Santa Catarina located next to the commercial port in Cabo da Praia. This old former military structure is the last of several small fortresses and walls that defended Praia bay at one time.

The City of Praia on the other hand, features the Main Church with its 15th century Gothic doorway donated by King Manuel I, the Church of Holy Christ as well as the Town Hall.

To find out more about these monuments and sites or when they can be visited, call Public Affairs at 2-3413.

Brushing the right way

Today: 7 p.m. “Lord of the Rings: Return of the King” PG-13, 200 minutes. Cast includes Elijah Wood and Ian McKellen. Synopsis: Hobbits Frodo and Sam push farther into the land of Mordor to destroy the ring of power. Traveling with them, in an uneasy alliance, is the deceitful Gollum, who brings them to the very heart of Mount Doom. The warrior Aragorn, revealed to be the lost King of Gondor, travels to Minas Tirith with an army of undead soldiers and the remaining member of the fellowship to rescue the ancient city from Lord Sauron’s grasp. Rated PG-13 for intense epic battle sequences and frightening images. Tickets will go on sale at 10 a.m. each day and the snack bar will open an hour and a half before the show.

Saturday and Sunday: Noon and 7 p.m. “Lord of the Rings: Return of the King” PG-13.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 7 p.m. “Lord of the Rings: Return of the King” PG-13.

Lindsay Boyden, daughter of Katie and Capt. Robert Boyden, and Shakeen Cross, son of Staff Sgt. Antunette Cross, brush Mr. Henry “the healthy smile” Alligator during a demonstration Monday in Kelly Raby’s first grade class. February is children’s dental health awareness month. (Photo by Ted McGinley)