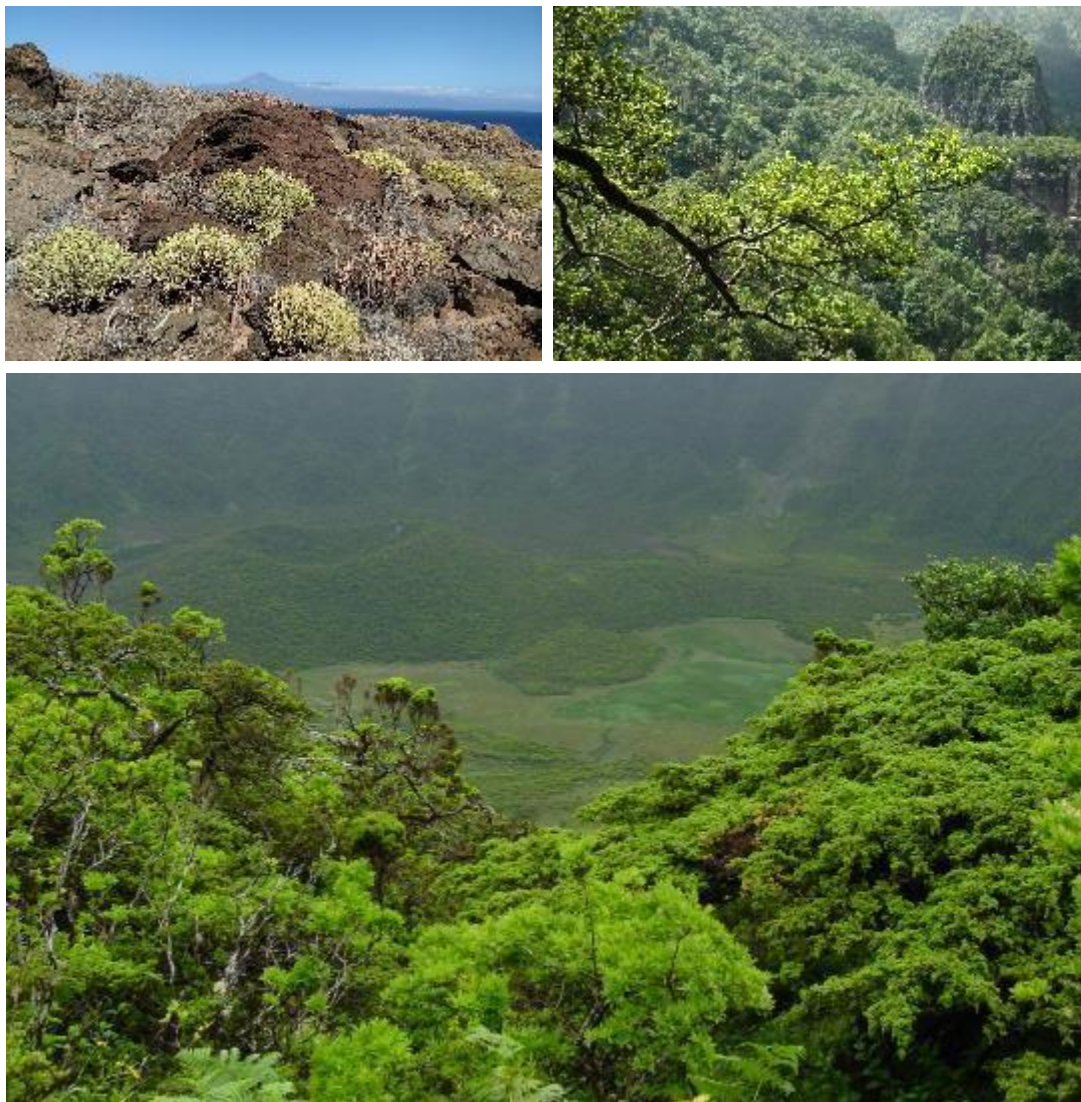




# Field Trip Guide

## Natura 2000 Seminar for the Macaronesian Region

### 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023



8 – 10 November 2023  
Angra do Heroísmo, Portugal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Macaronesian Biogeographical seminar





## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE EXCURSION

The excursion takes participants to the Natura 2000 Network sites on Terceira island and mainly in the intervention areas of the LIFE projects being implemented in the Azores, namely LIFE IP AZORES NATURA<sup>1</sup> and LIFE BEETLES<sup>2</sup>.

The LIFE projects and its beneficiaries have implemented several nature conservation measures on habitats and species in these areas.

The field trip will start from the Hotel Terceira Mar at 9:00 am, in one group. Between visiting the different areas, we will have lunch with picnic basket at the Forest Reserve “Viveiro da Falca”. See the detailed schedule below. The tours will be guided by the project managers of LIFE Projects.

Please bring your own water bottles and clothes suitable for the November weather conditions. Waterproofed outdoor shoes/boots are recommended.

- <sup>1</sup>**LIFE IP AZORES NATURA** - LIFE IP AZORES NATURA project covers 24 SACs, 15 SPAs and 2 SCIs of the Natura 2000 Network in the Azores, seeking to attain a significant contribute for the conservation of species and habitats protected by the Habitats and Bird Directives that underlie their designation. - <https://www.lifeazoresnatura.eu/en/>
- <sup>2</sup>**LIFE BEETLES** - The project aim is to improve the population size, distribution area and conservation status of three endemic beetle species: Ironclade beetle (*Tarphius floresensis*) on Flores island, Laurocho (*Pseudanchomenus aptinoides*) on Pico Island and Ground beetle (*Trechus terrabravensis*) on Terceira Island.- <https://www.lifebeetlesazores.com/en/>



Figure 1 – Endemic forests with *Juniperus* spp. (9560\*) in Terceira island.  
Photo of LIFE IP AZORES NATURA project ©

## Program for the day

**09:00 Meeting point – Hotel Terceira-Mar entrance**

**09:30 Visit to Ponta das Contendas (Natura 2000, Special Protection Area; Protected Area for management of habitats or species; Important Bird Area)**

In this area one of our Nature Rangers will explain some of the work being done within the Island Natural Park of Terceira to promote conservation of the nesting bird species *Sterna hirundo*, *Sterna dougallii* and *Calonectris borealis*, which nests in this area between April and August.

**10:15 Visit to Serra do Cume**

Serra do Cume, a geosite of the Azores UNESCO Global Geopark, is part of the Volcanic Complex of Cinco Picos, the oldest volcano in Terceira island (3.5 million years), and its viewpoint is facing the biggest caldera in the Azores (7 Km in diameter). The caldera hosts a reticulate of green pastures that composes the landscape known as “patchwork”.

**11:15 Visit to “Lagoa do Negro”- intervention area of LIFE IP AZORES NATURA**

In this area we will observe an area where the project is proceeding to the removal of Exotic and Invasive Alien Species (*Cryptomeria japonica*, *Cyathea cooperi*, *Rubus ulmifolius*, *Hedychium gardnerianum*) and where essays are being performed for the reintroduction of *Sphagnum* sp and planting of native species. To enhance waterlogging of the peatland, and reutilizing the *Cryptomeria japonica* removed, boards from this wood were installed to block the drainage of water as of September 2021.

**12:15 Lunch with picnic basket at Forest Reserve “Viveiro da Falca”**

**13:15 Visit to the “Furnas do Enxofre area” – Intervention area of LIFE IP AZORES NATURA**

This project area was chosen in order to establish a green corridor, connecting fragmented habitats. This green corridor between “Furnas do Enxofre” and “Biscoito Rachado” (in the Terra-Brava / Pico Alto massif), intends to connect an extremophile habitat from the Directive “Fumarolas” with the pristine spot of Macaronesian bushland and Bog woodlands of “Biscoito Rachado”, increasing the “Furnas” ecosystem resilience. It includes actions of ecological restoration in old agricultural lands (now property of SRAAC), the control of exotic species in small patches of forest and natural bushland, and reconversion of old eucalyptus plantations into natural bushland.

Walking trail to Algar do Carvão area with view to interventions areas of the LIFE BEETLES project, and visit to one of the sites. In these sites, large plantations of eucalyptus forest (3,7ha and 11ha) are being reconverted to natural forests in order to increase the available habitat for one of the target species of the project- *Trechus terrabravensis* an endemic beetle unique to Terceira Island, that is classified as endangered by the IUCN red list. Different types of approaches are being taken in these sites: for example, removal of eucalyptus trees by sectioning, in order to preserve natural understory present in the site; complete removal of trees in more degraded areas in order to “clean the slate” for planting of native species.

**14:30 Visit to volcanic cave Algar do Carvão**

This site is a Natural Monument and a geosite of international relevance, it is included in the world’s top ten list of volcanic caves with deposits of amorphous silica. It is a volcanic pit associated to a basaltic eruption overlapping trackytic formations. This volcanic cave houses important troglobite fauna, with several endemic species.

**16:00 Visit to local winery (Adega Cooperativa dos Biscoitos) with wine tasting;**

Located in the Protected Landscape Area of Biscoitos’ Vineyards, a protected landscape for the traditional vineyard culture and a geosite of the Azores UNESCO Global Geopark.



## 17:30 Return to hotel



Figure 2 – Volcanic cave of Algar do Carvão

### People:

During the site visit, various parties involved in the management will be present to discuss the management and explain the different intervention areas and restoration actions implemented.

The following people will join the excursion:

- Carla Silva (Division of Protected Areas - Regional Directorate for the Environment and Climate Change)
- Maria Teresa Ferreira (Project Manager of LIFE BEETLES)
- Diana Pereira (Project Manager of LIFE IP AZORES NATURA)
- João Filipe Fernandes (Assistant Manager of LIFE IP AZORES NATURA)
- Susana Gonçalves (Director of Environmental and Climate Change Services/Island Natural Park of Terceira)

### Info:

- <https://www.lifeazoresnatura.eu/en/intervention-areas/>
- <https://www.lifebeetlesazores.com/en/intervention-areas/>

### Excursion Route in Detail:

