

CONDÉ NAST

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

SEPTEMBER 2015

# Traveler

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STYLE & DESIGN ISSUE — FEZ — FRANCE — ROME — URUGUAY

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**THE  
STYLE  
& DESIGN  
ISSUE**

**Insider's Guides:  
Rome / Fez / Berlin / L.A.**



11 | Austin, Texas

Where the country's best summer music festival happens in . . . October.

**Why Now** Fall may be the finest time to visit Austin, period. After a long, hot summer, temperatures finally become bearable (in the 70s and 80s), and the cultural calendar fills with shows and art openings. Come October, the Austin City Limits Music Festival pulls into town for two sunscreen-soaked weekends, with 100-plus acts ranging from Florence and the Machine to Deadmau5 and The Strokes (aclfestival.com).

**What's New** Two hotly anticipated hotels arrived over the summer: the mid-century-inspired South Congress Hotel, home to *Top Chef* winner Paul Qui's next-wave sushi bar Otoko (southcongresshotel.com; from \$224), and Kimpton's music-themed Hotel Van Zandt, just off lively Rainey Street (hotelvanzandt.com; from \$266). Another well-situated newcomer is the Westin Austin Downtown, one block from Sixth Street's bars and music clubs (westinaustindowntown.com; from \$129).

**Action Plan** Three days is plenty of time to take in the best of the city—four if you're devoting a full weekend to the Austin City Limits Music Festival. But book your flights, rooms, and festival tickets early: Everything sells out well in advance.

12 | Azores, Portugal

Your next European beach holiday could be only a five-hour flight away.

**Why Now** A little more than halfway between the East Coast and Europe, the nine volcanic isles of Portugal's Azores archipelago deliver sunny-but-cool weather year-round. And thanks to direct flights from Boston, beaches like the white sand Baía da Praia Formosa, on Santa Maria, are just five hours away. Fall ushers in Terceira's Angrajazz festival (angrajazz.com; Oct. 1–3), followed by the Wine in Azores event (wineinazores.com; Oct. 23–25) and the Outono Vivo world music festival (outonovivo.com; Oct. 30–Nov. 15).

**What's New** Last year brought in a wave of hotels and spas, including Design Hotels' Furnas Boutique Hotel, with 55 rooms and a spring-fed thermal spa, on the island of São Miguel, below (furnasboutiquehotel.com; from \$100). There are also new museums and hiking trails to explore, including the nearly 50-mile network of the Great Route on Santa Maria.

**Action Plan** Book one of SATA International's nonstops from Boston to São Miguel, which take off daily through mid-October and then thrice a week (sata.pt). Spend four or five days island-hopping and filling your days with thermal pools, nature preserves, and whale-watching voyages. ♦

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10 | Brazilian Beaches

Catch summer on its way in with an exotic coastal getaway—sans jet lag.

An easy overnight flight (with not much of a time change) gets North Americans to and from Brazil, where summer's approaching just as winter hits the States—the ideal time for a Rio de Janeiro getaway followed by a sailing trip in Angra dos Reis and Paraty. South American travel experts **Dehouche** show us how it's done (dehouche.com).

**Day 1:** Land in Rio and head to Ipanema's ultra-stylish Fasano Hotel, whose rooftop pool offers the city's best scene of sunbathing Brazilian models and soccer stars (fasano.com.br; from \$780). Afterward, get your

bearings with a private tour of Rio's highlights, followed by a guided induction into its samba-centric nightlife. **Day 2:** Make a beeline for the beach, shop Ipanema's boutiques, and then bid Rio farewell with dinner at favorite *churrascaria* Porcão (porcao.com.br) or the more sophisticated option Lasai (lasai.com.br).

**Days 3–4:** Rise early for a three-hour ride to Angra in a private car. There, you'll board a crewed yacht and sail around to Paraty, where the snorkeling and stand-up paddle-boarding are second only to the seafood.

**Days 5–6:** Back on land in brightly painted colonial-era Paraty, check into Casa Turquesa, above, best for couples (casaturquesa.com.br; from \$475), or the family-friendly Pousada Literária (pousadaliteraria.com.br; from \$300). Delve into Paraty's shops and restaurants, hike the nearby rain forest, and swim in waterfall-fed pools.

**Day 7:** Enjoy a relaxing morning in Paraty, then be driven the four hours to Rio for your flight home.



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