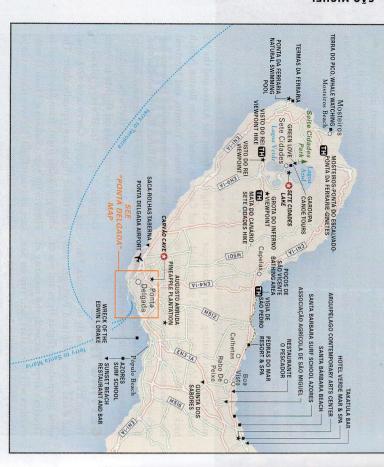
## São Miguel



Ferry Terminal, on varying days and times—check the Atlanticoline website for details. Due to the rough Atlantic waters, ferry service is slow and often unreliable. The journey from Santa Maria takes 2.5-3 hours and costs around 650 one-way. From Terceira, the journey takes roughly 6 hours and costs about 670 one-way.

## GETTING AROUND

São Miguel has a public bus network that covers most coastal areas and main sights, but not rural inland areas. Buses are cheap but patchy, infrequent on weekends, and can be slow. A rental car is the best way to explore São Miguel. Guided excursions and taxis for longer trips can be costly; renting

a car generally proves to be cheaper and provides more flexibility for exploring the island.

## Rental Car

A rental car is your best option for getting around São Miguel. Fuel is cheaper than in mainland Portugal, good highways cover the island, and navigating the quiet, winding roads is easy: Keep the sea on the left, and eventually you'll come full circle (driving around the island in its entirety without stopping would take 4-5 hours). A half-dozen rental companies operate at Ponta Delgada Airport (www.aeroportopontadelgada.pt). The desks can get crowded, particularly early in the morning when cars are being returned,

AND POOL AND FORMOSO PORT Vila Franca do Campo GORREANA TEA PLANTATION São Bras AZORES FISHING [A1-5H3] TERRA AZUL EN1-1A Furnas O Ribeira Fogo Quente Beach B → CAFÉ RESTAURANT JARDIM EN1-1A PONTA DO SOSSEGO VIEWPOINT AND GARDEN Nordeste @ MOON.COM

so allow more time than usual to drop off the car. Local companies such as **Autatlantis** (tel. 296 205 340; www.autatlantis.com) and **Micauto** (tel. 296 284 382; www.micauto.com) have offices in Ponta Delgada's city center and offer competitive rates. Reserve a car well in advance, as they sell out in peak seasons, especially summer.

## Bus

Three bus companies service the island:
Auto Viação Micaelense (tel. 296 301 358),
Caetano Raposo & Pereiras (CRP) (tel. 296 304 260), and Varela & Ca. (tel. 296 301 800). You can find the timetables here: http://horarios.visitazores.de/smiAVM.pdf. Each operates different routes, but most buses

erated by MiniBus (tel. 967 995 536; €4.50 and frequent service between Ponta Delgada riving in Furnas in roughly 1.5 hours (€5 visitazores.de/smiAVM.pdf)—depart from services-the 110 and 318 (http://horarios. one-way) hourly, every day of the week, 5am-Airport and Ponta Delagda town center, opfrequently used by tourists include a circular depart from outside the Ponta Delgada one-way). ing along the main waterfront avenue, armidnight. Tourists may also want to take the fares and timetables. The bus services most tourist office, where you should head for various locations in Ponta Delgada, includbus between Ponta Delgada and Furnas: Two