

# AZORES, PRESERVING NATURE: TEACHING SUSTAINABILITY SKILLS

**Teacher:** NEUZA SALVADOR

**Course Duration:** one week, from Monday to Saturday, 30 hours

**Number of Participants:** Min. 6 – Max. 20

**Course location / point of departure :** PONTA DELGADA City



## DESCRIPTION

This course has been created for teachers who want to have an effective approach to nature and sustainability education with innovative indoor and outdoor learning practices.

The participants will start the journey in one of the most beautiful places in the world - São Miguel Island on the archipelago of the Azores. This archipelago it's formed by 9 volcanic islands in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and has recently received Silver status of international certification as a first archipelago sustainable destination in the world.

Teaching sustainable skills about the best way to preserve nature it's the main point of this course and for that we are going to learn how to teach others, every day, doing some experiences alone, in groups with cooperation, sharing knowledge, fun and respect. We are also going to be in contact with wildlife, nature and people to observe, understand and instruct what we can do to help them.

Participants will leave the course full of knowledge on how to make the learning process easier and more interesting based on the factors of mindfulness and positive education skills about preserving nature, in different places and times.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**Participants to the course will learn to:**

- Learning ways to preserve nature and all the ecosystem;
- Instructing how to teach students, community and also family, to improve the idea of sustainability and protecting nature;
- Including dynamics teaching forms;
- Creating innovative outdoor teaching activities that promote green action;
- Inventing new techniques to preserve nature;
- Introducing new strategies in the school areas;
- Intercultural competences and enhanced cultural awareness.

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## PROGRAM

### Monday

- Introduction of the course and the participants
- Ice break group energy
- Setting goals for participants
- Presentations of the participant's schools
- Discussion and sharing experiences about group dynamics
- Approaches to outdoor education: fear-based/risk discourse vs positive approach
- Reflection - **Nature vs. Sustainability**

### Tuesday

- Guided visit tour to Sete Cidades and outdoor education about preserving wild nature
- Pedestrian circuit of the "7 Cidades"/"Lagoas das 7 cidades" (walking tour)
- Developing spontaneity, intuition and active listening during the walk
- Exercise in pairs and alone in a middle of the forest
- Touching and observing the wild environment
- Reflection - **How can I use outdoor preserving learning in my school?**

### Wednesday

- Boat trip to the islet of Vila Franca do Campo (morning on the islet)
- Outdoor education around Vila Franca do Campo to observe/visit some museums and traditional shops
- Learning different ways to preserve nature every day in different situations
- Seeing the evolution of conservation of nature in the last 50 years
- Doing some practice exercises

### Thursday

- Outdoor education in Furnas about reserved, areas of the Azores and the environmental education program
- Visit "Terra Nostra Garden," learning about flora and fauna
- Working in groups in order to create new strategies to preserve nature and sustainability
- Developing spontaneity, intuition and active listening
- Reflection - **What's the best strategy to teach everyone about preservation?**

### Friday

- Whale and dolphin watching
- Developing considerations about wildlife and conservation
- Learning efficient ways to teach students, community and also family
- Sharing experiences of outdoor education
- Reflection - **What can we still do to be more sustainable and green?**

### Saturday

- "Outdoor Education" activity in the city of Ponta Delgada", which works on various areas of knowledge: STEAM; HISTORY & NARRATIVE; PROBLEM SOLVING AND CIVIC COMPETENCE;
- Summary of key learning points
- Open discussion on possible future collaborations and planning follow up activities
- Final course evaluation and feedback
- Validation of learning outcomes and handling certificates