

## Climate

The climate of the Archipelago of the Azores is essentially dictated by the geographical location of the islands within the context of the global atmospheric and oceanic circulation and by the influence of the aquatic mass from which they emerge.

In very broad terms, the climate may be characterized by mild temperatures (sea level temperatures: annual average of 17°C, February average of 14.5°C and August average of 22°C), by high humidity levels (above 80%), by relatively low sunlight levels (1600 full sunlight hours per year), by regular and abundant rain (sea level precipitation: from 750 mm on the Island of Santa Maria to 1700 mm on the Island of Flores) and by a vigorous wind regime, which goes around the archipelago, following the evolution of atmospheric circulation patterns at the North Atlantic basin scale.

The temperature of seawater, higher than the one in European coastal regions at the same latitude, varies regularly throughout the year, oscillating, in average, between 15°C and 23°C.