

Gary Worrell

From: Gary Worrell [gcw@igx.net]
Sent: 13 September, 2012 08:24
To: 'Gary Worrell'
Subject: Postcard
Attachments: Hello.jpg; AzoresSatellite.GIF; Azores_old_map.jpg; TerceiraSatellite.GIF; AtlantidaMar06.jpg; 120912PraiaDaVitoriaHarborSunrise02.jpg; AtlantidaMar02.jpg; 120912PraiaDaVitoria01.jpg; 120912PraiaDaVitoria04.jpg; 120912PraiaDaVitoria06.jpg; 120912PraiaDaVitoria07.jpg; 120912PraiaDaVitoria16.jpg; 120912PraiaDaVitoria19.jpg; 120912PraiaDaVitoria22.jpg; 120912PraiaDaVitoria27.jpg; 120912PraiaDaVitoria31.jpg; 120912PraiaDaVitoria35.jpg; 120912PraiaDaVitoriaHarbor01.jpg

Hello (see attached, I'll never surpass the last Hello...).

About 1160 miles West-North-West of the Straits of Gibraltar in the Atlantic is a geological hotspot created by the collision of 3 of the world's largest tectonic plates – the North American Plate, the Eurasian Plate, and the African Plate. The grinding of the plates at this intersection generates enough heat to spew hot lava upwards, creating a volcanic archipelago of islands, today known as the Azores (see Azores satellite image, the coast of Portugal can be seen at the top).

Archeological finds indicate there were human inhabitants at least 2000 years ago, but it was the Portuguese who colonized the islands in the 15th century. The third largest island in the archipelago is Terceira, known as Ilha Lilas, the lilac island. Among the first colonies on Terceira was Praia, occupying the North and East portion of the island.

In 1826, King John VI of the United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil and Algarve upped and died. This caused turmoil over which of his sons should succeed the throne, Pedro or Miguel. Pedro was the elder, but was currently the Emperor of Brazil and had earlier declared Brazilian independence. Miguel argued that since Pedro had claimed independence, he forfeited his right to succession. Pedro eventually cut a deal where he would abdicate the crown to his daughter, Dona Maria da Gloria, who was eventually supposed to marry Miguel when she became of age.

The political parties (absolutists & liberals) did not see eye-to-eye with the compromise, and as always happens with these kinds of things, battles followed involving both parties, the Church, Britain, France & Spain. In the end, Pedro won and Maria da Gloria retained the crown as Queen Maria II of Portugal.

The last battle was a naval battle in the harbor at Praia in 1829, where Miguelist troops tried to land. But the Praia residents successfully fought them off. To recognize their heroism, Queen Maria II renamed the province "Praia da Vitoria," the Beach of Victory.

Now, Praia da Vitoria is one of the two protected harbors on Terceira (at the bottom of the Terceira satellite image). That is where I disembarked.

I'm staying at the newest hotel in the local area, the Atlantida mar. It overlooks the harbor and has provided spectacular views, such as yesterday's Sunrise.

From here it's about a mile walk along the waterfront to get to the main part of town. I made the trip twice yesterday – first in the morning to take pictures, then again in the evening for dinner and some night shots. In between, I did some work, and relaxed in the sun, poolside.

I leave the island tonight. From here I go to Lisbon Portugal where I'll stay overnight, then back to the US tomorrow. Right now, I'm still suffering from being out to sea for eleven days in rough weather. It feels like everything is moving, especially when I walk. I bet it must look like I'm inebriated to the people I pass.

G.

P.S. – I sent small images to reduce the size of the e-mail. Larger images available upon request.

































