

ESPAÇO TALASSA '10

Whale watching since 1989



“Dolphins, Whales & Men” Dolphins and whale watching in family



FAMILY 8 DAYS PACKAGE

- > Welcome and transfer from Faial or Pico airport to hotel in Lajes do Pico.
- > 7 nights in a 2** hotel accommodation, bed & breakfast.
- > 5 boat excursion costs (boat, fuel, harbour costs, equipment, etc.), depending on weather condition.
- > Access to the services of the BOCA: mountain bike, kayaks, library, ...
- > Insurance (general assistance, illness, accident, cost of rescue operations).
- > Entrance to the whaler's museum.
- > Government taxes “cetaceans watching permit”.

The whale watching package runs weekly from Saturday to Saturday.

Extra charge when arriving and/or departing on day other than Saturday 45 euros per pax only from Faial airport.

From March 27th to November 6th

Observation

- > *Special family price for 2 adults and 2 children under 18th years old.*
- > *Prices are based on a family room occupancy in a 2** hotel.*
- > *Possibility to stay in a 4**** hotel, sup is euro 620.*
- > *Baby sitter service: 5 euros per hour.*

LOW SEASON

*from 27/03 to 30/04
from 02/10 to 06/11*

MEDIUM SEASON

*from 01/05 to 09/07
from 28/08 to 01/10*

HIGH SEASON

from 10/07 to 27/08

1.429 euros

1.619 euros

1.985 euros

Family 8 days Package
(2 adults and 2 children)



THE AZORES

This is where Europe ends: 38 degrees North and 30 degrees West, some 800 nautical miles from the nearest coast, in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. The Azoreans, isolated for centuries, have survived on their resources of agriculture, fishing and... whale hunting. Melville drew inspiration from such odysseys to write his epic tale, "Moby Dick".



10 clients = 1 tree

By choosing Espaço Talassa, you are choosing to limit your ecological footprint. Espaço Talassa plants trees and contributes for the “micro-reserve” project, to partly compensate the ecological deficit and the CO2 emissions related to our whale watching activity, in collaboration with association “Quercus”. For each customer approximately 0,50 cent will be donated, with the purpose to plant “Cabeço Santo” (GPS position: 40° 32’ 10” N et 8° 20’ 15” W) in the mountain range of Caramulo, victim of a terrible forest fire in 2005. Soon the indigenous vegetation will substitute eucalyptus, acacias and other infestants.

It's true: “the sea is blue because forests are green”!



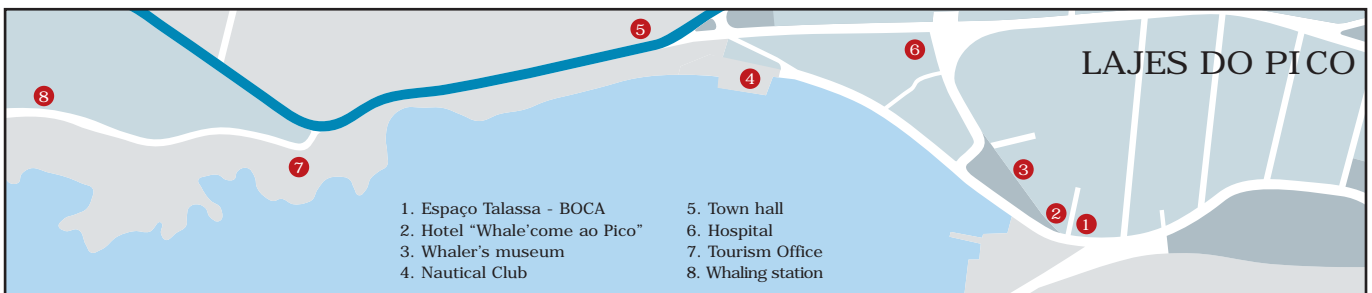
Since 1984 years now, it has been strictly prohibited to harm cetaceans. However, the spirit of the mighty sperm whale lives on, and the yearnings of the Azorean "mestres" are invariably for the sea.

From these magical surroundings, you will leave for an encounter with these noble cetaceans. Armed with only inflatable rafts and cameras.



Out of 619 trips made in 2009, cetaceans were spotted on 613 of them

Thanks to our sighting techniques from land, we don't leave harbour blindly. Every morning before embarking, a briefing is held during which observations from the lookout sightings are discussed. The type of cetacean spotted, their groups, their distance from the harbour, the sea conditions, the amount of animals in the group, and the absence or presence of smaller whales are all necessary factors in assessing the quality of forthcoming excursions.



“DOLPHINS AND WHALE WATCHING IN FAMILY” – DAY TO DAY

Day 1 - Reception and welcome at the airport of Horta or Pico

Afterwards we reach Lajes do Pico, the heart of Azorean whale watching, the hotel "Whale'come ao Pico", our base.



Day 2/7 - Lajes do Pico

In Lajes do Pico, at approximately 10:00 AM, we shall leave the harbour behind for our encounter with the animal. Once in the company of dolphins, we can enjoy listening, observing and edging even closer for improved camera work.

We will be back in Lajes at around 01:00 PM.

You can organise your afternoons according to your own rhythms and your personal holiday wishes. In the Whaling Museum you will find a fantastic collection of *scrimshaw* (engraving on sperm whale teeth) as well as one of the most complete libraries in the world on the art of whale hunting. You can also visit the "vigia da Queimada".



The BOCA, our Base of Observation of the Cetaceans of the Azores, will provide you with documentation (books, audiovisual materials, access to the Internet).

We can also lend you our sea-going kayak so that you can go to the "Maré" and the "Castelete". At the BOCA, we also have mountain bikes. More energetic visitors might make it to "Calheta de Nesquim", the Azorean port where the first whaling boat was fitted out. The little harbour was also one of the most active centres during the years of prosperity (1950's). Just a bit further down the road, you can visit the old whaling factory of São Roque. Or having spent the morning at sea, you could simply be carried away by the sweetness of the Azorean summer and enjoy an afternoon of "dolce farniente" in the coolness of your hotel or at the edge of the ocean which is never far away.



Day 8 - Lajes do Pico/Airport (timing will correspond to your international flight).

This summary should give an indication of what you can expect during your stay. With regard to the weather conditions, safety, the amount of participants and of course the presence of whales, your guide may modify your trip slightly.