

ESPAÇO TALASSA '12

Whale watching since 1989



Dolphins and whales da Queimada

Daily observation of whales and dolphins



DAILY OBSERVATION OF WHALES AND DOLPHINS

- > Trip of approximately 3 hours, everyday, at 10h and 15h, from Lajes do Pico.
- > Present yourself one hour before embark, to attend a multimedia presentation, about biology, animal behavior and culture whale-boat.
- > Debriefing after returning from sea with your crew.
- > Location of the animals using observers from land, with the help from hydrophones, which equip our boats.
- > Insurance (general assistance, illness, accident, cost of rescue operations).
- > Small group, maximum 12 people.
- > Free access to Espaço Talassa library and entrance to the whaler's museum.
- > Environment taxes and Whale watching licence included.

From March 31st to November 3rd

VOYAGE TO SÃO JORGE

- > Daily departure from Lajes do Pico at 10 AM for 6 hour trips, whalewatching and discover of São Jorge (or Faial Island).
- > Cetacean briefing, visit of the whaler's museum and picnic at the southcoast of São Jorge or Faial (depending on weather condition the picnic could also take place in a small harbour of the north coast of Pico).

RENTING A BOAT AS "PRIVATE CHARTER"

- > Semi-rigid boat of 8,50 meters, able to embark up to 12 people.
- > Ideal for groups, families and for couples which desire not to join to other people.
- > For video teams, photographers and researchers, it is possible to choose the better moment, according to some criteria, like the light, the sea conditions, the located species, on an excursion 3 or 6 hours long.
- > Azorean legislation into force (Decreto 99/9-A, 14th and 15th articles) does not authorize any more the getting in the water with the large cetaceans. For that you will need a special authorization from the Environment Secretariat. We can help you with the administrative procedures to obtain this authorization.

	LOW SEASON <i>from 31/03 to 27/04</i> <i>from 29/09 to 03/11</i>	MEDIUM SEASON <i>from 28/04 to 06/07</i> <i>from 01/09 to 28/09</i>	HIGH SEASON <i>from 07/07 to 31/08</i>
Observation of whales and dolphins – Individual	45 euros	49 euros	59 euros
Observation of whales and dolphins – Groups [Group: minimum 4 pax] (price per pax)	37 euros	39 euros	49 euros
Excursion to São Jorge (minimum 4 pax / price per pax)	89 euros	98 euros	118 euros
Private Charter (3 hours – max. 12 pax)	280 euros	370 euros	420 euros
Private Charter (6 hours – max. 12 pax)	540 euros	695 euros	790 euros
Extra hour	65 euros	65 euros	65 euros




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".

For 20 years now, in Azores, it has been strictly prohibited to harm cetaceans.

The sperm whale prefers the south coast of Pico. Here, assisted by Sidonio, the Queimada's lookout, you will observe the whales and get close to them. The ambition of the project reaches just a little bit further. It includes an introduction into other traces and vestiges of the whaling culture and tradition, of which the people of Lajes are the last remnants.





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.

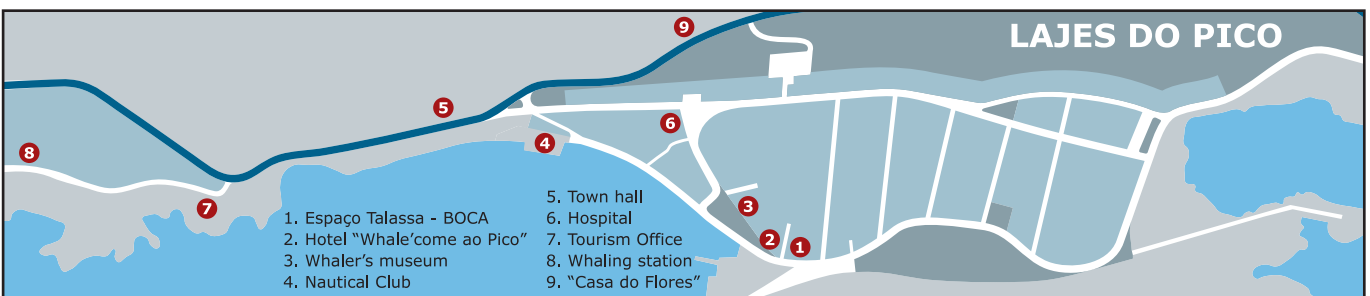
It's true: "the sea is blue because forests are green!"

Last but not least, these wildlife observation holidays, which respect both the animals as well as local culture, are the natural way for Azoreans to remain involved with the whales long after whale hunting ended in 1984. For this community of Lajes, whale watching is a new way of life with the whales, while at the same time it is an ideal way of protecting these giants of the sea.

27 cetacean species attend the Azores sea

In the interface between "hot water" and "cold water" of the North Atlantic, the archipelago is without any doubt one of the best places for cetaceans observation in the northern hemisphere. Also because the islands are far away from the main merchant navy courses, the recreational sailing did not make yet the devastations which we know in Continental Europe, and the large pollutants emitters are relatively distant.

http://www.espacotalassa.com/03_gb/16_species/index_species.htm



Out of 693 trips made in 2011, cetaceans were spotted on 691 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 look-out 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.