

Walks, talks & whales - 1 week package Pico Island on land and sea

Overview

On this trip you will not only learn a lot about whales, but also about the flora and fauna on land of the island of Pico. Go in search of Moby Dick within a week and learn everything you need to know about the kings of the sea in lectures by Espaço Talassa.

The Azores are one of the best places in the world to watch whales and dolphins. Around 25 different species live here or pass through. Focusing on the waters around the island of Pico, the dream of seeing whales and dolphins up close becomes a reality. Almost nowhere else in the world is it possible to observe so many different species during one season. The sea offers a richly laid food table for the various mammals. The whale that is sighted most frequently is the sperm whale, Moby Dick, which can grow up to 18 meters long. Among the dolphins, the bottlenose dolphins and the common dolphins are the most common.

Espaço Talassa - Responsible whale watching in the Azores since 1989

Since 1989, the founder of Espaço Talassa, Serge Viallelle, who has since sadly passed away, sailed the seas of the Azores. He has explored and got to know the impressive world of cetaceans (better known as whales and dolphins) that live in the Atlantic Ocean around the Azores. From this ever-growing enthusiasm, the first sustainable observation and research station for the cetaceans of the Azores was born in 1991: Espaço Talassa - the original!

Each observation trip, of which you will undertake 5 (of which on average 98% are successful), offers not only the opportunity to encounter one of the 27 species of marine mammals registered in the Azores, but also to actively participate in the research and protection of these last leviathans. At sea, you will help - with respect for the animals and our ethical principles - to collect the information needed for our research: observed species, photos, underwater acoustic recordings...

By choosing Espaço Talassa, you decide to limit your ecological footprint. Espaço Talassa, together with the organization "Quercus", plants trees and participates in the "micro-reserve" project to partially offset the ecological deficit and CO2 emissions generated by our whale watching activity. For each customer, approximately 50 cents are donated to plant "Cabeço Santo", the mountain range of Caramulo. A terrible forest fire occurred there in 2005 and the area is now being replanted.

1 week holiday with dolphins and whales

The simple, typical local hotel where you will be staying for 7 nights is located right next to the Espaço Talassa whale watching centre and the Lajes do Pico whaler's museum. Almost all the rooms have a view of the sea or Pico Mountain. Breakfast is included in your package, as well as the transfer from the airport or ferry harbor in Pico. If you arrive on Faial, you can book the additional transfers for an extra charge.

During your stay, you will go on a total of 2 excursions, each lasting 3 hours. Important information is collected before each trip to ensure that the whale watching tour is as successful as possible. You have the afternoons at leisure. An opportunity to visit the whaling museum or the marine mammal observation station. You can learn a lot about whaling and acquire new knowledge from books, films, and exhibitions. The hikes/walks on the other days will introduce you to the typical landscape of Pico. From lava walls to vineyards and endemic plants. At the beginning of your trip, you will receive a booklet describing the routes of the walks that take place without a guide. However, guided hikes can be booked for an additional charge. In the evenings, you will receive lectures on various topics, e.g. about the island of Pico, whales, turtles, etc. During your one-week-package you can rent diving goggles, snorkeling gear, and bicycles for free if you wish. Or would you like to discover the beauty of other Azores islands individually? You are more than welcome to book these with vista verde azores.

This tour description is only a rough overview of the course of your stay. Considering climatic conditions, safety, the condition of the participants and of course the presence of the animals, it is at the organizer's discretion to apply changes.

This tour is generally not suitable for people with reduced mobility.

Please note that the excursions take place in a rigid inflatable boat (Zodiac/semi rigid). These boats are not suitable for children under 6 years old, pregnant women or people with (chronic) back problems.

The tour has a minimum number of 2 participants. If one person is travelling alone, a surcharge applies.

This tour package generally starts on Saturdays (other days of the week are not possible).

Details

1. DAY

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Arrival on the island of Pico and transfer to Lajes

Arrival in the Azores and transfer to Lajes on the island of Pico, where your whale watching week takes place.

At arrival at the ferry port or airport on Pico, the transfer to your hotel is included. At arrival on Faial additional costs apply.

Upon arrival in Lajes, you will receive a short introduction to the program of your week, after the rest of the day is at leisure.

2. - 7. DAY

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Whale watching and learning about them and the island

During your week on Pico, the whales and dolphins take center stage on a total of 2 tours. You will also go on hikes and listen to lectures. A normal day may look like this: Out to the ocean at 10 am. When we are close to the whales and dolphins, you can watch and listen to the animals in peace and quiet. We'll carefully approach the animals so that you can photograph them if you are interested. Back to the shore at around 1 pm. There's no program in the afternoon so that you can enjoy the rest of the day at your own pace.

In the whaler's museum, which is also located in Lajes, you will be shown and explained a lot about whaling. The museum also hosts an excellent collection of scrimshaw artworks (sculptures in and made of ivory from sperm whales) as well as one of the most extensive libraries in the world about whaling. There's also a whaler's lookout close by to visit.

At the marine mammal observation center in Espaco Talassa, extensive documentation is available through books and DVDs, and of course the Internet.

On 3 other days, you will go on hikes through various landscapes on Pico. The transfer to the hike is always included. In addition, you will receive information about the island and the hikes.

In the evenings, you will receive lectures on various topics relating to the marine world as well as the flora and fauna of the island.

Diving goggles and snorkeling equipment are available, as well as kayaks and mountain bikes on request.

8. DAY

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End of the package - departure or individual onward journey

Your package with Espaco Talasso comes to an end today with the transfer to the airport or ferry port. Travel back home - or would you rather discover more of the beauty of the Azores individually? Of course, bookable with us, vista verde azores.

Dates & Prices		
from	until	Price
20.04.2024	28.06.2024	530 €
per person with 2 travelers in a double room		
29.06.2024	13.09.2024	630 €
per person with 2 travelers in a double room		
14.09.2024	04.10.2024	530 €
per person with 2 travelers in a double room		
05.10.2024	01.11.2024	480 €
per person with 2 travelers in a double room		

Included services

- Transfer from the airport or ferry port on Pico to/ from the hotel in Lajes
- 7 nights in the 2-star Hotel Whale Come ao Pico (owned by Espaco Talassa) in a double room with shower/toilet with breakfast
- 2 half-day whale and dolphin watching tours (approx. 3 hours) including insurance/ taxes
- Free entry to the whaler`s museum
- Documents/ information about the hikes (carried out independently and without a guide)
- Transfers for 3 hikes
- Selection of lectures in the evenings

not included services

- International arrival and departure
- Extra charge for transfer from Faial: €27 per person
- Surcharge for a single room for the entire week: €119 - but please note that this trip has a minimum number of participants of 2 persons
- If only one person is traveling: additional costs in total €230 (if staying in a single room)
- Additional guide fee for the hikes (subject to availability): €95 per hike