

Exclusive Small Group Tours 2027

AZORES, PORTUGAL



**BLUE WHALES, FIN WHALES,
HUMPBACKS AND SPERM WHALES**

The Dolphin & Whale
connection

Ocean Giants

Sao Miguel Island, Azores

EXCLUSIVE SMALL GROUP TOUR

2027 Dates:

24 April – 01 May
01 – 08 May
08 – 15 May

Prices: From £1775 per person (based on 2 sharing)
Solo travellers from £2060

Embark on our exclusive group tours this May as we take a select group on an unforgettable journey to the Azores. This breathtaking destination boasts incredible biodiversity both on land and in the sea. Our travel dates align perfectly with the annual migration of blue, fin, and humpback whales, offering you a rare chance to witness these magnificent ocean giants responsibly, while contributing to conservation efforts. Over the past few years, we've enjoyed remarkable sightings. Our team of expert whale researchers and marine biologist guides will ensure you have the best opportunity to observe these majestic creatures in their natural environment, all while learning more about them along the way.

“WE WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO SEE OUR FIRST BLUE WHALE WITHIN AN HOUR OF SETTING OUT IN THE CATAMARAN. THEN SEEING MANY WHALE AND DOLPHIN SPECIES WITH SUPERPODS OF HUNDREDS OF DOLPHINS RIDING IN THE BOW WAVE OF THE BOAT. IT WAS EXCITING TO BE SO CLOSE TO THE BIGGEST WHALES ON THE PLANET”



“WE LOVED THE SMALL GROUP HOLIDAY AS IT ENABLED US TO MEET OTHER LIKE MINDED PEOPLE AND SHARE SIMILAR EXPERIENCES... WE WERE ON THE CATAMARAN AND A HUGE GASP WENT UP FROM EVERYONE ON BOARD: A FIN WHALE SWAM IN FRONT OF THE BOAT, RAISED ITS HEAD AND OPENED ITS MOUTH OUT OF THE WATER TO FEED. IT WAS ONLY A FEW SECONDS, BUT THAT SIGHT IS ENGRAVED ON MY MEMORY”



Itinerary

Day 1

You will be picked up from the airport and taken to your hotel. In the evening, join the whole group and your guide for complimentary drinks, welcome briefing, and an orientation before your first group meal.

Day 2

Time to explore the marina and old town centre in the morning. Board the catamaran for your first trip in the afternoon. Your on board guide will provide in-depth information about the wildlife, discuss the sightings, share details on current research and help you get the best shots of the whales! First group audio-visual presentation after your boat trip with marine biologist guide.

Days 3-5

Each day there will be a morning and afternoon boat trip. The exact itinerary is decided by guides upon arrival to optimise your chance of sightings. On two of the afternoons you will visit the hot pools of the Caldeira Velha and Lagoa do Fogo as well as the stunning region of Sete Cidades.

Day 6

You will be collected from your hotel this morning for a full day tour to the village of Furnas where you will learn about the volcanic history of the island and local culture. You will enjoy bathing in mineral rich geothermal hot springs set in award winning botanical gardens. You will also sample the traditional “Cozido” at lunch time in a local restaurant – a meat or vegetable stew (dependent on numbers) cooked geothermally underground.

Day 7

An opportunity to add more trips to sea or land tours. Final presentation by your marine biologist guide followed by group farewell meal. Afterwards, you will have the opportunity to share photos with the group and discuss highlights of the holiday over a celebratory drink in the bar.

Day 8

Departure day. Transfer to airport from hotel.



Getting There

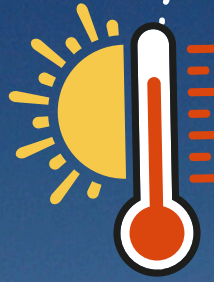
Fly to Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel Island.
Direct flights available from London, many European cities, USA and Canada.
Indirect flights via Portuguese mainland (Lisbon/Porto).



What's Included?

- 5 half day trips to sea on sturdy catamaran boat with toilet facilities
- Expert marine biologist guide and whale researchers
- 2 half day trips to Sete Cidades and Lagoa do Fogo
- Presentations about the marine wildlife
- Complimentary welcome drinks
- Group meals at beginning and end of holiday
- Full day geothermal tour to Furnas with traditional "Cozido" lunch
- 7 nights 3* or 4* accommodation
- Airport transfers

Climate



The Azores has a temperate climate all year round making it the perfect holiday destination.

Winter average temp: 16-19°C
Summer average temp: 20-25°C

There is an opportunity to upgrade to the harbour Hotel Marina Atlantico with private balcony & ocean views



Hotels

We have a good understanding of the hotels on the island and have chosen a collection of the best ones, perfect for our small group travellers. Every hotel has been carefully selected and reviewed to guarantee a pleasant stay. The prices shown are for a 3* hotel, subject to availability.

How to book

SIMPLY FILL OUT OUR QUOTE FORM BELOW OR CONTACT US BY EMAIL OR PHONE TO SPEAK TO ONE OF OUR SPECIALIST TRAVEL ADVISERS



INFO@DOLPHINANDWHALECONNECTION.COM



+44(0)2081673667

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Ocean Giants

Pico Island, Azores

EXCLUSIVE SMALL GROUP TOUR

Dates

01-08 May 2027

Prices: from £1590 per person (based on 2 sharing)

Solo travellers from £1780

This incredible tour runs in May as this is the best time for seeing migratory Blue Whales off the Azores. Your base will be the Azorean island of Pico, a third of which is a nature reserve, with a volcano at its core.

The main focus of the week is to see Blue Whales of course, and you will have exclusive guide services with talks and audio visual presentations and will have a chance to become totally immersed in the whale research process during your time there, learning about data collection, whale behaviour, feeding habits and also get to hear the sounds of the Blue Whale using hydrophones. Our guests are always blown away and inspired by the expert marine biologist knowledge as well as their commitment to responsible whale watching.

“

THE BIG WHALES ARE REALLY ATTRACTED TO PICO ISLAND, IT'S LIKE A MAGNET, PLENTIFUL FOOD AND "WHALE FRIENDLY" CONDITIONS SEEM TO BE JUST RIGHT. I FELT LIKE I WAS IN A WILD AQUARIUM WITH WHALES POPPING UP IN ALL DIRECTIONS CLOSE TO THE SHORE AND HUGE SUPERPODS OF DOLPHINS

”

Pico Island is one of the best places in the world for whale watching, thanks to its deep offshore waters and proximity to the migratory routes of some of the planet's largest whales. The island sits right on the edge of the mid-Atlantic ridge, meaning it only takes a few minutes by boat to reach rich feeding grounds where sightings are possible. striking volcanic backdrop and quieter pace of life also make Pico a wonderfully scenic and immersive base for wildlife enthusiasts.



“WE LOVED THE SMALL GROUP TYPE HOLIDAY AS IT ENABLED US TO MEET OTHER LIKE MINDED PEOPLE AND SHARE SIMILAR EXPERIENCES. THE ISLANDS WERE BOTH MAJESTIC AND MAGICAL AND I KEPT SAYING THAT WHENEVER WE TURNED A CORNER SOMETHING ELSE BEAUTIFUL GREETED US. WE SAW WHALES OR DOLPHINS ON ALL OF OUR SEA TRIPS AND CANNOT WAIT TO REPEAT THE EXPERIENCE.”

Itinerary

Day 1 - Upon arriving in the Azores, you will be transferred to the hotel for a welcome briefing and introductions. Enjoy complimentary drinks and an orientation of the local area. Rest up before discussing the schedule of whale-watching boat trips and meeting oceanographer Russell Arnott during the welcome dinner with your group in the evening.

Day 2 - Begin the day with a briefing from our marine biologist before boarding the RIB Zodiac for a morning of whale-watching. Throughout the week, there will be audio-visual presentations about the Azores' whales and dolphins, including the history of whaling and whale-watching in the region. Your onboard guide will offer detailed insights into the wildlife, assist in capturing the best shots of the whales, and engage in discussions about the sightings. In the afternoon, visit the local "Vigia," the lookout who spots the whales and guides the boat's skipper.

Days 3 to 6 - Each morning, embark on a boat trip, adjusted according to weather conditions. Enjoy additional opportunities for excursions around the island between your five half-day sea trips, such as exploring the Gruta de Torres underground lava caves. In case of any weather disruptions, our guides will reschedule your trips for the best weather and conditions. Attend talks and presentations by experts to deepen your knowledge about the Azores' whales, other wildlife, geology, local history, and culture.

Day 7 - Explore the island's beauty and charm on a full-day tour, learning about the local culture, volcanic origins, and visiting the UNESCO world heritage vineyards. Lunch at the vineyard includes local produce and a wine tasting experience. Evening Meal with your guide brings the trip to a close.

Day 8 - On departure day, transfer to the airport from your hotel.



This itinerary involves the new RIB zodiac boats (pictured), which now have a toilet on board!

Getting There

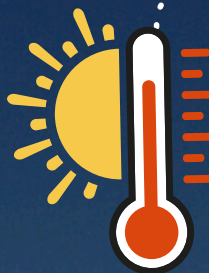
Daily flights to PICO Island or HORTA on Faial Island from LISBON or PORTO (2 hrs) on Portuguese mainland. Some people fly to Ponta Delgada on Sao Miguel Island and take a connecting flight (60 mins)



What's Included?

- Return airport transfers
- 5 half day trips to sea on a RIB boat
- 7 nights accommodation in 3* harbour hotel with breakfast included
- Group meals with tour leader and guide at the beginning and end of the tour
- Guide services and support with logistics at our boat base with briefings on the boats, safety and what you are likely to see with the assistance of land based lookouts
- Audio-visual presentations and talks with Oceanographer and marine biologist Russell Arnott who will also accompany the group on some of the trips to sea, as well as other presentations from the local Marine biologists.
- Full day Pico tour to explore the island, mountains, lakes, volcano with stunning views

Climate



The Azores temperate climate and the ocean breezes ensure the islands are cooler than mainland Europe in the summer.

Winter average temp: 16-19°C
Summer average temp: 22-30°C

Upgrade to the beautiful 35th Atlantic View with balconies, sea views and an outdoor pool from £250pp

Hotels

This holiday comes with 7 nights at the 3* Bela Vista harbour hotel in the local village. This hotel is very clean and comfortable with many private rooms offering sea views. Enjoy the buffet breakfast and dine in a selection of lovely local restaurants, minutes from the hotel.

How to book

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