



VISITAZORES.COM

A SEA OF A THOUSAND EXPERIENCES

WHALE WATCHING

Whale watching is one of the unique experiences that the Azores have to offer. It started in the late eighties, a few years after the ban on whaling came into effect, and the region now ranks as one of the best places in the world to see about 25 species of cetaceans, both resident and migratory, which can be spotted in the sea of the archipelago. A truly great experience that you should not miss!

Among the most common species, you can spot the **Sperm Whale** (*Physeter macrocephalus*), the giant of the seas immortalised in Melville's classic Moby Dick, whose dimensions that can reach up to 18 metres in length and 44 tonnes in weight. Other common species in the sea of the Azores include the **Blue Whale** (*Balaenoptera musculus*)

and the **Fin Whale** (*Balaenoptera physalus*). You will quite likely spot other marine species during a whale-watching boat trip, such as the **Loggerhead Sea Turtle** (*Caretta caretta*), the **Short-beaked Common Dolphin** (*Delphinus delphis*), the **Bottlenose Dolphin** (*Tursiops truncatus*), and the **Atlantic Spotted Dolphin** (*Stenella frontalis*). We also cannot forget the important role of those who stay on land without whom the likelihood of spotting these species would be much lower. We are talking about the lookouts, men and women who use their trained eyes and binoculars to look for whales near the surface of the water and then communicate their position to the vessel. The presence of whales on land can also be witnessed in the heritage that has been recovered and preserved over the years and that can be visited in public and private museums that exist on several islands.



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azores

36° 55' 44" N, 25° 01' 02" W - Azores, PORTUGAL

SWIMMING WITH DOLPHINS

Swimming with dolphins in their natural environment, in the sea of the Azores, is one of the greatest experiences you can enjoy in close contact with marine life. In the water, the presence of dolphins sublimates the vastness of the deep blue that surrounds you. To make your swim unforgettable without harming the animals, hiring the services of an experienced company is recommended.



SAILING

During their five centuries of history, the Azores have always been a point of reference and of passage for sailors that crossed the Atlantic Ocean, from the carracks that transported spices up to the (adventurous) sailboats of today. Sea currents and winds continue to attract most of the navigators of our time. All the islands feature infrastructures that allow them to stop there. The Horta Marina, in Faial Island, the oldest in the Azores and the fourth most visited in the world, and the marinas of the islands of Terceira and São Miguel are equipped to assist in the repair of vessels and provide space to leave them on dry land until your next trip. The Azores currently register about 2,000 moorings, with some marinas having been awarded the blue flag.



BOAT TOURS

One of the main wonders of the Azores is the sea that surrounds them, with this being one of the features that you can enjoy on all nine islands of the archipelago. Based on their experience and professionalism, the boats of the different companies contour the corners of the islands and provide you with a view over the islands that you could not otherwise have. If you do not dive, you will have the opportunity to see the sea floor from glass bottom boats available on some islands.



FISHING

The Azores offer fabulous conditions for different types of fishing, with Big Game Fishing perhaps being the activity that attracts more enthusiasts to the Azores, hoping to beat many world records that have been set in the archipelago. Large pelagic fish appearing a short distance from the coast bring anglers from around the world who then turn to specialised companies that practice catch and release. The best time of the year for this activity is from April to October, when you can often catch the Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), the Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*), the Yellowmouth Barracuda (*Sphyrna viridensis*), several types of Tuna, the White Marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*) and the most sought after species, the great Atlantic Blue Marlin (*Makaira nigricans*). For the family members and friends who do not join your adventure at sea, the Azores offer a wide range of experiences that promise not to leave anyone unhappy.

DIVING

The Azores are the perfect place for diving given the diversity of the countless spots that allow you to perform many types of dives, including coastal dives sheltered by bays and dives in seamounts. This turns the Azores into a destination that is well suited to the varying degrees of experience of different divers. You can find large pelagic fish, sharks and manta rays in the Azores, using the skilled and professional services offered by dive centres. Safety is another component that should be taken into account, with the Azores offering two hyperbaric chambers. There are more reasons to dive in the Azores available at [dive.visitazores.com](https://www.visitazores.com). There you will find all the information you need to know about accredited diving centres, major diving spots, best practices, tips, and other useful information.

