

# Azores

July 9th - July 13th, 2025

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I visited the Azores for a few days in July after a visit to Spain and mainland Portugal. I spent most of my time in Pico, where I went whale watching with [Espaco Talassa](#) for a total of six trips. While I didn't get to see as many rarities as Jon Hall did on his [August '24 visit](#) which was the inspiration for my visit, I still managed to see 9 species of cetaceans. The staff at Espaco Talassa were great and very passionate about what they do, and I highly recommend the company.

## Mammals Seen:

1. Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*): A small playful pod seen on one trip.





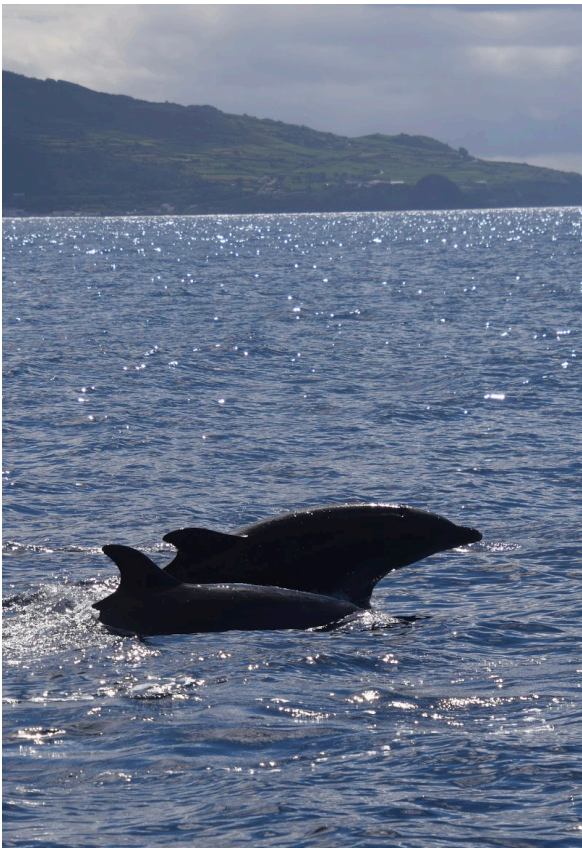
2. Atlantic Spotted Dolphin (*Stenella frontalis*): Seen in large numbers on 5 trips. Tend to approach and interact a lot with vessels.



3. Striped Dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*): A pod seen on one trip. They kept a distance from vessels.



4. Common Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*). Seen on one trip.





5. Risso's Dolphin (*Grampus griseus*): Seen on 2 trips.



6. Short-finned Pilot Whale (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*): Seen on 3 trips.





7. Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*): Seen on all 6 trips.



8. Sowerby's Beaked Whale (*Mesoplodon bidens*): One individual seen very well (breaching!) but briefly on one trip. Unfortunately, I wasn't fast enough to snap a photo.

9. Sei Whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*): Seen on 4 trips.





10. European Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*): One seen enroute to Lajes do Pico from the airport.
11. Azores Noctule (*Nyctalus azoreum*): Common in Lajes do Pico at dusk. Also seen flying in broad daylight by sea cliffs while driving around Pico. On my way back to the US, I had a day layover in Sao Miguel island and I visited a roost site at Ponta Delgada Botanical gardens. To find the roost site, keep left for a few hundred meters after entering the Botanical gardens until you reach a large culvert where the bats roost.



Birds seen:

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Rock Pigeon            | 11. Goldcrest          |
| 2. Common Wood Pigeon     | 12. European Robin     |
| 3. Eurasian Collared Dove | 13. Grey Wagtail       |
| 4. Eurasian Blackbird     | 14. Yellow-legged Gull |
| 5. House Sparrow          | 15. Common Tern        |
| 6. Island Canary          | 16. Cory's Shearwater  |
| 7. European Greenfinch    | 17. Muscovy Duck       |
| 8. European Goldfinch     | 18. Eurasian Coot      |
| 9. Azores Chaffinch       | 19. Common Buzzard     |
| 10. Eurasian Blackcap     |                        |



Cory's Shearwater



Azores Chaffinch



Herps seen:

1. Madeira Lizard
2. Loggerhead Sea Turtle
3. Iberian Green Frog



Loggerhead Sea Turtle



Portuguese Man O' War



Mt. Pico



Pico rush hour





Mt. Pico sunset



Lajes do Pico windmill



Sao Miguel landscapes