

Amazing Azores

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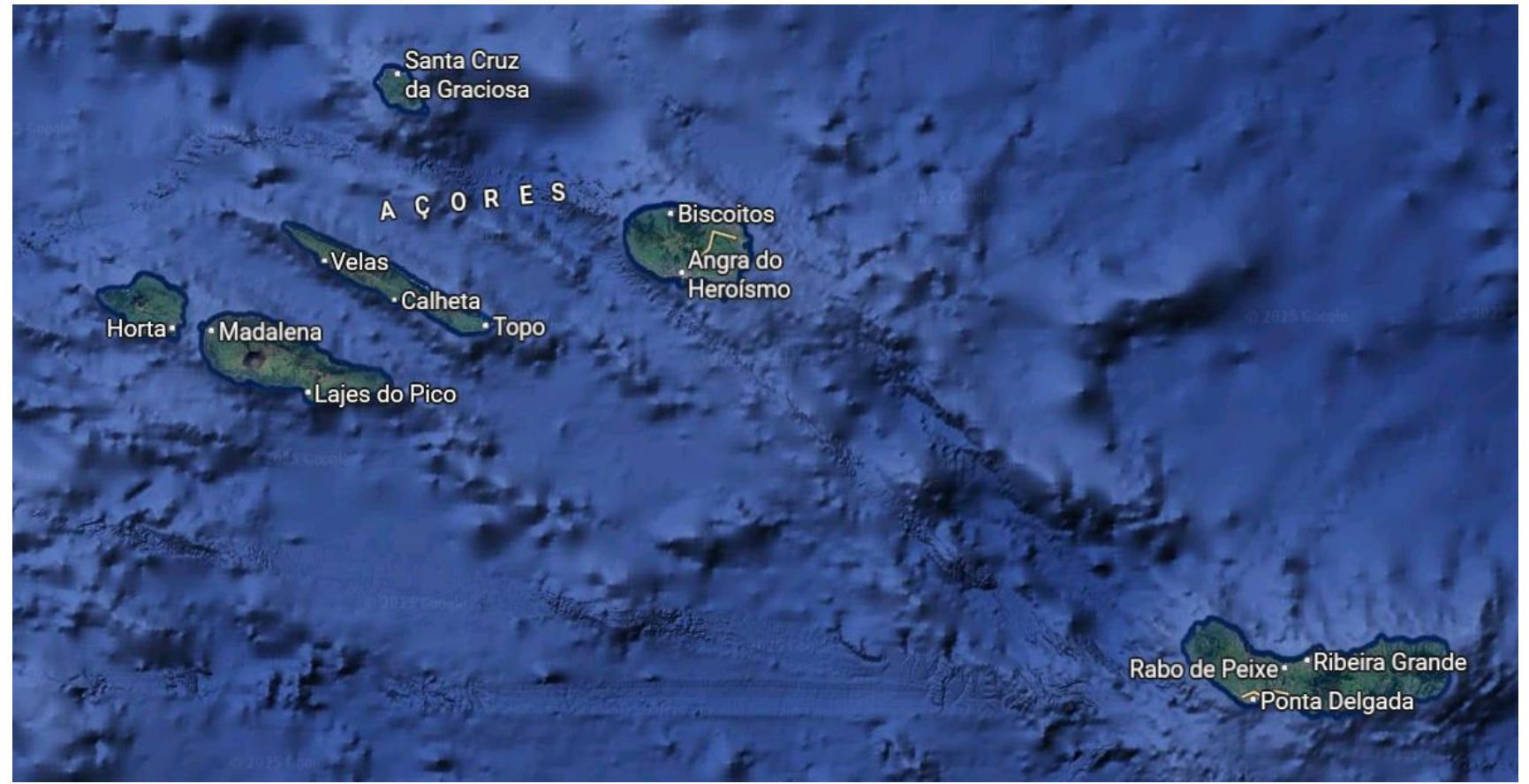


Pre-trip:

Beaked whales have long been a nemesis of mine. So much so, they shot up to the #2 spot on my most wanted list (behind only Javan Rhino). Every whale watch and every pelagic, I always came up beakless. Late 2023 saw a breakthrough. While planning a family trip to Portugal I researched an Azores stopover. Thanks to a tip from Adam Walley, I found this page: [Espaço Talassa's Whale Watch Statistics - July 2023](#). So many pretty colored squares at the bottom... so many beaked whales! This was the moment. The moment I knew I needed to visit Pico Island. And it needed to be at the end of July.

Unfortunately, our stopover had to be in March, before whale season even begins in Pico. All potential trips out of Sao Miguel were cancelled that week as well. At least we saw a bat that made Jon Hall jealous. He couldn't stand for my 2-year-old daughter to have one over him. So, five months later, Jon got his Azores Noctule [and then some!](#) Him and Jonas Livet, record breakers as they are, nabbed the single trip species record for Espaço Talassa. I was frothing at the mouth in anticipation, but I'd have to wait my turn until 2025. In the meantime, Jonas shared something invaluable: "If I were to do it over again, I'd try to rent a private boat. That way we could dictate which species to prioritize and when to skip over Sperm Whales." Genius! This was something Espaço offered too. Now I just had to find 11 more likeminded Cetacean-heads to fill up the boat.

First on board was Jonathan Ben Simon. We'd made a pact while searching for Franciscana in Argentina to take this Azores trip together. In turn, he invited colleagues from his graduate program, Reut Vardi, Karin Tamar and eventually Mor Matz (who offered to be a mostly landbound 13th member) to join on. Next up was fellow mammal family hunter Jan Ebr (converted by yours truly, as he likes to remind me), his wife Ivana Ebrova, and their eagle-eyed friend Daniel Benák. Bryan Kao took the bait to broaden his wild animal horizons after a life mostly dedicated to zoo photography. Valentin Moser signed on after I hyped up the trip on one of the Mammalwatching community zoom meetings. Anxious to leave no spot unfilled, I posted an advert to the mammalwatching site, and watched a flurry



of offers rush in. Kristin Van Gaever's level of determination impressed me, so she was definitely in. Ian Thompson and Paul Carter (#3 and #4 respectively in the mammalwatching rankings) both signed on, only to have Ian drop out due to a Malaria scare. Taking his place was Vsevolod (Seva) Rudy, who got a second chance after thinking we were full. 13 of us spanning the globe across 7 different countries. I had only met two of them in person before, but I had a good feeling about this group.

Now to pick the dates. I had scoured Espaço's statistics page so much I was seeing colored squares in my sleep. A lot of the species come down to dumb luck or perfect sea conditions. But one in particular - the Northern Bottlenosed Whale - tended to visit for only a few days around the early 20's of July. This also coincides with the best time for Sowerby's Beaked Whale so I chose July 20th-24th. The plan was simple: 10 trips over 5 days (3-hours each, departing at 9am and 2pm) adding up to 30 hours at sea. I corresponded with Marta Silveira about all our details via email at espacotalassa@espacotalassa.com. In addition to running the whale watches, Espaço also provides convenient lodging options, an airport shuttle and a restaurant. Most of our group filled up rooms at the [Casa do Flores](#). It was basic but affordable and came complete with a nightly chorus of doofy *Cory's Shearwaters* at no extra charge.



from left to right: Paul, Daniel, Ivana, Jan, Bryan, Seva, Alex, Kristin, Valentin, Reut, Jonathan, Karin, Mor



Risso's Dolphins (photos by Bryan Kao)

Pico Island:

Slowly but surely our group came together. Bryan and I flew from NY on a direct flight to Terceira Island before taking a puddle jumper to Pico. Seva met us at the airport, after a few days of diving around Madelana and Princess Alice Sea Mount for *Mobula Rays*. The three of us arrived to Espaço's HQ in the town of Lajes do Pico by noon on July 19th. I was running on redeye fumes, and immediately sought the longest of naps. Meanwhile, Bryan snatched up the final spot on that afternoon's public whale watch and had the group's first views of **Sperm Whales**, **Atlantic Spotted Dolphins** and **Risso's Dolphins**.

Meanwhile, Jonathan and Mor scaled Mount Pico (the highest point in Portugal) the night before, and arrived to Espaço with Reut and Karin a few hours after we did. Kristin joined us for dinner, where Jonathan suggested if we don't see a beaked whale I'd have to dress up as one and jump in the water. Jan, Ivana and Daniel arrived after dinner and met us back at Casa do Flores. Paul was already staying at the Casa do Brasão apartment in town. He wasted no time finding the roost of **Azores Noctules** conveniently located at 38°23'42.4"N, 28°15'08.0"W (the same that Jonas Livet had mentioned in his [2024 note](#)). Lastly, Valentin was on a Princess Alice diving trip that needed to abruptly turn around due to passenger injury. Even with this, he met us just after our group's first whale watch.

Sleep eluded me that night as I battled the deafening combination of snoring and Cory's.

Day 1 (July 20):

The next morning, we all convened outside Espaço Talassa's shop. Mor faced her sea sickness fears and courageously filled in for Valentin's spot. After taking in the company's 15-minute introductory video, we were ocean bound. This would be our zodiac for the next 10 trips. A 29-foot, 12 passenger Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) with a small "cockpit" area for a guide and skipper. Leading us on this first day was Ivan behind the wheel and Frida as guide.





Lajes do Pico Harbor (photo by Paul Carter)

The trip started out as expected, with a **Sperm Whale**. A family lifer for many on the boat, and my long awaited second encounter since targeting them in Kaikōura, New Zealand in 2007. The blows from this toothed leviathan can be easily seen from the spotting towers on shore. As late as 1987, these towers were still being used to hunt whales by radioing to the vessels below. In 1989, with whaling completely outlawed, Espaço Talassa began a whale watching company and rehired the same spotters to find whales for a new sort of customer.





(photo by Daniel Benák)

As soon as our Sperm Whales began to dive, we pressed on! Not ten minutes later, a fantastic pod of **Striped Dolphins** burst onto the scene. This group was on the move, athletically porpoising high out of the water. I was thrilled to have a second chance at this species after I ruined a perfect photo from a 2024 Brooklyn Pelagic (featuring Bryan and Jon Hall) by cutting off the nose in my framing.

We rounded out the first trip with large pods of **Short-finned Pilot Whales** and **Common Dolphins**. While the guides here do have some diagnostic differences to separate from Long-finned, we didn't leave anything to chance and Jonathan confirmed fin-length via [GoPro video](#).

Back on land a queasy Mor gladly swapped places with a now-arrived Valentin. It was great to finally meet the face of the Felis Project in person. Before departure, I grabbed a top-notch chicken sandwich from Espaço's restaurant - easily the best thing on their menu. In the afternoon we attempted a new strategy by covering a large swath of ocean hoping to randomly stumble upon beaked whales. It didn't pan out and would not be fuel efficient for Espaço, so we stuck to chasing tower sightings for the remainder of our stay.



The infamous 2024 Brooklyn Pelagic nose job



Striped Dolphins



We did chance upon more **Common Dolphins**, **Atlantic Spotted Dolphins** (which were my first lifer on the trip), and a handful of **Risso's Dolphins**. The Spotted Dolphins rode our bow, making for a magical experience for anyone leaning over the front of the zodiac. Jonathan was able to capture some [incredible GoPro footage](#) during these bow rides, and even of the more cautious [Common Dolphins](#). I'd highly recommend bringing a GoPro on any trip here as it provides a window to a wholly unique vantage point. I was even inspired to buy one ahead of the trip thanks to [this Instagram video](#) taken in June by Espaço guide Inês Filipa Gonçalves. Ultimately, I never used mine as I feared the stability of the connection with the extender stick. Instead, to feel a part of the filming process, I also held on along with Jonathan's as he filmed (a bit of a stretch, I know).



With our second trip complete, Frida went through a debrief of everything we had seen so far. Cheekily, I shouted “what are we going to see tomorrow!?” With a dry smile Frida shut her eyes, closed the guidebook she was holding and randomly opened to the page of... “False Killer Whale” An exciting prospect and generally only seen once or twice a month here.



Blainville's Beaked Whale (photo taken in June by Inês Filipa Gonçalves)









Day 2 (July 21):

Our second day began normally enough with the region's two most expected animals in **Sperm Whale** and **Spotted Dolphin**. Then things got witchy...



Atlantic Spotted Dolphin (photo by Jonathan Ben Simon)

The tower had spotted a lone cetacean repetitively breaching and we were in hot pursuit. None of us could believe what we were seeing, and Frida laughed nervously. A **False Killer Whale**, just as the prophecy had foretold! Indeed, what a show it was putting on. So impressive to see such a large animal moving this fast through the water. The other boats rushed to catch us.



More **Sperm Whales**, **Pilot Whales** and the first **Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins** of the trip rounded out the reminder of trip 3.

Everything had been exhilarating so far! Though, STILL no beaked whales... I'd be lying to say I wasn't starting to get a little worried. They're usually seen by at least one of Espaço's boats every other day towards the end of July, yet there had been only one proper sighting in the past week. It was about now that Valentin had the bright idea to turn to bribery. So, we asked Frida to tell the tower spotters that for each Beaked Whale or Kogia species they found us we'd buy them a bottle of wine.

Becky guided us for Trip 4, our first trip without Frida. After getting more **Sperm Whales** and **Spotted Dolphins** under our belt, Becky got word from the tower of something special. "It's a surprise!" she said with a wry smile. We rushed over to the spot, holding our collective breaths. "Well, well, well, look what we have here!" Becky gushed with excitement as she pointed out a small group of **Sowerby's Beaked Whales**, including an adult male. They surfaced with their especially long snouts pointed skyward as they're known to do. Becky knew how much we'd been begging Frida for Beakers and here they were on her first trip.



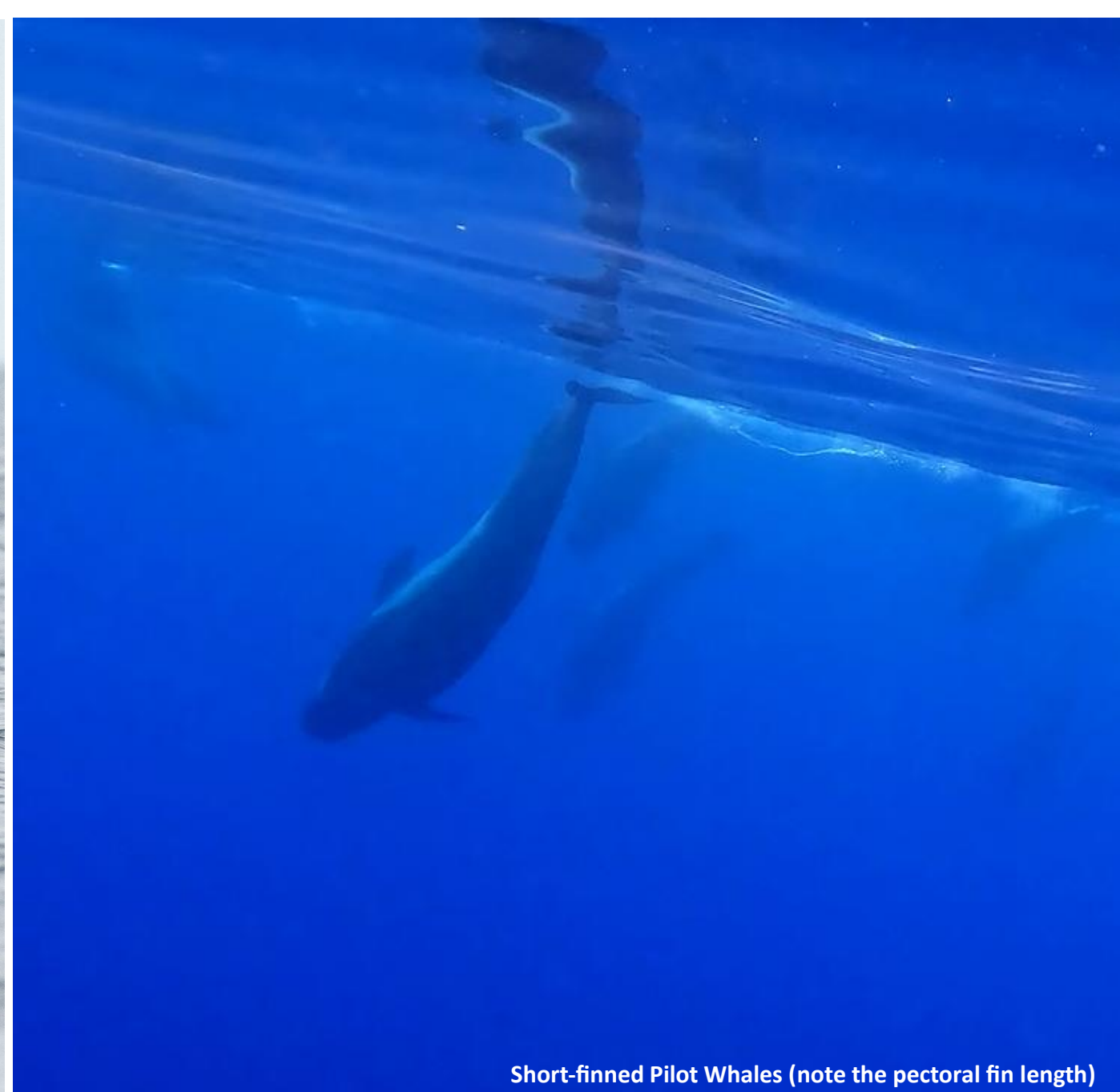
Bottlenose Dolphin (photo by Daniel Benák)





Jonathan Ben Simon
nature_by_jonathan

Male Sowerby's Beaked Whale



Short-finned Pilot Whales (note the pectoral fin length)

I'm not sure anyone on board knew quite how cathartic this moment was for me. This was my 48th whale watch (including 4 pelagics), across 14 countries and I was finally laying eyes on my first beaked whales. Not to mention scratching off a missing mammal family alongside fellow family collectors Jan and Bryan. Truly, such a great experience... when suddenly Becky had another

surprise in store! Like a fairy tale, we were whisked away from one unicorn to another. A record-breaking pod of 6 **Pygmy Sperm Whales** logged at the surface ahead. So record-breaking in fact that it was mentioned in a scientific paper after our trip. But the main event from that paper was still days away...

These Pygmy Sperm Whales closed out the Kogia genus for me, a fact I obnoxiously continued to remind the group of, at which point Valentin would sarcastically shake my hand with vigor. As soon as they dove, we went right back to the Sowerby's, and when they dove it was back again to the Kogia. Totally surreal moments, to ping pong back and forth between such enigmatic animals. Lastly, pod of **Common Dolphins** featured a *Whalesucker* fish clinging precariously to one of their dorsal fins.



Five Pygmy Sperm Whales (photo by Jonathan Ben Simon)



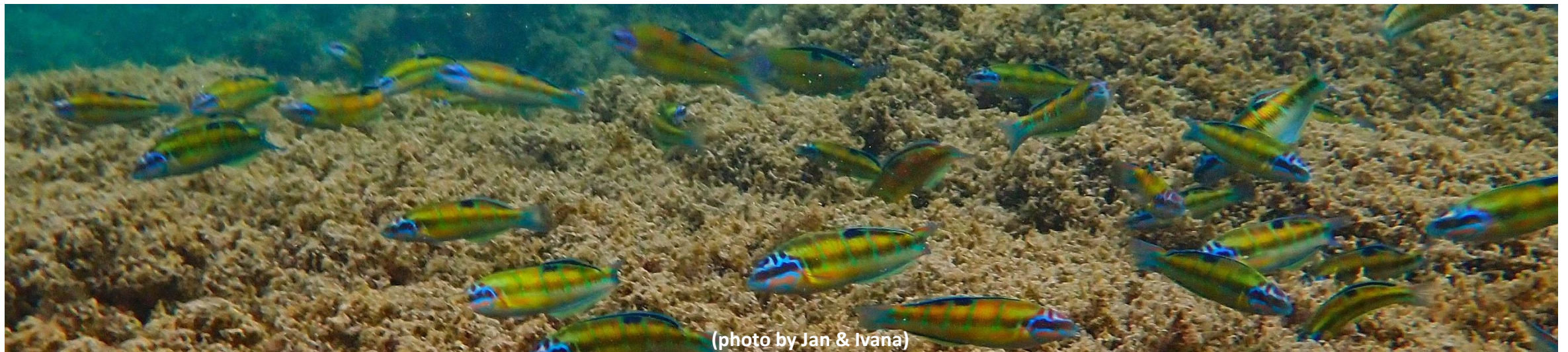
Whalesucker (photo by Paul Carter)



Pygmy Sperm Whale with calf (photo by Paul Carter)

Back on shore, Frida passed the torch to Becky and it was now her turn to open the whale guidebook. Her reveal of “Blainville’s Beaked Whale” was met with a chorus of cheers and a huge round of applause. We felt on top of the world!

That night, most of our group enjoyed a celebratory feast at Mar Sushi Aqua. Only a brief walk from Espaço HQ, this place served incredibly fresh sushi of locally caught species like Barracuda, Parrotfish and Amberjack. Meanwhile, Jan and Ivana went snorkeling to experience the sushi in its natural habitat. They travelled with their own equipment, as did Daniel and Valentin. They all managed to sneak in some excellent snorkeling during high tide at Piscina Natural da Maré. Valentin was even crazy enough to go at night.



(photo by Jan & Ivana)

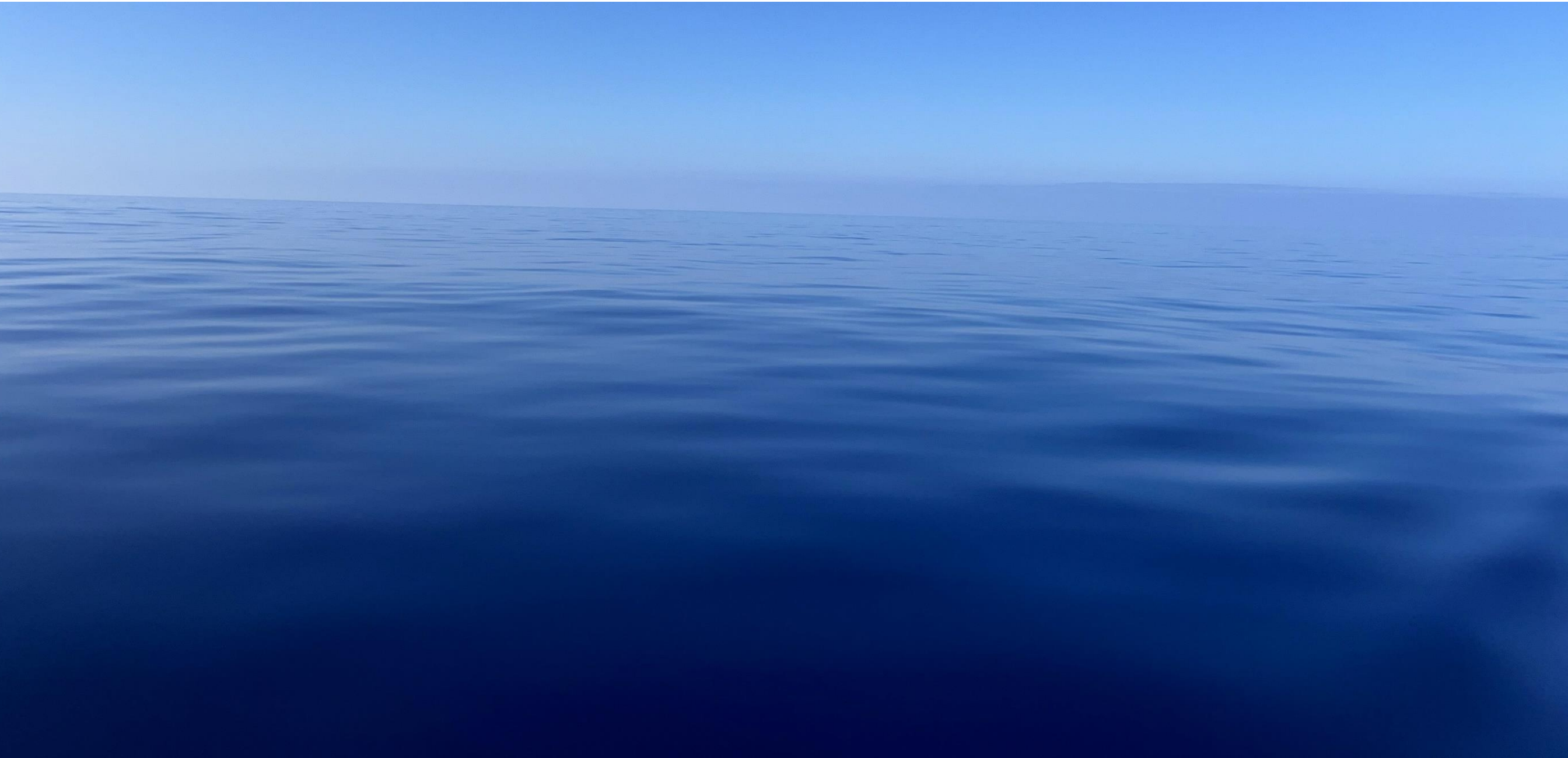


(photos by Jan & Ivana)



Day 3 (July 22):

We awoke to seas of glass. I don't think I've ever seen water this calm before - the perfect conditions for whale watching and photography. As soon as we were on the water, Frida had another surprise for us. We tore through the water on a mission to catch whatever the spotters had seen in the distance. We couldn't help but guess what could be so exciting yet also ID-able from shore... Could it be...?



Moments later, 8 monstrously bulbous heads confirmed our suspicions: a family of **Northern Bottlenose Whales**! I was over the moon. I had narrowed down the exact dates of our trip in hopes of catching this tiny visitation window and now it had come to fruition. As we watched these glorious beasts with their comically huge blowholes, it hit me... On our first day Espaço's head skipper João predicted they'd arrive July 22nd. And wouldn't you know it, today was July 22nd. He got it to the exact day! This is the largest beaked whale in the North Atlantic and spends most of its time in the freezing waters of the Arctic. The reason for the long journey to the Azores isn't entirely known, but one theory suggests the warm waters promote skin molting.



Northern Bottlenose Whales

We moved on from the big-heads to the most pristine views of **Sowerby's Beaked Whales**, gliding across a motionless sea under a sapphire sky with Mount Pico as the backdrop. Then we were back again to the big-heads, now logging closely together. The occasional spyhop showed off their massive noggin. As a private group, we had the advantage of investigating/focusing on every beaked whale sighting to ensure we weren't missing any new species. This led to a 3-hour trip with exclusively beaked whales - a feat I'm not sure has been accomplished by any other whale watching company before. I felt bad this was the one trip that Chi, Paul's partner, was able to join us on. What are the chances!?



Sowerby's Beaked Whale

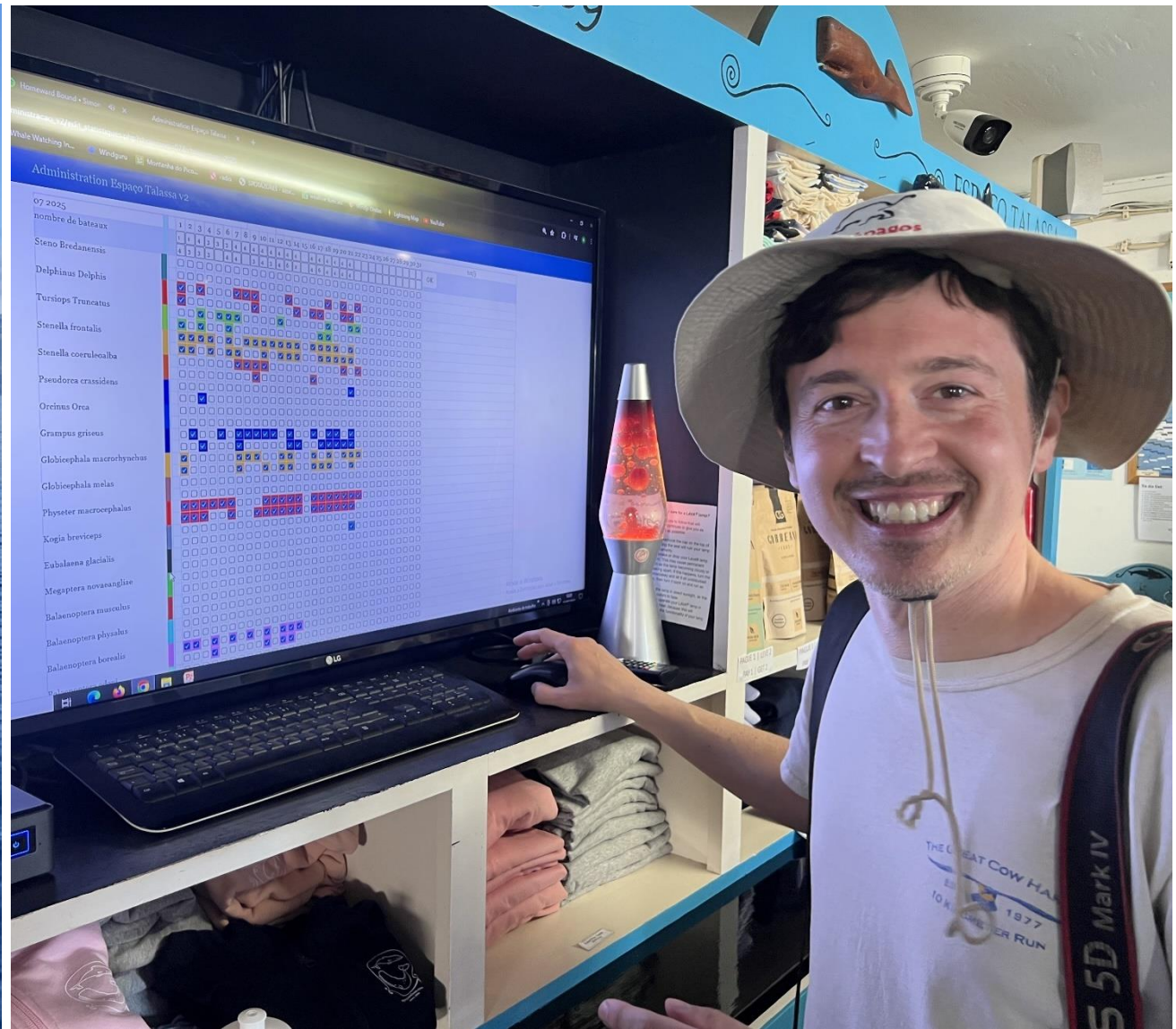


Sowerby's Beaked Whale



Northern Bottlenose Whale

With a little time to kill and no Cetaceans around, our skipper offered a quick dip in the water for anyone interested. Jonathan, Karin, Paul and I leapt at the chance and into the stunningly blue water. It was incredibly refreshing on a hot day and certainly the furthest into the Atlantic I had ever ventured. It wasn't until later that my mind started wandering about what may have been swimming in the creepy abyss below. Our trip back to dock was far from uneventful, as we nearly collided with someone who decided to snorkel in the middle of the major boating lane. Once we returned to the shop, I had the honor of entering our beaked whale sightings into [Espaço's statistics page](#). One day I'll be telling my grandkids about how those little colored squares were put there by me.



In the afternoon, we kept our fingers crossed for another shot with the Bottlenose Whales, since Seva missed the morning trip with a scheduling conflict. They did not let us down, as part of a trip-record 7 species of Cetaceans: **Bottlenose Dolphin, Bottlenose Whale, Pilot Whale, Common Dolphin, Sowerby's Beaked Whale, Risso's Dolphin, and Sperm Whale**. Other boats from Espaço also saw **Spotted** and **Striped Dolphins** for a total of 9 species! One away from Jon Hall's record the previous year. This was, however, the first trip where we didn't add a new species for the trip. The Blainville's prophecy had failed to materialize. With a little less enthusiasm, we tried one final guidebook prediction, which landed on Orca – quite the longshot.



Pre-dusk a group of us strolled past the **Azores Noctule** roost that Paul had mentioned earlier. Valentin also noticed another roost in the roof of Espaço HQ itself. The species was seen in flight many times throughout the trip and even during the day. They're one of the only species of day-active bats, in large part due to the lack of predatory birds in the Azores.



Day 4 (July 23):

Our penultimate day began like the day before it. Flat-calm seas and a bee-line to **Bottlenose Whales**. On the way, we got special encounters with a *Loggerhead Sea Turtle*, *Broadbill Swordfish* (mistaken for a Hammerhead) and a *Portuguese Man O' War*. Karin, our group's reptile expert, was expectedly keen about the turtle. Our guide Becky was inducted to the Bottlenose Whale first-timers club, after previously missing out on her day-off. **Pilot Whales**, **Sowerby's Beaked Whales** and **Spotted Dolphins** rounded out an otherwise uneventful morning.



(photo by Jonathan Ben Simon)



The afternoon, meanwhile, turned out to be quite special, but we didn't realize it at the time... We began going after **Bottlenose Whales** for the fourth trip in a row, bringing me to a saturation point (something I thought wasn't possible days earlier.) On the way, we enjoyed high-flying **Spotted Dolphins** (with babies) and later spied a **Sowerby's Beaked Whale** breaching in the distance. It was so close to shore, we originally confused it for waves crashing on rocks. The tour also featured **Bottlenose Dolphins** interacting with **Pilot Whales**, and a death-defying race between a *Cory's Shearwater* and a *Flying Fish*, culminating in a last-minute dive by the fish to avoid being snatched up by the bird.



Sowerby's Beaked Whale breaching



Flying Fish (photo by Seva Rudy)



Atlantic Spotted Dolphin



But the star of the show was a lone Kogia. It was initially identified as a Pygmy Sperm Whale. I of course seized the opportunity to do my little Kogia schtick and forcefully shake Valentin's hand. Two types of beaked whales and two Kogia sightings on the same trip was already exceptional. But after we got home, Daniel began to scrutinize his photos of this Kogia. He posted it to iNaturalist and sent it to Cetacean experts Bob Pitman and Robin Baird. The consensus was unanimous. We actually had the OTHER Kogia, a **Dwarf Sperm Whale**! Everyone on our boat now had both and we didn't even realize it. Half of those sarcastic handshakes with Valentin had been in vain! A Dwarf Sperm Whale had never been photographed alive in the Azores before and was only known from 2 strandings and 3 previous sightings. This was a big deal and the impetus for a [research paper](#) penned by Daniel, Paul and Valentin which is currently awaiting publication. Though, most importantly, it was our 12th Cetacean species in Pico, tying us with Jon Hall.



To commemorate our final night together, we enjoyed a group dinner at nearby Baleias Café, which was good but couldn't touch that sushi place. Some of the more adventurous tried the grilled limpets, a local delicacy made from aquatic snails. As a token of their appreciation for my organizing the trip, the group gifted me an Espaço Talassa t-shirt (that I'm actually wearing as I write this) and a "Whales of the Azores Memory Game" for Ava - that she adores!

Day 5 (July 24):

Our final morning (and 9th trip overall) led off with our first **Striped Dolphins** since trip 1. As usual, they torpedoed out of the water in a large pod, but stayed relatively distant from our boat. Finally, Valentin was able to add them to his trip list. In contrast, the **Spotted Dolphins** swam as close to our boat as possible. We also saw **Pilot Whales**, **Sperm Whales**, **Risso's Dolphins** and **Sowerby's Beaked Whales** (for the 6th trip in a row!)

We kept hoping for our first Baleen whales, but Sei Whales hadn't been seen around Pico in 10 days. A real shame, as they're normally seen on at least half of the days in July. They were present off Sao Miguel Island and it turned out they wouldn't return to Pico until July 30th.

In between trips, Jonathan and I went into town on a mission to devour some pastel de nata pastries and purchase the wine we had promised the spotters. We got them 3 bottles because no one had yet realized we had also seen a Dwarf Sperm Whale. Sorry guys, we owe you one!

Bryan, Seva and Kristin all had afternoon flights so they would unfortunately have to miss our 10th trip. We bid a fond farewell to our friends, but to take their place was Martin Royle and the triumphant return of Mor! Martin is the founder of Royle Safaris, a leading mammal safari company that I've been a tour leader for in the past. But this was my first time meeting him in person, which was a treat! He's also 2nd on the mammalwatching leaderboard. Hearing about the group we had gathered on this same boat led Jon Hall to quip, "I hope there isn't an ill-timed tsunami. It would set back the mammalwatching community decades!"

Fish-watchers on board were pleased to check out a recently deceased *Atlantic Silver Hatchetfish*. We were told the boats encounter all sorts of deep-sea creatures that get churned up from the depths below.

We hoped to snag Martin a rare beaked whale, but had to settle for more **Bottlenose Whales** in addition to **Spotted** and **Bottlenose Dolphins**. But the most special moment from trip 10 (and a contender for the entire trip) came from none other than a mom **Sperm Whale** with calf! We arrived just as the mother was taking a deep dive to feed.





Our crew with Martin Royle

Interestingly, when they do this the calves are left at the surface completely alone. The youth of this calf was juxtaposed with a Cory's Shearwater on death's door floating nearby. This calf seemed to be entertaining itself with a piece of floating plastic that we promptly scooped out of the water. We actually felt bad taking its "toy" away, but didn't want to chance it. Now the only thing it had left to entertain itself with was our boat! It swam directly alongside us as we all stared in awe. Quick-thinking Daniel plunged his underwater camera into the blue, producing this incredible image. Meanwhile Jonathan was ready with the GoPro for [an epic video](#). The perfect coda for a fantastic trip. A group of distant **Spotted Dolphins** porpoising would be the last Cetaceans we took in before heading back.

Espaço provided two taxis, as most of our remaining group was flying onto Sao Miguel at 8:30pm that night. Despite getting stuck behind a herd of cattle on country roads, we all made it to the small airport with plenty of time to spare. We may have been leaving, but I'm confident to say Pico will stay in our hearts forever.





(photo by Daniel Benák)



Sao Miguel Island:

Our group continued to disperse, but a few of us remained on Sao Miguel in the coming days. Jan and Ivana graciously dropped me off at my hostel (LC House) and were set to pick me up the following morning for - get this - BIRDING! We linked up with Valentin at 37°45'52.3"N, 25°16'43.0"W, saw an *Azores Chaffinch* and a **European Rabbit**, but needed to visit 37°46'15.2"N, 25°12'01.4"W for the *Azores Bullfinch*. In a matter of 2-hours we'd seen both endemic birds - heck, this birding thing was easy!



(photos by Jonathan Ben Simon)



(photos by Jan & Ivana)

I had a couple hours before I needed to catch a flight home back to New York, so Jan, Ivana and I toured Jardim Botânico António Borges to see a maternity roost of **Azores Noctules** at 37°44'37.6"N, 25°40'34.1"W. Jonathan also found a great bat roost at 37°46'18.1"N, 25°18'55.6"W in Parque Terra Nostra, but be prepared for a €17 entrance fee.



After I flew home, Jan, Ivana and Valentin went out with Picos de Aventura to continue our mission and finally nab a **Sei Whale** along with more **Spotted Dolphins**. A lucky number thirteenth Cetacean to officially bring the trip total above Jon's. Ahh our mission was complete.



Sei Whale (photos by Jan & Ivana)

Stuff We Missed:

I was extremely pleased with our showing, but there were 5 species seen by Espaço over the summer months that we dipped on in Pico: **Sei Whale** on about half of the summer's trips, **Humpback Whale** only in early June, **Bryde's Whale** on June 26 and August 15, **Blainville's Beaked Whale** on 3 days in early June, and **Cuvier's Beaked Whale** on August 13.

Valentin did manage a group of **Blainville's Beaked Whale** after two trips with the Magic Dolphins Company in Madeira. His 4th Beaked Whale species, which I believe is grounds for another vigorous handshake! Unfortunately, his day trip to Desertas Islands in search of **Mediterranean Monk Seals** was cancelled due to weather. Regardless, Madeira is certainly a great spot to combine with Azores. See his [trip report here](#).



Cuvier's Beaked Whale (photo by Daniel Benák in Genoa, Italy)



Blainville's Beaked Whale (photo by Valentin Moser in Madeira)

Acknowledgements:

A special thanks to the entire Espaço Talassa team, especially our guides Frida, Becky, and Filipa and our skippers Ivan, Ines, Rodrigo, and Pedro. Thanks again to Adam Walley and his contact Hella Martens who had previously worked for Espaço and recommended them with high praise. To Jonas Livet and Jon Hall for graciously sharing their advice and experiences from visiting in 2024. And of course, to every single member of our awesome group for sharing this incredible experience together. Please also check out Paul Carter’s [website](#) for more incredible photos and loads of useful information from our trip as well as Bryan Kao’s [WCS blog entry](#).



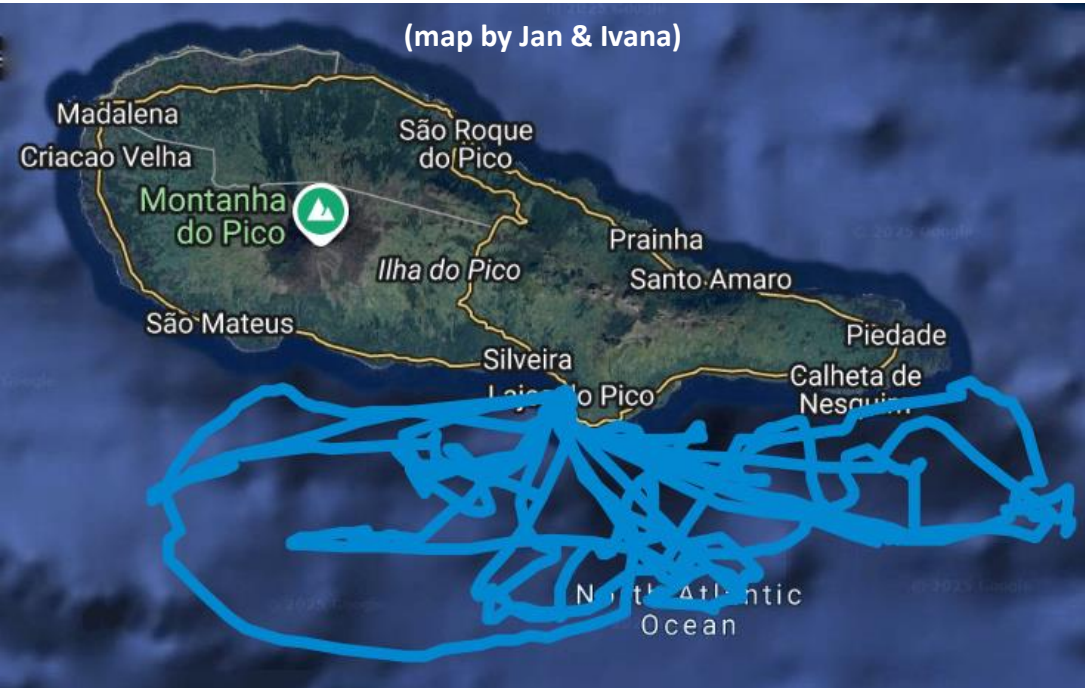
Frida and her magical guidebook (photo by Paul Carter)



(photo by Jan & Ivana)

Azores Trip Summaries:

<u>Trip #1:</u> <div><div>1. Sperm Whale</div><div>2. Striped Dolphin</div><div>3. SF Pilot Whale</div><div>4. Common Dolphin</div></div>	<u>Trip #2:</u> <div><div>1. Common Dolphin</div><div>2. Spotted Dolphin</div><div>3. Risso’s Dolphin</div></div>	<u>Trip #3:</u> <div><div>1. Sperm Whale</div><div>2. Spotted Dolphin</div><div>3. False Killer Whale</div><div>4. SF Pilot Whale</div><div>5. Bottlenose Dolphin</div></div>	<u>Trip #4:</u> <div><div>1. Sperm Whale</div><div>2. Spotted Dolphin</div><div>3. Sowerby’s Beaked</div><div>4. Pygmy Sperm</div><div>5. Common Dolphin</div></div>	<u>Trip #5:</u> <div><div>1. Bottlenose Whale</div><div>2. Sowerby’s Beaked</div></div>
<u>Trip #6:</u> <div><div>1. Bottlenose Dolphin</div><div>2. Bottlenose Whale</div><div>3. SF Pilot Whale</div><div>4. Common Dolphin</div><div>5. Sowerby’s Beaked</div><div>6. Risso’s Dolphin</div><div>7. Sperm Whale</div></div>	<u>Trip #7:</u> <div><div>1. SF Pilot Whale</div><div>2. Bottlenose Whale</div><div>3. Sowerby’s Beaked</div><div>4. Spotted Dolphin</div></div>	<u>Trip #8:</u> <div><div>1. Spotted Dolphin</div><div>2. SF Pilot Whale</div><div>3. Bottlenose Whale</div><div>4. Bottlenose Dolphin</div><div>5. Dwarf Sperm</div><div>6. Sowerby’s Beaked</div></div>	<u>Trip #9:</u> <div><div>1. Striped Dolphin</div><div>2. Spotted Dolphin</div><div>3. SF Pilot Whale</div><div>4. Sperm Whale</div><div>5. Risso’s Dolphin</div><div>6. Sowerby’s Beaked</div></div>	<u>Trip #10:</u> <div><div>1. Spotted Dolphin</div><div>2. Bottlenose Whale</div><div>3. Bottlenose Dolphin</div><div>4. Sperm Whale</div></div>
<u>Bryan’s July 19th Trip:</u> <div><div>1. Risso’s Dolphin</div><div>2. Sperm Whale</div><div>3. Spotted Dolphin</div></div>	<u>Sao Miguel July 25th Trip:</u> <div><div>1. Sei Whale</div><div>2. Spotted Dolphin</div></div>			



Species List:

1. Sei Whale (<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>)	[1/12 trips]	*Jan, Ivana, Valentin only (Sao Miguel)
2. Sperm Whale (<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>)	[7/12 trips]	
3. Pygmy Sperm Whale (<i>Kogia breviceps</i>) L	[1/12 trips]	
4. Dwarf Sperm Whale (<i>Kogia sima</i>)	[1/12 trips]	
5. False Killer Whale (<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>) L	[1/12 trips]	
6. Short-finned Pilot Whale (<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>)	[6/12 trips]	
7. Risso’s Dolphin (<i>Grampus griseus</i>)	[4/12 trips]	
8. Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>)	[4/12 trips]	
9. Common Dolphin (<i>Delphinus delphis</i>)	[4/12 trips]	
10. Striped Dolphin (<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>)	[2/12 trips]	
11. Atlantic Spotted Dolphin (<i>Stenella frontalis</i>) L	[9/12 trips]	
12. Northern Bottlenose Whale (<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>) L	[5/12 trips]	
13. Sowerby’s Beaked Whale (<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i>) L	[6/12 trips]	
Blainville’s Beaked Whale (<i>Mesoplodon densirostris</i>)		*Valentin only (Madeira)
14. Azores Noctule (<i>Nyctalus azoreum</i>)		
15. European Rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>) introduced		*Jonathan, Jan, Ivana, Paul, Valentin only
Brown Rat (<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>) introduced, dead		*Valentin only
European Hedgehog (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>) introduced, dead		*Valentin only

L = Lifer for me

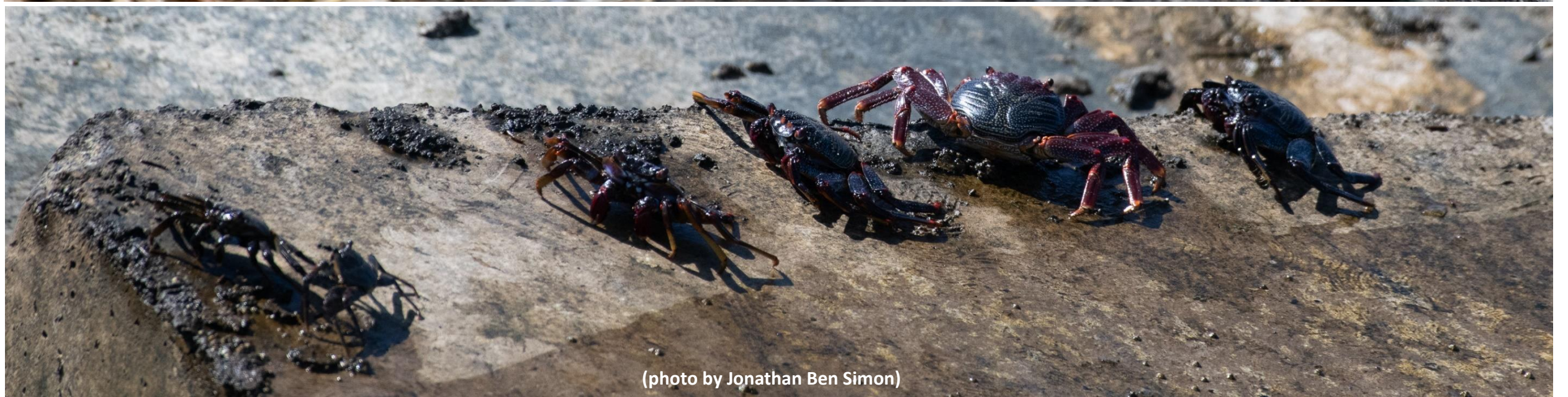








(photo by Bryan Kao)



(photo by Jonathan Ben Simon)



(photos by Daniel Benák)



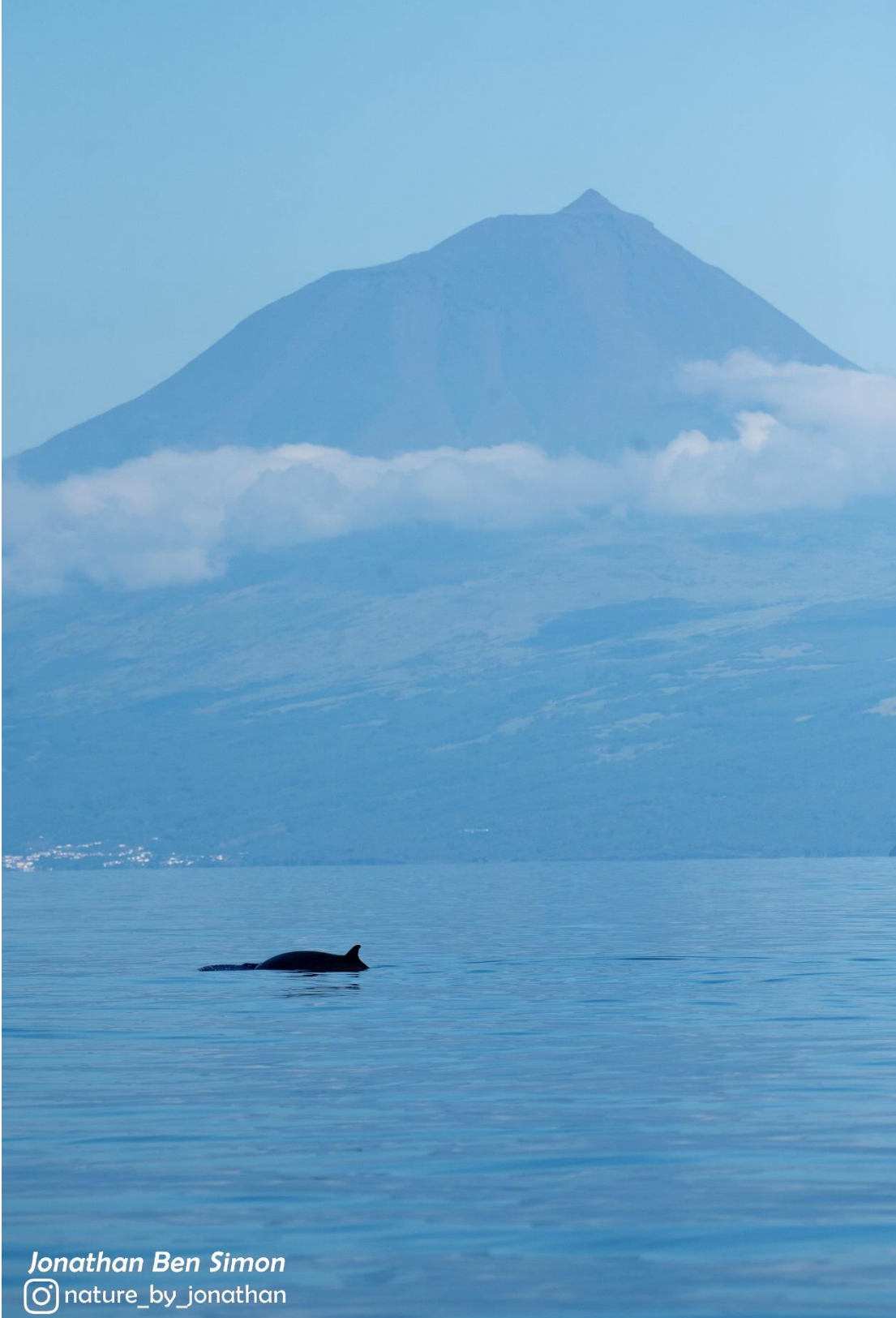
(photo by Daniel Benák)







(photo by Jonathan Ben Simon)



Jonathan Ben Simon
nature_by_jonathan

