



DOLPHIN AND WHALE OBSERVATION COURSES 2007

Humans have always been fascinated – almost mystically – by dolphins and whales. Many old cultures and tribes have shown their admiration and closeness to these marine mammals through their rituals, tales and traditions. For many people, the gentle giants of the oceans are a symbol for the unsustainable way nature and environment are treated.

THE COURSE

In the Strait of Gibraltar we provide the opportunity to observe whales and dolphins in freedom. Any enthusiastic whale, dolphin and nature lover can participate in one to two-week courses from April to October. Because of a distance of only 14 km between Africa and Europe, the Strait is just perfect for launching observation trips. Due to the concurrence of the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, the combined current conditions the Strait of Gibraltar constitutes an important feeding ground for different species of whales and dolphins.



The course is suitable both for grown-ups and for kids. On our daily boat trips (approx. 2 hours) you can experience whales and dolphins in their natural environment while we are studying their behaviour from our boat. So while watching the animals you can deepen your knowledge on these fascinating marine mammals. We encounter whales and dolphins on 98 % of our trips, as - thanks to our nine-years experiences of photo identification - we know about the migratory behaviour of the pilot whales depending on the tides.

Strong winds made Tarifa famous amongst wind surfers. These weather conditions, however, can make boat trips impossible sometimes. For that case we have prepared interesting alternative programmes, e.g. our marine biologists and other experts will give lectures to provide you with invaluable information on marine mammals, we can take a trip to a sand dune or the cliffy coast just off Tarifa. We could also explore a cork-oak wood that leads us to a little waterfall.

WHALES AND DOLPHINS

4 species of dolphins can be seen throughout the year: common dolphins, striped dolphins, bottlenose dolphins and pilot whales, which also belong to the family of the dolphins. 12-15 families of pilot whales have their feeding grounds in the Strait of Gibraltar and thus we encounter them regularly. From April to July sperm whales can be observed in the deeper waters of the Strait. During July and August, we can also watch Orcas near Tangier, where they are hunting tunas (or rather snatching them off the hook from fisher-men). Fin whales can also be seen, however, not quite as often.

It is important for us to treat the animals always with the demanded respect in order to minimize any disturbance. Therefore our skippers are specially trained to drive the boat in a careful manner.

HOW TO GET TO TARIFA

by train: destination Malaga or Algeciras and from there by bus to Tarifa,

by airplane: Destination Malaga

In Malaga or Algeciras, you can either take a bus to Tarifa or rent a car. **firmm**® offers special conditions for car rentals.

ACCOMODATION

You can choose between different categories of accommodation which can be booked through **firmm**®. Depending on the category of accommodation you choose, you can do your own cooking or eat out. The Andalusia cuisine offers a huge variety in food and is not expensive at all.

The prices for the course and the accommodations are listed below.

WEATHER, CLOTHING, INSURANCES

Generally the weather is nice and warm, but strong winds are very frequent. Therefore and especially for the boat trips you should bring a warm sweater, a wind-proof jacket, comfortable and sea-water resistant shoes, a sun-hat, sun protection, sunglasses and a camera, if you like to take pictures. Be also aware that we are not responsible for your personal equipment.

Each participant has to have his own insurance.

Please mention any physical handicap on the registration form.

COSTS

The prices for the course and the accommodations are listed on the attached registration form.

After registration you will receive a provisional confirmation with the invoice for the down payment of 50% of the total amount. As soon as we receive your payment, your place will be reserved. The other half of the amount has to be settled at least 30 days before the course starts. In case of cancellation we will charge you a modest fee.

FURTHER DETAILS



Courses take place at a minimum of 6-8 participants. However, in case of bad weather we might have to change the program. For these days we have prepared alternative programs.

Of course, you will always have enough spare time to discover the beautiful surroundings of Tarifa or to do sports such as snorkelling, scuba-diving, surfing, horse-back riding or for just relaxing and sunbathing.

firmm® has two main objectives: Research on whales and dolphins in the Strait of Gibraltar and information about the importance of the protection of the oceans and its inhabitants.

We hope you will leave us full of enthusiasm regarding both aspects.

ACCOMODATION

prices for 1 week/person approx.

(Please inquire for binding prices before booking, to be paid in Euro)

		July/Aug	low season
Hotel La Peña	double room	€ 360.-	€ 245.-
(VAT not included, breakfast buffet included)			
Situated 5 km from Tarifa, at the foot of a slope, in a beautiful garden, close to the beach. Car required.			

		July/Aug.	low season
La Codorniz	double bungalow	€ 380.-	€ 245.-
(VAT and breakfast included)			
Typical Andalusia hotel, approx. 5 km from Tarifa on the Atlantic coast, 200 m from the beach in a nice green area, with swimming pool and good restaurant. Car required.			

		July/Aug.	low season
Punta Sur	double bungalow	€ 465.-	€ 305.-
(VAT and breakfast buffet included)			
Situated approx. 8 km from Tarifa. 100 m from the beach (Atlantic), large swimming pool, tennis court, restaurant. Car required.			

		July/Aug/Sept.	low season
El Beaterio		from € 245.-	from € 245.-
(VAT included)			
Apartments with up to 6-beds, small kitchen, fridge, bathroom, radio, TV, some air-conditioned. Optional: telephone/fax, washing machine, tumbler, room to store surfboards and bikes. Situated in the centre of the old town in a beautiful historical house, 5 minutes walking distance from the beach (Atlantic Ocean or Mediterranean).			

Simple vacation apartments in the centre of Tarifa: for 2-6 people, small kitchen, approx. 5 minutes walking distance from the beach (Atlantic Ocean or Mediterranean). No car required.

TARIFA AND SURROUNDINGS

Tarifa was first mentioned (under another name) in the writings of Plinius. Excavations and cave drawings in the immediate surroundings of the town are witnesses of long past cultures, whereas the more recent history is to some extent reflected in the architecture of buildings that still exist today. Here, the past and the future merge to form the present. And this is how the visitor should try to experience Tarifa. If you walk through the old town centre without prejudices or definite expectations, you will discover much hidden beauty. Picturesque corners, Flamenco music, flower-laden windows, peacefulness. And then, only a few streets further on, just the opposite: Crowded cafés, restaurants, bars and discotheques, with happy people – expressing their joy of life.

In the surroundings of the town you will find a generous – and at the same time somehow unapproachable – type of nature. The Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea offer ideal conditions for scuba-diving, snorkelling and surfing, the landscape around Tarifa for taking long walks, doing bike-tours, horse-back riding and watching wild birds etc. And should you feel like getting to know the “IN” places of the area, what about a one day trip to Sevilla, Algeciras, Gibraltar, Marbella, Málaga or to Morocco – which are just around the corner?

Tarifa and surroundings have a lot to offer. Some things are obvious, others have to be looked for first, but in any case – it is worth it!

Your contribution supports *firmm's* activities and helps financing our scientific projects.

REGISTRATION FORM 2007:

Name _____ Born _____ (minors only) _____
Surname _____ Street _____
Area Code _____ Place _____
Tel. _____ Fax _____
E-Mail _____

1 week:

02.04.-06.04.	09.04.-13.04.	16.04.-20.04.	23.04.-27.04.
30.04.-04.05.	07.05.-11.05.	14.05.-18.05.	21.05.-25.05.
28.05.-01.06.	04.06.-08.06.	11.06.-15.06.	18.06.-22.06.
25.06.-29.06.	02.07.-06.07.	09.07.-13.07.	16.07.-20.07.
23.07.-27.07.	30.07.-03.08.	06.08.-10.08.	13.08.-17.08.
20.08.-24.08.	27.08.-31.08.	03.09.-07.09.	10.09.-14.09.
17.09.-21.09.	24.09.-28.09.	01.10.-05.10.	08.10.-12.10.

On any further trips outside the course we do apply a Reduction on the price

Costs: adults € 310.- for 1 week
minors* € 240.- for 1 week
*under 18 years

Arrival: Saturday or Sunday, first meeting on Sunday evening.

Car rental:** Malaga airport (to be paid directly to the rental agency, credit cards accepted)
Type A: e.g. Fiat Seicento € 140.-/week
Type B: e.g. Opel Corsa, Peugeot 106, R. Clio € 150.-/week
Type C: e.g. Fiat Punto, Seat Ibiza, € 162.-/week
 individually

Transfer:** *firmm*[®] pickup service (per person, per trip): € 65.- for 1 person, € 40.- each for 2 or more people

Accommodations:** See above for description. We can book the accommodation for you (which you can pay on arrival).

La Peña Codorniz Punta Sur
 El Beaterio: apartments for: one two three four five six
 vacation apartment individual stay

**By booking via *firmm*[®] you support the foundation.

Payment: A 50% deposit is to be paid after registration, the balance up to 30 days before arrival. At a later registration, the whole amount becomes due at once.

Place, Date: _____ **Signature:** _____

(Parent or legal guardian to sign for minors)

Send to: Headoffice *firmm*, Massholderenstr. 48, CH-8143 Stallikon, Switzerland, Tel.0041(0)44 700 15 21
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