

DOLPHIN AND WHALE OBSERVATION WEEK 2021 in Tarifa

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 PROGRAMME

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 week-long 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 in the Strait of Gibraltar constitute an important feeding ground for different species of whales and dolphins.

Our programme is suitable both for adults 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 boats. While watching the animals you can consolidate your knowledge on these fascinating marine mammals. We observe whales and dolphins on 98 % of our trips, as - thanks to our long-time experience 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 sometimes make boat trips impossible. For that case we have prepared interesting alternative programmes. Our marine biologists and other experts will give lectures to provide you with valuable information about marine mammals and we can take you to guided trips to the biotopes like the sand dune or the cliffy coast just off Tarifa.



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 always treat the animals 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 Málaga or Algeciras and from there by bus to Tarifa

By airplane: Destination Málaga

In Málaga 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 of food and is not too expensive.

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 week-long programme 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 course fees. 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 arrival. In case of cancellation we will charge you a modest fee.



FURTHER DETAILS

Courses take place in either case. 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 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.

(Prices from 2020. Please inquire for binding prices before booking, to be paid in Euro direct at the accommodation)

Punta Sur	double bungalow	July/Aug. € 640.- (VAT included)	low season € 435.-
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Situated approx. 8 km from Tarifa. 100 m from the beach (Atlantic), large swimming pool, tennis court, restaurant. Car required.

La Codorniz	double bungalow	July/Aug. € 460.- (VAT included, breakfast not included)	low season € 245.- / € 385.-
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Typical Andalusia hotel, approx. 4 km from Tarifa on the Atlantic coast, 100 m from the beach in a nice green area, with swimming pool and own restaurant. Car required.

Simple vacation apartments in Tarifa: for 2-5 people, small kitchen, approx. 10 minutes walking distance from the beach (Atlantic Ocean or Mediterranean). No car required.

Tarifa and surroundings

In Tarifa, with its romantic old town, the past and the future merge to form the present. Colourful cafés, restaurants, bars and discos with cheerfully noisy people are testimony to the joy of life.

Characteristic are the surfers, who are present the whole year round. Outside the city you can find several nature reserves. The island off Tarifa is ideal for snorkelling and diving. Along the Atlantic coast, the sandy beaches invite you to swim, surf and sunbathe. Along the steep coast towards the Mediterranean you will find beautiful paths for hiking and bird watching. In the nature parks you can also enjoy bike-tours and horse-back riding. On day trips to Sevilla, Cádiz, Jerez, Gibraltar, Marbella, Málaga or Granada you can explore the wider surroundings. Particularly adventurous people can take the ferry over to neighbouring Morocco and visit the African continent. The crossing takes only 35 minutes. A valid passport is required for an individual stay. For guided tours an identity card is sufficient.

Your contribution helps to support *firmm*[®]'s activities and scientific projects



REGISTRATION FORM 2021

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ (minors only)
Surname _____ Street _____
Area Code _____ Place _____
Phone _____ Mobile _____ (important)
E-Mail _____

1 week 05.07.-09.07. 12.07.-16.07. 19.07.-23.07. 26.07.-30.07.
 02.08.-06.08. 09.08.-13.08. 04.10.-08.10. 11.10.-15.10.

On any further trips outside the observation week we do apply a reduction on the price.

Costs adults € 400.- for 1 week
 minors* € 300.- for 1 week
 *under 18 years

Arrival Saturday or Sunday, first meeting on Sunday evening.

Car rental Málaga airport, to be paid directly to the rental agency, credit cards accepted
(prices indication 2020) **

- Type A: e.g. Peugeot 107, Ford Ka approx. € 120.- / 140.-/week
- Type C: e.g. Peugeot 207, Seat Ibiza approx. € 135.- / 160.-/week
- Type D: e.g. Seat Leon, Ford Focus approx. € 170.- / 220.-/week
- Type A Automatic: e.g. Ford Fiesta, Fiat Punto approx. € 190.- / 220.-/week
- individual

Transfer firmm® pickup service (per person, per trip): € 100.- for 1 person, € 55.- each for 2 or more people **

Accommodations*

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

- Punta Sur La Codorniz
- vacation apartment individual stay

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.

DVD ___ USB flash drive € 15.- plus postage, with pictures and filmlets about the marine mammals in the Strait of Gibraltar
 ___ DVD € 15.- plus postage "THE LAST GIANTS, wenn das Meer stirbt" (German, with English subtitles)

E-Book "Whales Calling" about Katharina Heyer written by Michèle Sauvain available as E-Book at www.firmm.org/en/whales-calling

* By booking via firmm® you support the foundation.

**For the reservation we must pass your contact data on to the respective offerer. For this we need your written consent by e-mail. Privacy policy on www.firmm.org

Place, Date _____ **Signature** _____

Parent or legal guardian to sign for minors

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