



PLANNING YOUR TRIP TO THE AZORES

1. Diving with sharks

- Average duration: 2 - 6 hours
- Group size: min. 6, max. 8 persons
- Our zodiacs: "Enterprise" 7.5m 225hp, "Maisha" 8.5m 250hp, "Black Pearl" 8.5m 225hp, "Recife" 7.5m 150hp, "Orca" 6.5m 150hp, "Odin" 5.8m 80hp
- Our catamarans: "Reef Cat" 12m 2x 320hp, "Joselisa" Rodmann Fisherman 11.20m
- Experience: will be evaluated during the check dive
- Minimum age: 12 years

Why should you dive with us?

Our shark guides are specifically trained to take into account your safety and the safety of the animals and to maximise the safe encounter with the animals. Our boats provide full safety equipment and our guides are trained as First Aid Responders. Pico Sport/Scuba Azores has more than 20 years of experience at Pico. We are the first company that started an underwater shark experience. Therefore we brought to perfection the necessary items to achieve an experience that matters. With more than 20 years of experience in the waters around Pico as well, the captains are the best in the area. In dealing with Apex Predators, we do not make any kind of compromise and neither should you.

2. Diving

- Average duration: depends on activity and dive site
- Group size: min. 6, max. 10 persons
- Our zodiacs: "Enterprise" 7.5m 225hp, "Maisha" 8.5m 250hp, "Black Pearl" 8.5m 225hp, "Recife" 7.5m 150hp, "Orca" 6.5m 150hp, "Odin" 5.8m 80hp
- Our catamarans: "Reef Cat" 12m 2x 320hp, "Joselisa" Rodmann Fisherman 11.20m
- Our cars: Pickup truck with cabin for 4-6 persons, bus with 9 seats, small car for max. 4 persons

Diving at Princess Alice Bank: It is a full day trip with an average duration between 10 and 12 hours. Snacks, fruits and refreshments are provided. However, feel free to bring more food and water. This trip requires a check dive before and min. 50 dives, AOWD. The minimum age is 12 years.

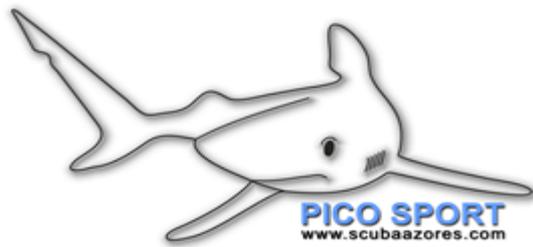
The dives around the Azores can be quite challenging. We recommend a check dive prior to any dive. Please note that it is a pre requisite for diving with sharks and for dives at Princess Alice Bank.

We offer different diving courses as well, please ask the guides or staff members.

3. Snorkelling with dolphins

- Average duration: 3 hours
- Group size: min. 6, max. 8 persons
- Our zodiacs: "Maisha" 8.5m 250hp, "Black Pearl" 8.5m 225hp, "Recife" 7.5m 150hp
- Our catamaran: "Reef Cat" 12m 2x 320hp

We offer basic snorkelling courses to make your dolphin swimming experience more enjoyable.



4. Whale Watching

- Average duration: 3 hours
- Group size: min. 6, max. 12 persons
- Our zodiacs: "Black Pearl" 8.5m 225hp, "Recife" 7.5m 150hp
- Our catamaran: "Reef Cat" 12m 2x 320hp

5. Shark Watching

- Average duration: 3 - 7 hours
- Group size: min. 6, max. 12 persons
- Our zodiacs: "Enterprise" 7.5m 225hp, "Maisha" 8.5m 250hp, "Black Pearl" 8.5m 225hp, "Recife" 7.5m 150hp
- Our catamaran: "Reef Cat" 12m 2x 320hp

6. What to bring for the excursions

General items

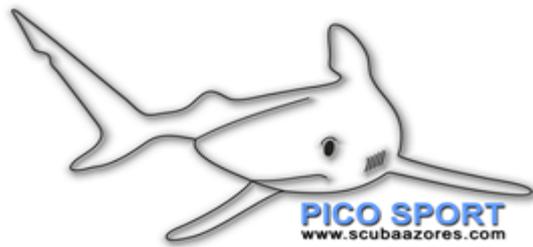
- Hat
- Waterproof camera
- Drybag (We have some drybags on the boats. However, it is recommended to bring your own as on busy days we cannot assure one drybag for everybody.)
- Warm and/or waterproof jacket
- Sunscreen
- Proper footwear
- Water

Lifejackets and waterproof coats are provided at the Zodiac.

If you bring electronic or fragile equipment on board, please remember that it is your responsibility to make sure it is well protected and water resistant.

For diving

- Diving certificate and medical waiver
- Dark gloves (min. 3mm)
- Hood
- Torch
- Underwater compass
- Signal device (whistle)
- Diving suit (7mm semi dry) or dry suit
- Booties
- Open fins
- BCD (jacket)
- Regulator (DIN or INT)
- Diving computer
- DSMB (Surface marker min. 1.5 m) with spool or reel
- Mask
- Euro 2 tank dive
- Cutting device



For snorkeling

- Wetsuit (shorty or full length suit (3-5 mm))
- Mask
- Fins
- Snorkel

If required, any equipment can be rented from or purchased (selected items) at the dive centre.

7. What Pico Sport/Scuba Azores base has to offer

- Our base is located directly at the port of Madalena, the zodiacs are only 50 meters away.
- Opening hours from 8am – 8pm.
- Advice about the Azores, our offered activities and other things to do at Pico is given by our staff during the shop opening hours.
- The shop offers: Island wear, postcards, books and souvenirs. We also have available full scuba equipment for rent (please check the rates for rental equipment at our homepage) and selected items for sale ranging from wet suits, BCDs, regulators, DSMBs, diving computers, gloves, torches, hoods, booties, fins, masks and snorkels.
- The base offers: Guest toilet, outside shower, storage room for equipment and wet suit hangers for 40 - 50 divers as well as 70x 12L steel tanks, outside hangers and rinsing place for equipment.
- Nearby our base: Snack bar, restaurant and car rental 20 meters away, bike rental 100 meters away, dive shop with big selection 400 meters away, supermarket and bakery 50 meters away, ferry port 100 meters away, pharmacy 150 meters away, hospital 500 meters away, natural swimming pool and snorkelling area 150 meters away.

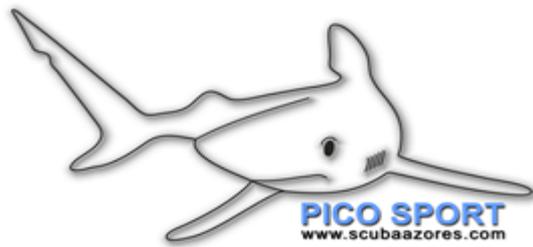
8. Other things to do at Pico

- Bird watching
- Coastal kayaking with sit on top kayaks (1-2 seaters) and professional kayak guide
- Hiking: Climb Mount Pico (2,351m) with or without guide
- Visit the vigias (land-based whale spotter)
- Rent a bike/car/scooter
- Visit the lava caves "Gruta das Torres" and "Gruta Freix Matias"
- Visit the sperm whale and squid museum, the whaling museum or the wine museum at the islands of Pico and Faial
- Day tour to Faial or São Jorge with a ferry from Pico

9. Weather conditions

We operate all year around but every tour depends on the presence of species and weather conditions. The climate on and around Pico varies, comparable to the climate in UK. This is because of its position in the middle of the Atlantic and the influence by the gulf stream. On one side of the island there may be heavy rain and just a few kilometres down the road blue sky and sunshine. Wind conditions are also variable, changing very quickly from flat calm to gale-force within a few hours. However, usually the summer months are the most stable at Pico which is reflected in the aggregation of the differing species. The water temperature between November and May is around 17°C and increases to 20°C in June. It then reaches its highest point in August with 24°C. The average daily temperature varies between 18°C and 25°C but can reach also 35°C in summer and 10°C in the winter.

Water visibility reaches its best point with more than 30 meters in the summer months.



10. Good to know

To allow us to maximise your experience with the animals, it is advisable that you decide in advance what kind of animal you would like to see. Every species has its own time frame in the waters around the Azores when there is a higher chance to see them. You can discover the big baleen whales in early spring, sperm whales and dolphins throughout the whole year and the sharks are mostly seen during summer time. As our knowledge of sharks and the great whales is constantly changing, we always look for ways to improve our programmes.

You should be aware that we fully believe in a sustainable underwater shark experience, involving attracting techniques as well as safety protocols for you and the animals. Discovering an outstanding situation in nature takes time and patience. We always search for new ways to improve these protocols, thereby enabling future encounters for the next generation.

Remember that at all times we endeavour to maximise your opportunity to encounter animals in their natural environment in a way as natural as possible. This does mean that we cannot guarantee that you will see the animals, as we are searching for them in the ocean in open waters and not in an aquarium. However, we will always do our utmost to provide you the opportunity for an amazing animal encounter.

11. Contact and bookings

If you want to make a booking or if you need any further information about our programmes, trips or about the animals please contact us at whales@gmx.com and take a look at our websites www.scubaazores.com and www.pico-sport.com.