

Whales & Dolphins of Madeira

Naturetrek Tour Report

10 - 13 September 2013

Report compiled by Luís Dias



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Day 1

Tuesday 10th September

Sunny day, light wind in the sea, some swell

We did a three hours tour on the sailing boat Ventura do Mar. Highlights were a group of Striped Dolphins *Stenella coeruleoalba* and two beaked whales - a rare sighting and probably Blainville's Beaked Whale *Mesoplodon densirostris*

Day 2

Wednesday 11th September

Morning - sunny day with flat sea. Afternoon - cloudy with some rain but flat sea

During the morning we had a three hour tour on the sailing boat Ventura do Mar. The highlight was a group of Atlantic Spotted Dolphins *Stenella frontalis*.

Another three hours in the afternoon produced an excellent sighting of a group of five Blainville's Beaked Whales *Mesoplodon densirostris*. Also seen were a group of Bottlenose Dolphins *Tursiops truncatus* and a Loggerhead Turtle *Caretta caretta*

Day 3

Thursday 12th September

Cloudy day with calm sea

In the morning we did a land tour of Madeira. Sightings included the endemic Trocaz Pigeon *Columba trocaz* and excellent views of the endemic Madeiran Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus maderensis*.

In the afternoon we had a RIB Boat Tour where we saw a group of 25-30 Short-finned Pilot Whales *Globicephala macrorhynchus*, Cory's Shearwaters, Bulwer's Petrel and the endemic Bugio Fea's Petrel *Pterodroma feae deserta*

Day 4

Friday 13th September

Very nice weather, sunny day and calm seas

We did a five hour tour on the sailing boat Ventura do Mar. Highlights today were three groups of Atlantic Spotted Dolphins *Stenella frontalis*, two groups of Short-finned Pilot Whales *Globicephala macrorhynchus* and about ten Loggerhead Turtles *Caretta caretta*. Birds seen included Cory's Shearwaters and Bulwer's Petrels

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Species List

Mammals

Bottle-nose Dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus*

Short-finned Pilot Whale, *Globicephala macrorhynchus*

Striped Dolphin, *Stenella coeruleoalba*

Spotted Dolphin, *Stenella frontalis*

Blainville's Beaked Whale, *Mesoplodon densirostris*

Birds

Cory's Shearwater, *Calonectris diomedea*

Bulwer's Petrel, *Bulweria bulweria*

Common Kestrel, *Falco tinnunculus*

Sandwich Tern, *Sterna sandvicensis*

Trocaz Pigeon, *Columba trocaz*

Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea schmitzi*

Madeiran Firecrest, *Regulus ignicapillus maderensis*

Bugio Fea's Petrel, *Pterodroma feae deserta*

Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta*

Western Yellow-legged Gull, *Larus michabellis atlantis*

Feral Pigeon / Rock Dove, *Columba livia*

Plain Swift, *Apus unicolor*

Common Blackbird, *Turdus merula cabrerarum*

Common Chaffinch, *Fringilla coelebs madeirensis*

Butterflies

Small White, *Pieris rapae*

Monarch, *Danaus plexippus*

Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*

Reptiles

Loggerhead Turtle, *Caretta caretta*