



Lobosonda
Madeira Whale Watching

SNORKELING WITH DOLPHINS in the open Ocean

To give our guests an unforgettable experience while treating the animals respectfully.

On these special trips, we only concentrate on snorkeling with dolphins.

We are offering trips to guests who would specifically like to enter the water to see these animals, and provide the all-important conditions that can make this activity an unforgettable experience.

Fee: 70€ Adults* / 48* Children* (good swimmers till 15 years old)

** For every paying snorkler we will be donating 5€ to Ric O' Barrys Dolphin Project*

It is important to understand, that we do not actively swim with dolphins, but passively float on the surface and being towed slowly on a rope, which is connected with the boat. **It is very important that you should be familiar with using a snorkel and a mask.**

Therefore, this activity is not referred to as "swimming with dolphins", but "snorkeling with dolphins".

Local regulations allow snorkeling with two species of dolphins: Common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*), our winter dolphins, and spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*), our summer dolphins. We watch their group structure and the behaviour of the animals for signs of whether they tolerate humans in the water or not.

Just like on our whale watching trips, we must not forget that we are dealing with nature and wild animals here, and nature is not entirely predictable for us humans.

We can not and do not wish to give any guarantees for what nature has to offer. A gentle and safe encounter for both parties has a higher priority for us. For this reason, we would like to ask our guests to please respect our basic ethical principles while snorkeling with these beautiful creatures. These principles are explained in greater detail in the introductory talk before the trip, and are confirmed by all participants with their signature.

We can not guarantee you any sightings. And there may also be reasons that prevent our crew from allowing You, as a paying guest to enter the water. Such reasons may be related to the safety of the guests or the well-being of the animals, and must be accepted by all participants without dispute.

Financial refunds are excluded.

Procedure at sea

- We are taking no more than 8 guests on each trip, who wish to snorkel with dolphins. There may be four more persons on board accompanying the snorkelers.

- Every guest is equipped with a towel, a bathing suit, and a wind-breaker.

- The skipper and the guide on board will decide which and how many guests at the same time and when may enter the water to experience the dolphins. They will take into consideration the group characteristics and behaviour of the animals, their willingness to interact, and the physical condition of the human participants.

What can you do to be as well-prepared as possible?

- You should be familiar with your mask and snorkel, and also with the open sea. This way, you can concentrate all your attention on the animals.

- A properly fitting swimsuit (no bikini)/swimming trunks give(s) more confidence. You may also wear a T-shirt over your bikini.

- **For snorkelers with sight glasses:** since you can not use your sight glasses, we recommend the use of contact lenses, for a more effective and comfortable experience during the activity

- You should be healthy and free of any infection.

- Please always remember that your own physical condition will determine your experience and also that of others with you in the water.

- If you can, please bring your own equipment (snorkel, mask, swimming suit). Lobosonda can also provide you with a mask and snorkel. If you use our mask and snorkel, you are responsible for this equipment. Please return it in good condition. Otherwise we have to charge you. For the loss of the mask it's 35€ and 15€ for the loss of the snorkel.

How should you behave during encounters with marine mammals?

- Glide into the water slowly, quietly and carefully.
- Refrain from any frantic movement.
- Relax and float on the surface.
- Repeatedly get into eye contact with the crew on board.
- Be patient and let the animals decide what they want to do.
- Make sure you turn off the flash on your underwater camera.
- Do not overestimate your abilities.

It is impossible for us to judge you, your physical condition, and your water skills before or during the trip. We can not know how you react when all of a sudden you are floating on the surface with 1000 metres of water below you, or if a large fish appears. We neither expect you to be a diver, nor be barely able to swim. For this reason, all participants are required to sign a declaration of personal responsibility, as Lobosonda does not assume any liability for potential accidents.

If you should not respect our rules, you will be asked to return to the boat immediately.