

Tour Report

Portugal – Whales & Dolphins of the Azores

6 - 13 May 2022

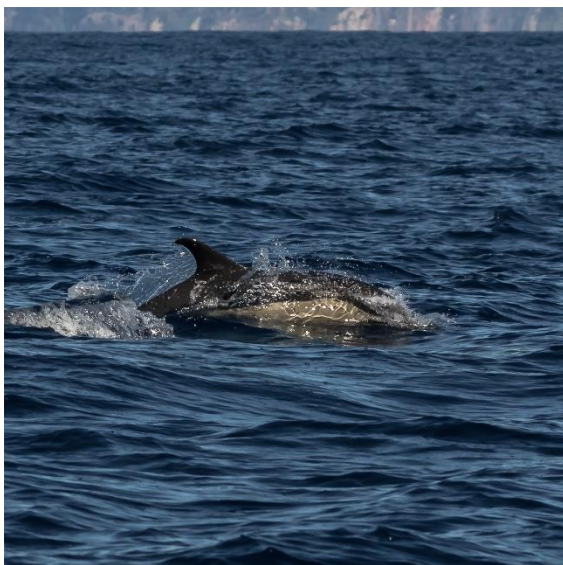
Risso's dolphin



Humpback whale



Short-beaked common dolphin



Sete Cidades



Compiled by Terry Goble

Images by Ann Grosart, Wyndham Collins, Alison King, Don Pepperell

This tour aimed to look for the migratory species of cetaceans that pass through the Azores on their way to their feeding grounds in the north. Of course, the resident species were also much welcomed and provided some thrilling viewing. The week was characterised by fantastic sightings of huge baleen whales and the toothed resident ... the sperm whale. In between these, we enjoyed hundreds of common and bottlenose dolphin sightings, often leaping and darting around the boat giving great views and judging by the delight of those watching great entertainment. Lastly but by no means least were the more serene Risso's dolphin. These graceful and beautiful creatures were a joy to watch as we followed a pod of around 20 animals. Other than the cetaceans honorary mention must go to the supporting cast of loggerhead turtle, Cory's shearwater and even a marlin!

Away from the rich seas, there were a series of arranged activities including a relaxing soak in volcanic waters, scenic lakes and presentations on the ecology of cetaceans and the heritage of whaling and whale watching on the island. I'm sure the group would join me in thanking them for their hard work and knowledge in enhancing our experience of the Azores.

I would also like to thank the group that made this week a gentle re-introduction to guiding. Fun, knowledgeable and very tolerant of my acerbic comments! It was a pleasure to spend time with such an entertaining and relaxed group.

Day 1: London Heathrow to Ponta Delgada via Lisbon

Friday 6 May 2022

We left Heathrow at 12:40 as the flight was slightly delayed. However, it was a glorious clear day and we soon made up the time, landing in a very warm Lisbon at 14:50. The weather was sunny, and temperatures were pleasant at 26°C. We had a reasonable amount of time in the stopover and so a few met up in the dining area for an introductory snack and drink.

We then caught the TAP flight out to Ponta Delgada, which was again for the most part in clear blue skies. The Benfica football stadium and Formula One track stood out as we passed over the city, and we were soon over the coast and after a little over two hours, we were all meeting up in the Azores!

We all introduced ourselves and met our driver Daniel, who gave us a cheery welcome. We climbed aboard the minibus, and all headed off to the Caloura Resort Hotel. We checked in and enjoyed the spectacular views from this stunning hotel, where the sheer cliff faces stretched off into the distance. Out over the ocean, there were a few Azorean yellow-legged gulls wheeling over a reasonably calm sea and waves lapping over the rocky beaches ... a beautiful view from our hotel balconies!

After a brief settling in, we all went to meet for dinner and chatted cheerfully whilst we ate. We ran through the itinerary for the next day and arranged to meet for breakfast at 07:00. We then retired to our rooms and got some rest to the eerie sounds of Cory's shearwater heading to roost.

Day 2: Whale trip and then drive to Nordeste

Saturday 7 May 2022

The morning started dull and overcast, but crucially with little wind and calm seas. The hotel garden was busy with a few birds and the best sighting was of a male blackcap. There were also house sparrows, wood pigeons, starlings and common tern passing over. We met for a buffet breakfast at 07:00, then got ready to catch our minibus down to the marina.

We checked in and went to watch the briefing, which included a harrowing, apocalyptic message from Harrison Ford regarding man's abuse of the planet. Moving on to less traumatic subjects we looked at the species we might see at this time of year. We were then allocated our life vests and boarded our Zodiac.

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There were quite a few fish in the harbour waters and a few marbled shore crabs, whilst overhead common terns were diving into the water to catch fish.

Once out of the harbour the Zodiac quickly got up to speed and headed towards a large flock of Cory's shearwater, which were actively fishing. When we approached, we saw the first cetacean of the day as a pod of common dolphin were feeding, driving the fish to the surface where the shearwaters were picking them off. The dolphins were very focused on feeding and apart from the occasional leap were busy chasing fish. So, we left them to look for another species that had been seen not too far away.

We arrived at the area a few minutes later and quickly spotted a pod of feeding bottlenose dolphin. Again, they were very focused and only occasionally leapt and rolled on the surface. We looked at a few more pods in the area but all seemed to be in feeding mode. We also saw many Portuguese-man-of-war, these deceptively beautiful (collection of individual organisms) hydrozoans carry a nasty sting, so are best admired from afar!

We then had news of a third cetacean species which led us on a bit of a goose chase for a while before we eventually caught up with a pair of sei whales. Due to the converging boats, we stopped to look for only a short while but did see them surface a few times and leave their 'footprints' on the surface. We then made our way back to the marina. On route, we stopped to make our way around a large rock, which hosts many breeding seabirds including Cory's shearwaters, Azorean yellow-legged gull and common terns.

Back at the marina, the sun had finally burst through and walking was pleasant in the warm sunshine. We were on a tight timescale, but the restaurant was not the quickest and we arrived back a little late for our afternoon tour. On the plus side, we did see a clouded yellow butterfly and Madeira wall lizards due to the sunny conditions.

We gathered back at the marina and set off for Nordeste and the restored laurel forests. After a 50-minute drive through some lovely scenery, we eventually arrived at our destination. With luck, the mist that had clung to the hillside had vanished and we decided to waste no time in looking for the Azores bullfinch (Priolo). We walked up to the Laurel Garden, and we saw several different species, including chaffinch, goldfinch, robin, blackbird and grey wagtail. Unfortunately, the Priolo evaded us, and we were unable to locate this scarce endemic. We did get a talk on the restoration of the forest and future plans before returning to the interpretation centre where we listened to a more in-depth talk about the history of the island. At one stage it was denuded of all trees and was intensively farmed which led to the persecution and loss of habitat for the bullfinch, which dwindled to about 30 pairs. The issues have been exacerbated by alien introductions spread out from botanical gardens and reforestation by alien trees. Efforts to save the bullfinch are inextricably linked to the restoration of the laurel forests, which has happily stabilised the bullfinch population at over a thousand birds.

After this fascinating talk and walk in the lovely forests, it was time to head back to the hotel. On route, we did spot a few more birds including buzzards and a brief view of common waxbills (introduced). We wound our way down from the mountains to a stunning view of the coast lit by late afternoon sunshine. We thanked Daniel and Ana for their support for the day and went to our rooms to get ready for dinner and relax.

We met at 19:30 for dinner, which was a buffet meal as usual. We discussed the plans for the following day and the visit to Largo Fogo and then chatted amiably over dinner until it was time to retire to our rooms and get a rest.

Day 3: Whale trip then drive to Lagoa do Fogo Volcano

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Sunday 8 May 2022

We met for breakfast around 07:00 and enjoyed a coffee and buffet breakfast before getting prepared for the day. We met as arranged at 08:00 for our lift down to the marina. We arrived to sign in and elected to avoid the trauma of the briefing as we had seen it the previous day which left us in prime position to line up and secure the front seats!

Whilst waiting to board we looked at some of the marine life and fish in the harbour, some of which were very colourful. It was soon time to board and head out. Almost as soon as we left the harbour, we were directed to a humpback whale. Typically these whales can be very visible and breach regularly, however sadly this one (a large female) was behaving very timidly and seemed to avoid us. We did manage to see a couple of deep dives and views of the flukes as the whale rolled down into the depths though. After a while, we left the animal in peace and went to see some bottlenose dolphins, with views mostly of the fins but occasionally one half cleared the water giving better views!

Next, we came across a pod of common dolphin which consisted of a few youngsters and at least one very small baby dolphin. The fact that they had at least one calf may explain why they were also shy, it's also likely that they were feeding as the Cory's were in attendance picking off the fish pushed to the surface. We saw a few mini leaps but mostly the dolphins were only showing their dorsal fin.

There appeared to be an incoming weather system, so the Zodiac moved inshore. We waved to the Vigias, who had been spotting for us and then motored along the coastline to the protected rock to view the breeding birds. We added a little egret and ruddy turnstone to our sightings before returning to the marina, where we thanked our captain and guide for an enjoyable trip and gathered to walk to the restaurant.

The food was excellent at this place and the service was also a little quicker. We all agreed it was a much better dining experience and requested to return. After an enjoyable and relaxed lunch, we headed back to the marina and boarded the minibus to drive us on our afternoon tour to Lagoa do Fogo. We had intended to stop at various viewpoints (miradouro) to enjoy the fine views of the lake and down to the coastal plain, unfortunately, a thick blanket of mist meant that there were no views!

We carried on to the hot pools and walked around this interesting area where the boiling water bubbles up from underground, with a heady smell of sulphur clinging to our nostrils as we wandered around. The water mixed with cool spring water to create thermal pools, which were popular on a Sunday afternoon. We did find a few Atlantic canaries around the pools and in the car park, along with some very accommodating chaffinch. We also found the introduced Perez's frog after we heard it calling from the stream. As we were heading out, we found the only endemic mammal, the Azores noctule bat as one emerged over some Japanese cedars and flew off into the distance.

We then headed down to a 40-metre waterfall. On route, our guide told us how the island generates 80% of its power from renewable sources, such as geothermal, hydro, solar and wind. We next headed to the black sands of a volcanic beach, famous for its waves and surfing competitions, where we found lots of wall lizards and a few clouded yellow butterflies before relaxing on the beach. It was soon time to head back to the hotel so we all boarded the minibus and drove back. We arrived in glorious sunshine and elected to relax around the resort and meet at 19:30 for dinner.

Dinner was the usual buffet affair, and we enjoyed a relaxing chat whilst eating. We completed our checklist and discussed the itinerary for the next day. After dinner, we all retired to our rooms to get some rest.

Day 4: Whale trip then drive to Sete Cidades

Monday 9 May 2022

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We met for breakfast at 07:00 on a bright and warm sunny morning, with very little wind and calm seas. It appeared that everybody had 'enjoyed' the experience of the Cory's shearwaters calling noisily as they flew around the hotel. There are some nearby cliffs and they will likely be nesting there. After breakfast, we prepared for our full day of whale watching and a visit to the crater lakes at Sete Cidades.

We arrived at the marina on time and managed to be first in line bypassing the briefing. Once safely onboard, we set off to see what the morning would bring. Soon after leaving the harbour, we found a lone Risso's dolphin which was unusual as normally they are in pods of 10-15. This was a new sighting of these lovely dolphins, unfortunately, she seemed intent on avoiding us and although slow for a dolphin it was difficult to get good views. Then news came in of a baleen whale spotted 13 miles off the coast, sadly due to the distance, it was not possible to identify it.

On route, we spotted about four loggerhead turtles but did not have time to admire them - they had to be left for another day as we had a long trip to get to where the whale was seen. Eventually, we arrived and after a little while, we were able to find two large humpback whales. They were a great sighting, and we were able to follow their bright pectoral fins underwater as they reflected blue under the strong sunlight. We watched them as one passed under the boat and surfaced on the other side. One had a couple of great fluke sightings as they shallow dived, staying quite close to the surface. Sadly, as we had come such a distance we had to return and leave these magnificent whales.

On the journey back we were lucky to find a pod of about 15 common dolphins and this time our luck was in as they were very active. They leapt frequently out of the water as they darted around. We enjoyed this spectacle for about ten minutes before it was time to leave them in peace. It was a cracking experience to add to the whale sightings. As usual, we squeezed in a quick tour around the bird breeding island before we motored back to the marina and ended an excellent whale trip.

After we had all gathered, we headed off to the Estrella do Mar for our lunch. The food and service were excellent as we relaxed and chatted happily. D.P had elected to have a second whale trip and not join us on the afternoon drive to Sete Cidades. After lunch, we went our separate ways and we met with our guide and driver for the day and set off into the Western Highlands. On the way up we stopped at a lake and heard a lot of Perez's frogs and saw them jumping around the margins. We also saw a red-veined darter and a scarce blue damselfly.

Our guide gave us a talk about aeration towers and aqueducts, and their importance to the early settlers on the island. We then stopped at a few miradouros and looked over the island seeing both coasts as both the north and south of the island were visible. We next had a view of the two crater lakes and in good light, we were able to see that the lakes differed in colour as one was light green and the other was a darker blue-green. The light-coloured lake was shallower and the colour difference was caused by the algal growth but does give an interesting effect.

We then went back down the winding road to the lake and enjoyed a walk. We were able to add a few new birds such as coot, mallard and moorhen. We also saw another goldcrest and lots of common birds including several Atlantic canaries.

As we descended, we stopped at a small attractive church and finally at an ocean lookout. We enjoyed the warm afternoon sunshine, and it was great to be able to enjoy a mist free panorama. A calling quail was as frustrating as ever as it remained well hidden but nice to hear its 'wet-my-lips' call.

We got back to the hotel around 18:00 and thanked our driver for a fun and interesting afternoon. We agreed to have dinner a little later as we were back quite late, so, we went to our rooms to relax and get ready for dinner at 20:00.

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Dinner was the usual buffet with excellent vegan alternatives. The atmosphere was relaxed and fun as we chatted over numerous subjects and reflected on a very satisfying day. We discussed plans for the next day and after a lovely dinner, we retired to the bar or our rooms as the evening ended with a glorious sunset. This evening the Cory's shearwaters were surprisingly quiet, with just the odd comical call.

Day 5: Whale trip then drive to Botanical Gardens of Furnas

Tuesday 10 May 2022

The day began with our established routine of meeting at the breakfast hall at 07:00 for the buffet breakfast. We looked over the sea from the hotel and were pleased to see a calm, flat sea. The forecast was for a cloudy day with sunny intervals and the morning's weather reflected this.

We drove down to the marina and after signing in waited to board the Zodiacs. We set off at 09:00 and were straight away on a mission. There were a few leaping dolphins, but when we didn't stop, we knew there was something else waiting for us. After quite a fast ride over the calm, but slightly bumpy seas we finally stopped and quickly found two sperm whales, a mother and her calf. As the calf was unable to dive the mother stayed close by and allowed it to suckle on her milk (paste). We could make out the mini blow of the calf and saw its disproportionately large head pop up from time to time. They both dived a shallow dive and we were soon able to pick them up and watch them for a while. The frequent blows were quite low and angled left as their nostrils are on the left of their enormous heads.

After enjoying these magnificent beasts, we decided to return to the leaping dolphins. As we approached where they were seen we were distracted by another pod of dolphins. These were a large group of about 20 Risso's dolphin. There were both female and the heavily scarred males in the group serenely swimming ahead of us giving great views as they frequently broke the surface. Whilst watching these the common dolphin were vying for our attention as they darted around leaping and porpoising out of the water. Soon the boat was surrounded by the entertaining little dolphins, and it was hard to know where to look. After a thoroughly entertaining 15 minutes or so it was time to tour the bird island and head back to the marina. It had been a hugely enjoyable trip and a bonus stop for a loggerhead turtle, which hung around on the surface, was a nice ending to a brilliant morning.

After we gathered again at the marina, we met up with Ana to continue our afternoon outing to The Furnas Botanical Gardens and perhaps more excitingly the volcanically heated spas! We first stopped at a Neo-gothic church, which despite looking ancient and 'spooky' was quite a recent building. We also enjoyed views over the lake as Ana explained the geological history of the calderas.

We then stopped for lunch to enjoy traditional volcanic steamed dishes. The waiters brought us huge plates of steamed meats, yams and cabbage - far too much for us six to eat, but it was appreciated, nonetheless. Feeling replete, we headed off to the botanical gardens. Ana gave us a guided tour and informed us about the history of the magnificent gardens. She also pointed out the double-edged sword of the gardens as many of the plants got into the surrounding ecosystem and became very invasive at the expense of the remaining indigenous plants.

After our walk and talk, it was time to take to the local waters. Most went to the hot pool to relax but also tried out the hot jacuzzi too. Others decided to give the waters a miss and frequented a local bar. The water was indeed hot and relaxing but is also known to stain your hair, clothing and even jewellery so care needs to be taken!

After soaking for about 40 minutes, it was time to begin our journey back. Our last stop was to view some volcanic vents and boiling water pools. We saw the pool and then made our way back to the minibus sampling the natural springs on the way. Despite Ana's assurance they were good to drink, these naturally carbonated waters tasted foul!

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We boarded the van and set off back to the hotel via a shopping stop at a supermarket. After this brief interlude, we continued back to the hotel and arrived back around 18:30. We were all a little weary but had enjoyed a great day. We agreed to meet up for dinner at 20:00 and return to our rooms to relax and get ready.

We met for our buffet and went through the checklist and discussed the plans for the following day. We also arranged to meet on Thursday night to jointly check in our flights. For the rest of the evening, we chatted and enjoyed our meal until it was time to retire to our rooms.

Day 6: Whale trip then heritage tour to Vigias hut and nearby lighthouse

Wednesday 11 May 2022

In keeping with our now established routine, we met for breakfast at 07:00 and looked out on a grey, overcast morning. There was a threat of rain in the air and later in the morning, it did briefly shower. However, the good news was that the winds were only light and although a little 'choppier' than the previously flat calm seas it was still very good for finding cetaceans. We enjoyed the buffet breakfast and then got ready for the day.

We met with Daniel, our driver at 08:00 and headed for the marina. We arrived on time to check in and get ready for the boat to cast off. Once underway and out of the harbour we motored on towards a large pod of about 30-40 bottlenose dolphins. To our delight, they were very acrobatic and playful and everywhere around the boat! It was a lovely beginning to the trip. After about 15 minutes we pushed on to an even larger pod of common dolphins. They too were in the mood to play and several youngsters leapt and spun and we also caught sight of a newborn calf, barely a month or so old ... adorable!! It was an exhilarating few minutes and it was hard to know where to look as dolphins appeared to be leaping everywhere!

It was eventually time to drag ourselves away and we headed out to try and find a sperm whale that was seen the previous day. We tried the hydrophone, but the noise from a distant boat masked any whale noises and soon we had news of a whale spotted further inland, so we headed off back towards the island.

On route, we had a brief encounter with a marlin that 'zigzagged' its way around the Zodiac. We arrived at the site and were delighted to find out that there were two blue whales! We were in the company of about five other boats and with more arriving we decided to not be part of the 'flotilla' stressing the whales. We did manage some slightly distant views and saw numerous blows. The weather was also closing in as the wind was picking up and the intermittent rain was falling again.

We decided to cut our losses and head back to the marina via bird island, which was a bit quicker than usual due to the deteriorating conditions. We arrived back around 11:30 having enjoyed an excellent morning and gathered ourselves for lunch at a nearby restaurant. We ordered our food and ate whilst chatting about this morning's tour amongst other topics. It was soon time to head back to the marina for the Whale Heritage Tour.

The tour began with Ana showing us the whaling boats and describing the traditional and frankly dangerous methods employed to kill large whales from flimsy boats. Ana also gave a talk on the history of whaling in the Azores, which began with American whalers arriving in the mid 18th Century and lasted until the whaling treaty that was signed in 1984. The last hunted whale took place in 1987 and since then, the Vigias have been redeployed to spot whales for the tourist industry and now there is a much more sustainable way to enjoy the whales of the Azores.

We then went to meet a couple of the Vigias, who ensured we got to enjoy the whales and dolphins on all our excursions. They showed us their equipment and described their techniques, and they even managed to find a pod of bottlenose dolphins, despite the now rough seas. We were amazed at their skills and went to look at a nearby lighthouse and saw the rocky perils they guarded ships against. That concluded the tour

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and we headed back to the hotel to relax for the afternoon. We thanked the Vigias for their insight into their occupation and Ana and Daniel for the interesting outing. We arrived at the hotel at 16:30 and arranged to meet for dinner at 19:30.

We enjoyed the usual buffet dinner and enjoyed our food in a relaxed and chatty atmosphere. We completed the checklist and noted the time change for the Lisbon flight to London (now 16:15) before arranging to meet at 07:00 for breakfast and to get prepared for our last full day.

Day 7: Whale trip and presentation on cetacean ecology and research at the marina

Thursday 12 May 2022

We all met at breakfast at 07:00 and had an eye on the weather as the forecast was for deteriorating conditions. There was a little rain about and a light breeze, but the sea looked calmer than expected and so we remained optimistic for our last whale trip out for this tour. After breakfast, we met outside the hotel for our lift to the marina. We were now well versed in the dark arts of securing the seats we desired and after signing in we were primed and ready.

We boarded the boat just before 09:00 and were soon underway. We sped along to our first rendezvous with common dolphins. This group were socialising, swimming together and making physical and vocal contact, and the hydrophone was lowered so we could hear the clicks and whistles they were making. We then moved on to our second encounter with these endearing dolphins and this one was a little more dramatic. The common dolphins had corralled a bait ball of sardines and were picking them off, swimming fast and occasionally leaping. Overhead the gulls and shearwaters were also adding to the spectacle and helping themselves to a feast. At one point the bait ball possibly seeking refuge swam under the boat and we could see the huge grey mass of fish.

We then got news of a whale sighting nine miles out to sea. We were leaving the protection of the island to more open water. We set off and headed southwest across increasingly bumpy seas. We arrived at the site and very soon connected with two blue whales!! We were able to spend more time with these animals as there was less boat pressure, and we saw them surface on a few occasions, but as often is the case we could only see a small portion of their backs and their tiny (in comparison) dorsal fins. One of the whales dived but was only a few metres below the surface so we could make out the giant turquoise shape under the water which gave a better perspective on just how big these creatures are. We enjoyed them for a few more minutes but fast approaching boats were our signal to leave these magnificent giants.

We now had to get back to the marina in a fairly heavy swell and intermittent rain. This meant the ride back was exhilarating and damp in equal measure! Back at the marina we reflected on a superb week of cetacean sightings and thanked the crew and drivers who made this week so much fun and educational.

We set off to the 'Estrella' restaurant for our lunch with a bit more time to relax and enjoy our meal. The hosts as ever were friendly and inviting, the food was good, and we had a lovely time chilling by the marina. It was then time to return to the centre for cetacean classes.

One of the guides, Sanna, gave a talk on whale biology, evolution and physiology. We learned the different feeding techniques and intelligence employed by cetaceans to obtain their meals and we watched an example of orcas wave washing a seal off an ice flow and a team of dolphins beaching themselves to hoover up fish they had driven to the shore. Not to be outdone the baleen whales employed 'bubble netting' and a grey whale used its head to stir up the muddy bottom to grab fleeing prey items. We then talked about the monitoring programmes and threats to cetaceans. Hopefully, we will all submit some of our photographs to 'Happywhale' or one of the other scientific studies.

After an entertaining talk, we headed back to our hotel now basking in glorious sunshine. We arranged to meet for our final dinner together at 19:30 and set off to relax for the rest of the afternoon.

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We all met for dinner and completed a few admin tasks including checking-in flights and completing the checklist for the final time. We then enjoyed the buffet dinner before retiring to the poolside bar. Here we toasted an excellent week of fantastic sightings and very helpful weather. I thanked the group for their relaxed approach to the trip and for making the trip fun and enjoyable for all. We chatted for another hour or so before we all retired to get some sleep.

Day 8: Flight to London Heathrow via Lisbon

Friday 13 May 2022

We all met for breakfast and were surprised to see a calm sea and reasonably bright morning. The forecast was for the weather to deteriorate, hopefully, this was good news for the group arriving today. After breakfast, we checked out and gathered at the hotel entrance. Our minibus arrived and we drove to the airport to catch the flight to Lisbon. We were delayed by the later arrival of the inbound flight from Lisbon but were soon underway and making up time when we flew to Lisbon airport.

We managed a brief coffee and snack before being called to the gate. There was a slight delay in take-off, but again we made up the time in flight. The passage was not as smooth as the previous flight with some mild turbulence, but still a relaxing flight to Heathrow.

We disembarked and despite long queues made it through passport control reasonably quickly and managed to gather our luggage at the carousel straight away. It was now time to say 'goodbye' as the tour came to an end.

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3	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
4	Eurasian buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo rothschildi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
5	Common moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				✓	✓			
6	Common coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓				
7	Ruddy turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			✓	✓				
8	Atlantic yellow-legged gull	<i>Larus michahellis atlantis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Common tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Eurasian collared dove (introduced)	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea patriciae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
14	Eurasian blackbird	<i>Turdus merula azorensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Eurasian blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓	✓				H
16	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus azoricus</i>		✓		✓				
17	European robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	Common waxbill (introduced)	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>		✓						
19	Common starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

21	Common chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs moreletti</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
22	European goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
23	Atlantic canary	<i>Serinus canaria</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	
24	Common quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>				H				
25	Ruddy shelduck. (escape)	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>					✓			
	REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS									
1	Loggerhead turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>				✓	✓			
2	Madeiran wall lizard	<i>Lacerta dugesii</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
3	Perez's frog	<i>Rana perezi</i>			✓	✓	✓			
	BUTTERFLIES	PAPILIONES								
1	Azorean Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae azorensis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Clouded yellow	<i>Colias crocea failae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
3	Red admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓		✓				
4	Painted lady	<i>Vanessa cadui</i>				✓				