



## **TEEN PROGRAM IN TENERIFE WHALE & DOLPHIN CONSERVATION**



### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Volunteer in the Canary Islands and see the loggerhead sea turtle peacefully gliding between the sandy ocean floor and its sun-kissed surface, and watch pods of Atlantic spotted dolphins socialising with their bottlenose friends.

From our island base in Tenerife, you'll even spot the usually nomadic long-finned pilot whales that settle down between the islands of La Gomera and Tenerife. And as a volunteer for cetacean conservation – dolphin and whale conservation – you'll be a part of efforts to conserve these species and their marine habitats.

Why become a volunteer in the Canary Islands?

Tenerife alone welcomes up to five million eager tourists a year, who come from across the world to see the island's biodiversity. These include marine animals like whales, dolphins, sea turtles, as well as other marine life. But, too many feet treading the island and its beaches means that the natural biodiversity is interrupted by an influx of tourism, boat traffic, overfishing and excess waste on the island shores.

That's why the NGO works collaboratively with local organisations to contribute to dolphin and whale conservation in the area. And our programs are aligned with the objectives set out in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

Our conservation efforts are also led by our badge of ethics, which represents our commitment to responsible and ethical best practices in all of our projects.

What are you waiting for? Dive into cetacean conservation by becoming a volunteer in the Canary Islands of Spain.

How marine conservation volunteering helps

Our marine conservation efforts aim to protect marine creatures, big and small, and the natural life cycle of all life underwater.

The Canary Islands dolphin and whale conservation NGO set out a few key objectives in our efforts to safeguard marine life:

- We collect data so that experts can assess the populations and behaviour of whales, dolphins and other marine species around Tenerife.
- We contribute to the science of marine conservation projects by publishing our findings.
- We assist with local marine and coastal waste management efforts through activities like beach clean-ups.
- We raise awareness about sustainable and ethical tourism practices.

## Life on base

Our base in the Canary Islands is located on the island of Tenerife. With amazing views and waters teeming with megafauna, there are loads of hikes, as well as dormant and active volcanoes. The island itself is home to a variety of microclimates, such as cloud forests, jungles, deserts and tundra.

A 3-minute walk from the marina of Puerto Colón, our base overlooks the ocean, has loads of nearby amenities and facilities, as well as many restaurants and bars. From the harbour visitors can board one of Tenerife's famous whale and dolphin watching tours. We're situated near the town of Costa Adeje, an area popular with tourists. There is also a large shopping mall called Siam about 20 minutes away.

Participants will be in **shared dorm-style** accommodation, with multiple participants to a room (same sex). **The accommodation has cooking facilities** for meals, training and meetings. You are sharing this accommodation with the staff, who will be in their separate, private room.

The base is basic but comfortable and is split across two apartments, with ample space for training, working through project data, or just relaxing after a busy day. We cultivate a family atmosphere on base. Cooking and tidying duties are shared on a rotation basis amongst staff and participants.

Depending on the weather conditions, you can look forward to boat trips on the Atlantic Ocean where we monitor the whales and dolphins living around Tenerife. On other days, you might collect data on other marine species or conduct beach surveys, plastic pollution cleanups, or environmental awareness sessions with tourists visiting Tenerife. You'll often start your mornings early with training, carrying out surveys, or capturing collected data from marine research. Evenings are spent enjoying a meal and being debriefed on the activities of the day. Afterwards, there's time to sit back and relax while chatting with your fellow participants. During free time on base, participants play card games or chess, swim in the pool, read, relax, or watch documentaries. There is a billiards centre next door where team members enjoy hanging out in their free time.

## Accommodation

Participants sleep in **dorm rooms that can accommodate 4–6 people**. The shared bathrooms have a bathtub, showers, and flush toilets. The accommodation is equipped with electricity and running water.

**Laundry facilities** nearby at participants' expense.

Facilities will be more basic than you are accustomed to – **please travel with an open mind and a willingness to adapt to local conditions**.

## Transportation

A staff member will be at the airport to welcome you. Tenerife has 2 international airports (TFN in the north and TFS in the South). **We ONLY offer pickups at Tenerife South Airport**. Between **07:00am - 18:00pm**, on the start date.

From there, we'll provide a transfer to the base. Transport is also provided for project work unless the site is within walking distance. On weekends, you can visit local tourist attractions on foot, by bus, or by taxi. The sea-based monitoring is conducted by boat.

You will be **transferred back** to Tenerife South Airport on the final day of your program and it is **advised to book a flight before 3pm**.

## Communication

Wi-Fi is available on base for participants to use and there's also decent phone signal reception. Internet cafés can also be found in town.

## Meals

Staff and participants take it in turns to prepare meals according to a schedule. Meals are usually simple but healthy, combining the flavours of ingredients found on the Canary Islands. Breakfasts may include cereals, eggs, toast, pancakes and fresh fruit. Lunches are made on base and typically include sandwiches, salads, rice and pastas. Depending on everyone's preferences, dinner options vary, but favourites include curries, pastas, salads and stir-fries. You can also buy your own lunch and snacks in town or cook something up at the base. All diets can be catered for

## Climate

Tenerife has a warm and pleasant climate, which is just one of the reasons why it's such a popular year-round tourist destination. With an average temperature of 18–24 °C (64–75 °F) from December to February and 24–28 °C (75–82 °F) during the months of June to August, most days are sunny and precipitation is minimal (except in the mountains). Bring a sweatshirt for the cold days, but most of the time you'll be comfortable in shorts

and t-shirts.



## **ITINERARY**

### **Day 1**

¡Buenos días amigos! Get to know each other and your beautiful new home over a flavourful traditional Canarian dinner.

### **Day 2**

First up: orientation and safety training. Then head out on your first mission: a beach clean up. You'll also learn more about the impact humans have on the oceans and about how we use citizen science databases to track this relationship.

### **Day 3**

Your first day at sea! We introduce you to all the species you'll be spending your time with and show you how to ethically monitor and track them.

### **Day 4**

Put the previous day's knowledge to the test. You'll spend the day gathering data on the local whale and dolphin populations.

### **Day 5**

Ready, steady, cook? After another morning out at sea, you'll be divided into teams to prepare a local dish while being taught some Spanish as you go.

### **Day 6**

Back at sea! Collect more dolphin and whale data to get a better understanding of the conservation challenges facing these remarkable mammals.

### **Day 7**

It's a beach day. While there's plenty of time for fun in the sun, we also reflect on and discuss the impact of tourism on the environment.

**Day 8**

Tour the historical village of Icod de los Vinos and its famous dragon trees, which have a vital lesson to teach about the importance of indigenous plants for the local ecosystem.

**Day 9**

From sea to summit: take an idyllic hike up to a remote mountain village to see firsthand the effects of ecotourism on the island.

**Day 10 - 12**

Adventure time on Mount Teide – the world's third highest volcano. Spend time hiking and enjoying the wilderness while conducting wildlife surveys.

**Day 13**

Spend the day eating, exploring and getting historical in Garachico Old Town, which was built in the 1400s. We'll celebrate your last night with a special dinner.

**Day 14**

Adios amigos! Before heading to the airport, have one final goodbye to the island and your new friends.

**Packing List**

- Backpack (65L) and daypack (25L).
- Headlamp, reusable water bottle, hiking shoes, and sandals.
- Clothing suitable for Tenerife's climate.
- DEET-free insect repellent and SPF 50+ sunscreen highly recommended.
- Camera and binoculars recommended for observations.