

**WHALE WATCH TARIFA**  
Avda. de la Constitución, N°6  
C.P. 11380 Tarifa, (Cádiz)  
Tel: 956 682 247 Fax: 956 627 013  
Móvil: 670 796 508 / 639 476 544  
e-mail: [whalewatchtarifa@whalewatchtarifa.net](mailto:whalewatchtarifa@whalewatchtarifa.net)  
Website: [www.whalewatchtarifa.net](http://www.whalewatchtarifa.net)



Press Release 2013/2014

### The Whales Do Have A Voice

2013 has been a year of encounters related to the Cetaceans. In all of them Tarifa has been recognized as one of the most important whale and dolphin watching spots on our planet.

In spring Tarifa hosted the "La Isla de los Delfines" meeting, where whale watching operators, scientists and students share information and collaborated in education. In memory of the meetings founder Mario Morcillo Whale Watch Tarifa projected our documentary "Leyendo el mar" - Reading the Sea, about the beginning of the whale watching activity in Tarifa 17 years ago.

Another milestone of 2013 was the "VI Congreso de la Sociedad Española de Cetáceos " - 6<sup>th</sup> congress of the Spanish Cetacean Society. After a six year period without meetings this edition has been important to reinstall and strengthen the links between operators and scientists and to underline future coordination.

In November Whale Watching Operators from all around the world celebrated the "Planet Whale Festival" in Massachusetts, USA. One of the most important conclusions was the installation and acceptance of a conservation and protection conduct as well as a sustainable development of our whale watching activity.

The 2013 season was marked by very strong Levante winds, which forced us in summer to cancel nearly 50 % of the Tarifa departures. Despite of the meteorological conditions and the economic crisis we were able to maintain the 2012 amount of passengers. All of them could learn to read the sea and enjoy the beauty and magnificence of the Strait of Gibraltar. The encounter between Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean permit the existence of a special ecosystem, where Common, Striped and Bottle-nose dolphins live together with the Pilot whales all year round. In spring and autumn we can witness the yearly migrations of the gigantic Fin whales with their calves. In summer we offer you to join one of the last existing natural spectacle in Europe when fishermen and the Orcas are competing to catch the massive migrating Tuna fish. Or just enjoy the presence of Sperm whales in search of their preferred nutrition: the Giant Squid which is a frequent resident in our waters.

18 years after the foundation of our organisation and activity, the whale and dolphin watching in Tarifa is consolidated. The season lasts nowadays 8 months, while it was only 21 days in the first year 1996. New technologies, internet and media did serve to multiply the interest and participation of international passengers and scientists. It is important to outline that an activity with basically an environmental protection goal converted to play a key role in the local economy, providing Tarifa with a potent economic resource and stable employment.

The future opening of the **Centro de Interpretación de Cetáceos** - Cetacean Interpretation Centre will be one more part of creating economic and educational benefits and complete the unforgettable experience for thousands of people joining Whale Watch Tarifa every year.