

DIVING CENTERS

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Azorean most apparent and conspicuous façade is shown by its nine islands and a few islets. Beneath its waters lie more than three hundred peaks, together with valleys and mountain ridges. It is the utmost oceanic archipelago of the whole Atlantic Ocean. A remote centre of intersecting oceanographic influences with a unique wild marine biodiversity. More than 20 types of cetacean, almost seventy species of fish, numerous marine birds, turtles, important reefs and deep-sea coral gardens, varied algae population, cephalopods, crustacean and many invertebrates.

There is no possible comparison between the terrestrial environment and the unique rich wild Azorean marine environment. Apart from its distinctive species, habitats are exclusive and diverse: from active volcanoes, to caves, sheltered inlets and exposed coastlines, reefs in the high seas, extinct calderas, islets and steep coastal lines, and a blue colour from the very deep and apparently infinite open seas.

Such an inspiring wealth has become a preferred scenario for many a photographer and moviemaker from all over the world and has created a pool of genuine interest for photographing the Azorean marine life.

Azorean seas warrant the archipelago's perpetuity of marine life. Let us spare some time to enjoy it. To dive in these waters is a privilege that one cannot fathom unless we become trustees of such a legacy, in order to preserve it for future times. Here we can find Dusky Grouper, Greater Amberjack, Yellowmouth Barracuda, colourful Parrotfish and other species of Parrotfish. Further away from the shores there are Mantas (Mobula tarapacana and Manta birostris) and sometimes Tuna fish "wrapped" in balls of Horse Mackerel. Let us enjoy and disclose such a rare asset in other parts of our seas and oceans.

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