

Ventura do Mar

www.venturadomar.com

Madeira Island - PORTUGAL

BIRDWATCHING TOURS

Pelagic trips - Sea Life Watching - Land Tours

**SELVAGENS ISLANDS TOURS
2006** 

Available Dates:

- . Thurs 8th - Mon 12th June 2006
- . Sat 17th - Wed 21st June 2006
- . Mon 10th - Fri 14th July 2006 (full booked)
- . Wed 19th - Sun 23rd July 2006
- . Mon 28th Aug - 1st Sept 2006



Photo: Selvagem Grande Island - Luis Dias © 2005

The "Ventura do Mar" managed to get a license to visit the Selvagens Islands ("Seabirds Sanctuary") in 2006 for 7 pax, thus the following programme is presented:

Objective: Sailing trip to Selvagens Islands to observe and photograph wildlife, with particular interest on seawatching and birdwatching.

Selvagens Islands:

At about 165 nautical miles south the Madeira Island, it is composed by Selvagem Grande and Selvagem Pequena, are Natural Reserve and Net Natura 2000 and are under the Protection of the Natural Park of Madeira (NPM) - http://www.pnm.pt/reservas/reserv_selvag.htm. A permanent research station with two wardens is the only human inhabitants on the islands.

Route to Selvagens Islands:



Maps by Jesus Caballero 2005

Fauna and Flora of Selvagens Islands: Due to its isolated geographic localization, the Selvagens Islands are a wonderful spot for marine life, flora and fauna, especially for seabirds, which is known by "*Seabirds Sanctuary*". About marine life, Jackes Costeau referred to these Islands as one the best spots for diving on the planet, especially due to non-human impact and crystal waters that allows 30 meters visibility. The scarce benthic life is rewarded by many pelagic fishes.

Concerning the flora, Selvagens host 150 species, mostly small and stunted, of which ten are endemic. Some have an important role on the Islands ecosystem, like the Ice Plant *Mesembryanthemum crystallinum* and Egyptian Fig-Marigold *Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum* that are fixers of the soil on the islands' sandy plateaux, and important for the seabirds (especially the White-faced Storm-petrel) that dig their nest holes in this habitat.

Concerning birds, there are at least 10 species that breed regularly on the islands. All are seabirds, except one landbird: Berthelot's Pipit. The seabird numbers are quite high, with about (numbers of pairs breeding annually) 19000 Cory's Shearwater - *Calonectris diomedea borealis*, 2000 Little Shearwater - *Puffinus assimilis baroli*, 5000 Bulwer's Petrel - *Bulweria bulwerii*, 60000 White Faced Storm Petrel - *Pelagodroma marina*, 1500 Madeiran Storm Petrel - *Oceanodroma castro*, and few Yellow Legged Gull - *Larus michahellis atlantis*, Roseate Tern - *Sterna dougalii* and Common Tern - *Sterna hirundo*. Many other vagrant birds have been also recorded on these Islands. One of the greater experiences in life is to be at the Baía da Cagarras (means: Cory's Bay) in Selvagem Grande at sunset: it is amazing to be between thousands of cory's. Due to its noise, you can hardly sleep during night!

About the fauna is also nice to highlight the 2 species of reptiles that can be seen. One is the Madeiran Wall Lizard (perhaps a valid subspecies), and the other is the Selvagens Gecko - *Tarentola boettgeri bischoffi*, with this form endemic to the Selvagens).

During the trips at sea there are many chances of seeing turtles, dolphins or whales.

Please know more at: <http://selvagens.seawatching.net/>

Boat: Ventura do Mar (www.venturadomar.com)



Photo: Ventura do Mar sailing in Madeira Island - Luís Dias©2005

Boat features: 40 years old, traditional madeiran molde, 16 metres length, 4 metres wide, sailing ketch (2 masts), of wood, Volvo-penta 96hp, kitchen, wc, 2 liferafts (12 pax each), 24 lifejackets, 2 GPS, automatic pilot, 2 compasses, VHF, epirbe, etc. It is not a luxury boat, but all efforts are made, together with our hospitality, to make you feel the best way possible!



Photos: Ventura do Mar boat Luís Dias©2005

Days: 5 days tour

Responsible from Ventura do Mar: Luís Dias / Filipe Alves

Contacts: mobile: +351 963390797 fax: +351 291280024
e-mail: venturadomar@iol.pt

Please contact us for any doubt, to see more photos, to know Selvagens Islands detailed localization, etc.

Minimum and maximum passengers: 7

Open to: anyone

Crew: 3 professional and experienced members: 1 skipper, with training on first aid; 1 sailor; 1 marine biologist (guide).

Price: 800€ per person

Reservation: 25% to make a valid reservation
75% 3 months before the trip

Payment: cash or bank transfer
IBAN: pt50 0033 0000 00267053417 05
SWIFT: bcomptpl
Beneficiary: Horizonte do Atlântico, Animação Turística Lda.
Bank: Banco Comercial Português

Includes: Meals (breakfast (except 1st day), lunch, dinner, snacks), drinks (alcoholic only during meals), insurance, licenses, tax, fuel, dinghy (to disembark), snorkelling equipment, bird and cetaceans book guides for consultation, and all non mentioned expenses related with the boat.

Extras: no extras

Other facilities:

- help you on car-rent with special prices (depending on the time you arrive it may be possible to arrange free transport from the airport to Funchal and return);
- help you on bookings with hotel in Funchal (20€ per night) for the remaining days of your stay in Funchal;
- night trip to Pico do Arieiro for the zino's petrel with guide: 45€ + 20€ (fee for the Natural Park);
- help you finding anything else you look for.

Programme:

- 1st day: leave Funchal by 09:00;
Sail all day to Selvagem Pequena.
- 2nd day: arrive to Selvagem Pequena by 12:00 (estimated time arrival);
Disembark (land on) and visit the Island and areas with cory's and white-face-storm-petrel nests.
- 3rd day: leave Selvagem Pequena by 9:00;
Sail to Selvagem Grande and arrive by 13:00;
disembark (land on) and visit the Island and areas with cory's and little shearwater, bulwer's, and madeira-storm petrel nests).
- 4th day: leave Selvagem Grande by 9:00;
Sail all day to Funchal.
- 5th day: arrive to Funchal by 14:00.

Sleeping: Always on the boat. Each person must bring a sleeping bag; 3 persons sleep on three beds on the living room, and the other 5 on one big room at the bow (see attached pictures above). If the weather conditions are good and the skipper allows it, people can sleep outside (using Ventura do Mar mattresses).

Terms and conditions:

- The trip will only be possible if weather conditions allow it to. Usually on June, July and August the weather is ok, but for this pelagic trip (at 165 nautical miles off Madeira), we really depend on weather conditions as you sure understand;
- the skipper will have the final decision by a minimum of 4 to 5 days before;
- if not possible, passengers may choose between receive the deposit (100% refunded) or an alternative plan around Madeira and Desertas Islands;
- After the reservation are paid there are no refund if the passenger cancel, however, this amount can be used in future trips on Ventura do Mar;
- If the weather conditions do not even allow the an alternative plan, the interested part are 100% refunded too;
- Weather conditions may cause large delays (several hours) on the trip Funchal-Selvagens and return;
- Weather conditions may cause schedule changes in the meals;
- Severe weather conditions may cause a delay (of days) on the departure from Selvagens, and consequent arrival to Funchal, so, **very important, book the flight back with several days after the programmed date of return.** The Ventura do Mar will not be responsible if the interested part do not get on time for the flight back, so the Ventura do Mar is not responsible for any expenses related with the flight;

- In case of damage of the boat or other problem the nearest harbour to make repairs are in Canaries Islands. If that occurs the Ventura do Mar guarantee food and sleeping on the boat during the time of the repairs. The Ventura do Mar does not pay any return trip by plain;
- Due to the distance we will be from the Madeira Island, the passengers must sign up a declaration before departure, or bring one signed by a doctor, as do not have any serious disease that may need urgent medical assistance.

License: Allows to disembark on land, walk on the islands and visit birds nests (accompanied by a vigilant from the Natural Park), and take photos, both day and night; and swim!

Restrictions:

Please attention on the following regulations:

From the Natural Park:

“The requested permit to the mentioned trip to the Selvagens will be issued. However, I urge you to paid attention to the regulations of the Reserve, namely:

- 1 - Visitors are not allowed to take pictures for commercial use. A special permit can be discussed.
- 2 - Visitors are not allowed to overnight in land. Always on the boat.
- 3 - Visitors are not allowed to take pictures at night near the breeding areas.
- 4 - Night visits must be short and should not last more than 2 hours.

As you already know we expect the visits to give a contribution for the maintenance of the reserve through the purchase of any of the informative material that we sale on the reserve (a contribution of 5 euros/pax is expected).

Further, if you publish trip reports or other kind of presentation, the Natural Park kindly expects to receive a copy.”

Earlier trips:

- August 2003 with SPEA - Portuguese Society for Bird Study
(Contact: ivan.ramirez@spea.pt)
- July 2005 with Niklas Holmström
(Contact: niklas@seawatching.net)
- September 2005 with Chris Winter, Ole Krogh, Nuno Macedo
(Contact: chris_alkmaar@hotmail.com)

For other information:

- <http://www.venturadomar.com>
- <http://selvagens.seawatching.net>
- Holmstrom, N. 2005. A birding trip to the Salvage Islands. *Birding World* 18 (8): 325-337.
- Bister, H. 2005. Selvagensöarna - ducat bord med havets läckerheter. *Road Runner* #4 Dec 2005: 40-47. (Swedish)

Various Photos:



Selvagem Pequena Island



Selvagem Grande from Selvagem Pequena



Selvagem Grande Island



Leaving Funchal Harbour



On the way to Selvagens Islands



On Selvagem Pequena with the wardens



Walk on Selvagem Pequena I



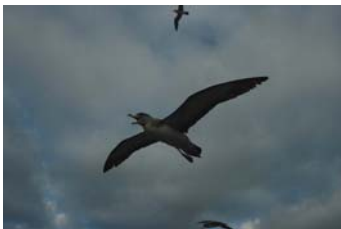
Walk on Selvagem Pequena II



Walk on Selvagem Pequena III



Cory's on Selvagem Grande I



Cory's on Selvagem Grande II



Cory's on Selvagem Grande III



White-faced storm-petrel I



White-faced storm-petrel II



White-faced storm-petrel III



White-faced storm-petrel IV



Bulwer's Petrel



Cory's on Selvagem Grande IV

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ventura do mar

sea life watching



everyday

jeden tag. tous les jours. todos os dias

- marine biologist on board as guide
- quality service bar, wc and confort
- friendly crew

information

and reservations:

tel.: 00351 963390796/7

00351 291280033

venturadomar@iol.pt

visit us at Ventura Kiosk in
Marina do Funchal
or book directly at the boat

sailing trips

Madeira Island

Segelfahrten. Promenades en Mer. Passeios de barco

Sailing in south of Madeira Island . Cabo Girão . Desertas Islands . Sunset.



.feel the nature.

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