



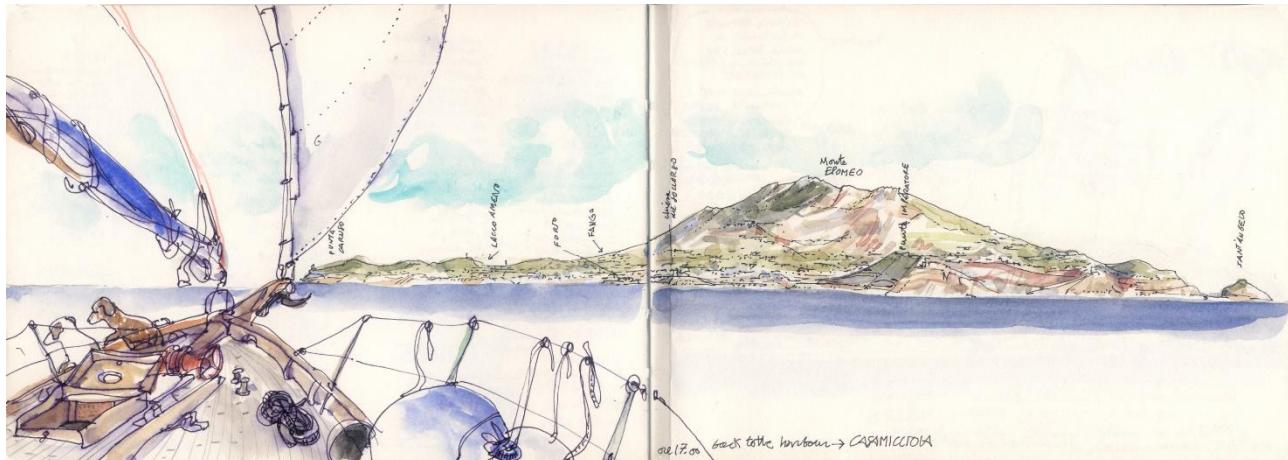
Oceanomare Delphis APS

Ischia Whale and Dolphin Project 2026



ISCHIA WHALE AND DOLPHIN PROJECT

(1991, in progress)



STAGES ON CETACEANS

SOUTHERN TYRRHENIAN SEA

ISLANDS OF ISCHIA AND VENTOTENE, ITALY

2026 PROGRAM

and application forms

CO-OPERATION

Amici di Riccardo Domenici, CIBRA, MPA "Regno di Nettuno", MPA Isole di Ventotene e S. Stefano

Ardea Onlus, Vivara Onlus

GoEco, Global Nomadic, Socialbnb

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Ente iscritto al RUNTS con Determinazione Num. 2984 del 12/02/2025



Oceanomare Delphis APS

Ischia Whale and Dolphin Project 2026



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OCEANOMARE DELPHIS

Oceanomare Delphis is a non-profit organization established to study and preserve cetaceans and the ecosystems they inhabit, through knowledge, conservation, and awareness actions.

The organization safeguards decades of archives on Mediterranean cetaceans and operates in a variety of areas that are representative of the Mediterranean marine environments. Oceanomare Delphis implements non-invasive studies through interdisciplinary skills that provide new design, development, and project management capabilities.

Oceanomare Delphis aggregates organizations, groups, and individuals who are linked by a common interest in cetaceans and the marine environment to influence institutions to safeguard them.

Since 2016 we are Partner of ACCOBAMS (Agreement for the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and Contiguous Atlantic Area) and active members of the MMO-PAM (Marine Mammal Observer – Passive Acoustic Monitoring) ACCOBAMS Working Group. In 2019 Oceanomare Delphis was recognized as MMO-PAM ACCOBAMS Trainer Organization.

Since 2015 Oceanomare Delphis and CIBRA (Interdisciplinary Centre for Bioacoustics and Environmental Research) have established a continuous collaboration. Through the years, we have developed Marine Mammal Monitoring and Mitigation Plans, carried out sampling at sea and reported on the submitted plans.



Sperm whale's mother and calf

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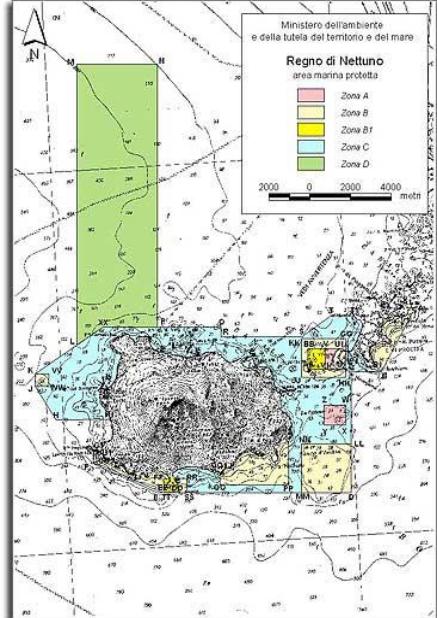
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1. INTRODUCTION

The waters off Islands of Ischia and Ventotene offer a unique opportunity to study cetaceans. Since 1991, seven different Mediterranean cetacean species have been recorded.

The study area is well known for its important pelagic biodiversity. The region was described as a feeding ground for fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*), a feeding and breeding ground for striped dolphins (*Stenella coeruleoalba*), Risso's dolphins (*Grampus griseus*), bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), and sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*). Last, the area has been listed in the IUCN Cetacean Action Plan – www.redlist.org - as critical habitat for the endangered short-beaked common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*). Occasionally pilot whales (*Globicephala melas*) were also encountered.

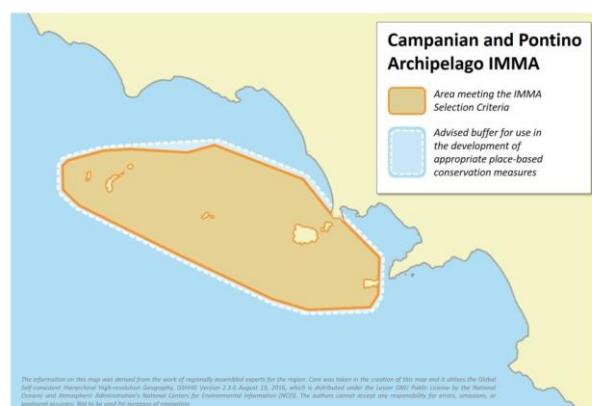


Since 1997 the research has focused on the canyon of Cuma, a deep submarine system of canyons located between Ischia and Ventotene. Submarine canyons play a crucial role in biological events; due to their oceanographic characteristics, they are often areas of high biodiversity.

The presence in this relatively small area of seven different species gives the project a unique occasion to study and compare the behavioral ecology of the various species. Our primary goal is to conserve the whale and dolphin habitats today corrupted and threatened by human activities.

Over the years, our study has collected a significant amount of data that contributed to the institution of the Marine Protected Area Regno di Nettuno around the islands of Ischia, Procida, and Vivara. Oceanomare Delphis succeeded in including part of the canyon of Cuma (Zone D) in the boundaries of MPA.

In 2017 the coastal waters of Ischia and Ventotene and the Archipelagos Pontino and Campano were recognized as Important Marine Mammals Areas (IMMAs) by the IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force.



Since 2021, Oceanomare Delphis has collaborated with the Natural Marine Protected Area Islands of Ventotene and S. Stefano, twinned with the Marine Protected Area Regno di Nettuno.

The twinning aims to establish a shared database of environmental data needed to implement actions to improve the management of the MPAs. Protection of the joint IMMA "Waters of Ischia and Ventotene," which includes the D zone of the Regno di Nettuno, the Canyon of Cuma, and the waters of the Ventotene MPA, is also a common goal.

Any economic support for the project comes exclusively from participants in the summer courses, private sponsors, and foundations. Thanks to the participation of volunteers who spend their holidays collaborating on the project, it has been possible to continue our effort until today.



Sailing activities

2. RESEARCH GOALS

The research program focuses on cetacean communities that can be encountered between latitudes 40°55' N and 40°00' N. This region covers about 35 Km² between the islands of Ischia, Procida, Capri, Ventotene, and the Italian mainland.

Data is collected following an interdisciplinary approach and applying different methods to describe the diverse aspects of the cetacean life.

The project's main objective is to identify critical areas for cetaceans, feeding and breeding grounds, and preferred routes used by the animals in the Mediterranean Sea.

The identified areas are submitted to the attention of politicians and stakeholders, suggesting methods for their protection and management.

Other aims of the project can be summarized as follows:

- define the degree of residency of cetaceans in the study area;

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- monitor populations size and trend;
- analyze the social structure of the different populations;
- study habitat use and distribution;
- estimate the impact of both fishery operations and vessel traffic;
- describe the acoustic repertoire of the different species.

Beyond these merely scientific goals, the project aims to improve the management of cetacean species by:

- promoting educational activities to spread information and raise awareness among the public about the threats and problems of cetaceans and their environment;
- publishing/sharing the results of the research to/with the local and international authorities, as well as to the scientific community and the environmentalist organizations;
- the protection and conservation of the area.

The research is realized with the economic support of Amici di Riccardo Domenici and Albergo della Regina Isabella.

Publications: www.oceanomaredelphis.org

3. METHODS

Data is collected using various techniques such as photo identification, behavioral sampling, and acoustic recording. In addition, a detailed trip log of the route covered, and GPS positions are automatically recorded every minute. Information on sea state, wind, and direction is also taken.

3.1 PHOTO-IDENTIFICATION



It is a valuable and widely used technique in the research of cetaceans. By photographing cetaceans, the different animals are identified based on natural and permanent markings visible on their body. This method gives important information on population size, distribution and movements of cetaceans, social structure, reproductive rate, and habitat use.

3.2 BEHAVIORAL SAMPLING

Through behavioral data, we obtain information that will lead to understanding cetacean activities like feeding habits, social communication, and interaction with human activities. We record different variables (group size and composition, aerial behaviors, social interactions, and so on) at standard intervals of three minutes (3-minute sampling method).

3.3 BIOACOUSTICS

The hydrophones system allows the recording of the vocalizations produced by cetaceans during their activities. The stereo system and software locate the source of the signal in the environment.

Whistles, clicks, and other vocalizations produced by cetaceans – and recorded during the sightings – are then analyzed to define the acoustic characteristics of the different species in the waters of Ischia. The distinct parameters of the emitted sounds can also differ in diverse populations of the same species ("dialects"). Particular attention is finally paid to stereotyped vocalizations in the attempt to put together a catalog of "acoustic signatures" of the individuals of Ischia.



4. RESEARCHERS

The Ischia Dolphin Project is composed of highly qualified team members. During our field courses, journalists, photographers, and guests may be – for short periods – whenever their presence on board can help the project. Photos and brief CVs of Oceanomare Delphis staff are available on the web: www.oceanomaredelphis.org

5. PELAGIC BIRDS

Oceanomare Delphis has planned a monitoring program focusing on pelagic birds and their relationship with cetaceans to increase the knowledge of the marine life inhabiting the study area.

In particular, the research focuses on Scopoli's shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*), Mediterranean shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*), and Audouin's gull (*Ichthyaetus audouinii*).



Mediterranean Gull

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Data are collected to:

- Examine habitat use and distribution of the species;
- Examine the interaction between birds and cetaceans;
- Estimate the breeding population size of Audouin's gull;
- Observe the interaction between birds and fishes.

Our results are shared both at a scientific level in papers and conferences and to the public to show the richness of our sea.

6. ACTIVITIES

6.1 DAY OF ARRIVAL

Boarding is every Monday, at 4.00 pm. On the arrival date, there will be no navigation, and the team members will be on the boat to welcome. Participants are therefore invited to get familiar with the vessel and its surroundings. After your long journey, you will have time to rest and relax on one of the beaches next to the harbor. You will get to know the team members and the other participants. When all participants arrive and are settled, you will be given a briefing on the safety measures and life on board, detailed information about the project, and the research (study area, cetacean species, and their biology, etc.).

6.2 DAILY TRIPS TO MONITOR CETACEANS

Participants live onboard the research vessel Jean Gab which preferably navigates under sail. Your staying days will be almost entirely dedicated to the research activities, and all volunteers will participate in the fieldwork. Every day, except for the arrival and departure days, will be spent at sea. Survey tracks are laid out to provide coverage of the study area but might be adapted to prevailing weather conditions. Participants will be asked to help researchers in collecting data and sailing activities.



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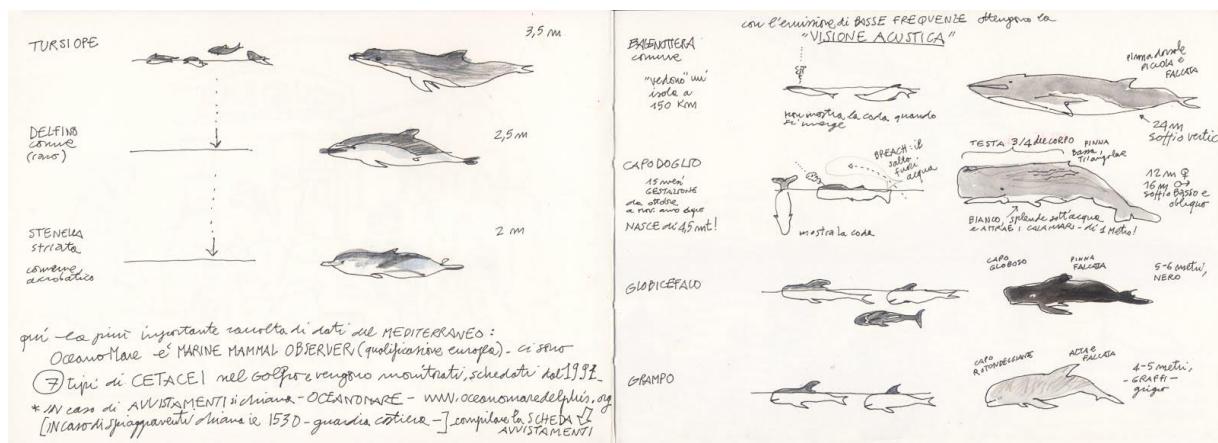
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Participants will rotate with the researchers in watching shifts of one hour each during the whole navigation period until dolphins/whales are sighted. There are two observers on duty at every turn. Besides whales and dolphins, we report the presence of sea turtles, tunas, swordfish, manta rays, schools of fish, and sea birds. The acoustic system detects any sound produced by cetaceans at an average distance of 3 nm, and the software indicates the direction of the signal. It is then possible to approach the animals.

In the evening, the boat goes back to the harbor. Sometimes nights can be spent in a bay at the anchor or, for research reasons, out at sea.

6.3 SIGHTINGS

Everybody has a role to play during sightings. Good teamwork is key to an enjoyable experience and useful data collection, such as filming dolphins with the underwater camera at the bow, collecting behavioral data, recording sounds, filming and photographing the animals for their identification, and steering. A sighting can last several hours; in the meantime, regular duties such as cooking and washing dishes must be carried out.



Please consider that we are looking for whales and dolphins in the wild, they are not always in the area, and we cannot predict their moves; thus, the encounters are not guaranteed. Volunteer involvement in data collection may vary depending on the nature of the sightings (e.g., brief encounters or elusive animals).

6.4 OTHER ACTIVITIES

Navigation will take place when the weather conditions are good. A day off is scheduled for every turn for participants who wish to relax or explore the island. The boat will sail anyway for those willing to continue the research. If anybody would like more days off, just let the crew know.

In case of unfavorable weather conditions or rough seas, the vessel will remain in port. Participants may decide to stay on board, helping the researchers with data entry, preliminary analysis (e.g. photo-identification), and attending the cetology lessons held by the researchers, or they may visit the island. Regular duties have to be carried out as usual. Cetology lessons may cover different branches as scientific research in the Italian seas, culture in cetaceans, evolution, classification, biology, bioacoustics, behavior, and interactions with fisheries.

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In Ischia, you can visit the Aragonese Castle and the old sea village of Ischia Ponte, reach the summit of Mount Epomeo through a naturalistic excursion in the woods of pine and chestnut trees, organize a trip to the Islands of Procida and Capri or relax in one of the many thermal areas. You can be our guests on the visit to the Cetacean Museum of Oceanomare Delphis in Villa Arbusto, Lacco Ameno. On every island, there are also scuba-diving centers. The project fee does not cover the expenses related to these activities.

When in the harbor, during free time, or after the day at sea, participants can swim on one of the beaches close to the dock or "dive" into the Ischian life.

The atmosphere onboard is serene and informal, but you must remember that we are working on a serious research program and that the times and ways of the different activities need to be organized day by day following the priorities of the project. Participants should be aware that they are taking part in a science project with defined aims and purposes and not on a vacation where everything is scheduled.

6.5 DEPARTURE

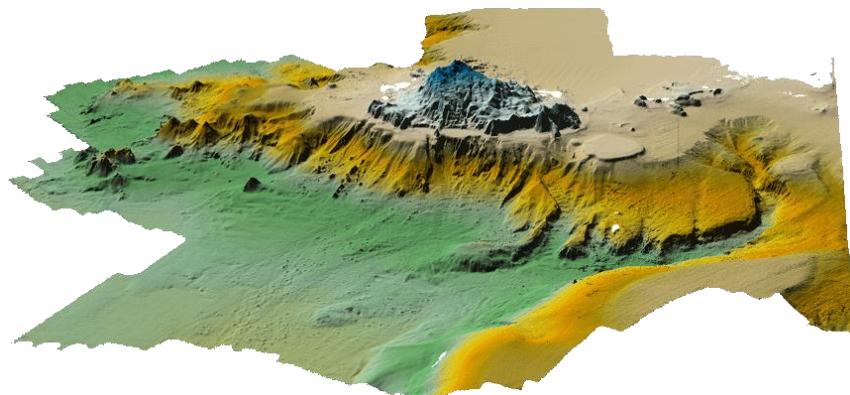
The departure day is Sunday. In the morning, participants are invited to help with the cleaning of the boat. We take group photos and exchange addresses. Disembarking is scheduled after lunch. If you need to leave before, please let the crew know.

7. THE ISLANDS

7.1 ISCHIA

Ischia is the largest of the islands of the Gulf of Naples (surface 47 square km, perimeter 39 km), and with the Islands of Procida, Vivara forms the Archipelago Campano. Except for Capri, all the islands have been active volcanoes since the late Pleistocene (150 ka). Ischia is the emerging part (only 30%) of a greater volcanic complex, 80 km long, separating the northwestern continental shelf of the Gulf of Gaeta, from the deeper waters to the southeast, in the Gulf of Naples.

The presence of submarine canyon systems characterizes the region. Geological surveys have shown the presence of several canyons and erosional channels along Ischia Island's edge. Among them, the canyon of Cuma is the deepest in the area, its trench (850m) forming a submarine valley between Ischia and Ventotene. The volcanic rocks and the great variety of pyroclastic materials (ash, lapilli, blocks, pumice, and tuff) that characterize the Islands give the landscape a colorful and multiform aspect, noticeable not only along the coastline but also in several peaks that constellate the territory.



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Mediterranean flora and pinewoods are typical of hot and humid areas; chestnut trees cover the sides of the Epomeo. The considerable climatic variations, together with very fertile soil, explain the extraordinary plant heritage of the Islands.



Bottlenose dolphins off Ischia Harbor

Ischia is also a place for an exceptional hydrothermal waters system: 29 basins of thermo mineral waters provide the island with more than a hundred sources of therapeutic water useful against a wide range of diseases. It is also possible to follow historical itineraries visit monuments and observe several finds that piece together the history of the island going back several centuries of Greek, Roman, and Neapolitan colonizations.

7.2 VENTOTENE

The volcanic islands of Ventotene and S. Stefano form a single distinct eruptive center off the Gulf of Gaeta. This volcanic group differentiates from the nearby eruptive centers of the islands of Ponza, Palmarola, and Zannone northwest and the Phleorean area with the islands of Ischia, Procida, and Vivara east-southeast.

The island of Ventotene is a heritage of culture, history, and nature; the sea is full of biodiversity, with seabed enriched by the presence of Posidonia meadows and peculiar geomorphological features (caves, natural arches).

For us, Ventotene represents "the other flank" of the canyon of Cuma, and often when the routes of the animals leave us closer to its shores, we decide to land in Ventotene.

The island is small and can be traveled on foot in a few hours. Ventotene is one of the smallest municipalities in Italy, with only 700 resident inhabitants; the suggestive town has developed around the rock overlooking the Roman harbor, to which it is joined by a short ramp built in the Borboni era.

The Mediterranean vegetation, with few tall trees, is interrupted by vegetable gardens, small orchards, and yards. The island is known as a refuge for migratory birds, even accidental ones, who use the island to rest and refresh themselves. The checklist of the birds of Ventotene exceeds 200 species!



Jean Gab moored in Ventotene

8. WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

Several participants, who took part in the field courses in the past years, said this was an unforgettable experience. Besides learning about cetaceans and their environment, the world of research, and animal conservation, meaningful human experiences are possible. All participants will leave the project with a good understanding of some techniques that may be useful in future occasions.

Things you can learn are:

- techniques of photography and methods of photo identification;
- insights into cetacean biology, behavior, and bioacoustics;
- use of specifically designed software mainly focused on bioacoustics (Pamguard, Audacity);
- use of basic research equipment, including hydrophones, GoPro cameras, GPS (Global Position System), binoculars, timer, VHF radio, etc.;
- navigation techniques and sail trimming (basic procedures such as hoisting up and furling the sails, knots).

9. JEAN GAB, THE RESEARCH VESSEL

Jean Gab is an oceanic oak cutter built in Marseilles in 1930 and designed by André Mauric, the famous French maritime architect. Overall length: 17.70 m; Beam: 4.45 m; Draft: 2.50 m.



André Mauric also planned the French sailing vessels for America's Cup (France I and France II) and signed the Pen Duick IV, used by the famous French sailor Eric Tabarly in the Whitbread Cup.

Jean Gab is Mauric's first large sailing vessel. It was built to race and cruise in all oceans. It is a fast vessel with beautiful flowing lines, stable even with rough seas, with a firm heel of a few degrees.

The construction plans of Jean Gab are kept in the Maritime Museum in Marseilles and shown in the French carpentry schools as models of maritime functionality that match speed with stability.

This vessel is meant for fast ocean navigation, and both the external and internal spaces are designed for this reason.

The exterior is wide and spacious to leave place for maneuvering, while the interior is small, comfortable, and stark because planned to protect the crew from the force of the waves.

Inside there is first the kitchen with a table and large windows. Here we cook, store food and, when it is raining, eat our meals. It can also be used as a little living room in your free time.



Going down in the "womb" of the boat, we reach the sleeping room for 6 participants of both sexes (two single bunks and two double bunks). If you happen to come in a quiet turn, you will have more room for yourself.

Next to the sleeping room, there is a small changing room, a gent toilet and a ladies' one, a room, and bathroom reserved for the skipper, and, on the bow, the "sailor cabin" with two or three (with a child) sleeping places and independent entrance from the bow of the boat.

We can use toilets at the local port for a hot shower (free of charge).

The welcoming deck of the Jean Gab is ideal during navigation.

At the stern of the vessel, there is space for the helmsman and a bench, comfortable and sheltered from the wind. This area is connected to the indoor kitchen.

At the center of the vessel, underneath the mast, is the external "lounge" with a table.

Lunches and dinners are served on the outside table, in our "private lounge" under the stars.

We remind you that life on board a sailing vessel like Jean Gab is a choice: a simple, communal, and eco-compatible lifestyle conserving energy and resources.

There is very little privacy, even behind the curtains of the cabins.

Nevertheless, the spaces are large enough, and the sea and the sky will offer you unlimited horizons; each watching shift will give you the possibility to taste the peace of sailing.

10. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

10.1. CLIMATE

Close to the islands, the weather is usually good in the summer season. The wind rises a bit in the early afternoon and increases until Beaufort 4 to cease then, close to sunset. The sun is intense on board, but it is not always hot, thanks to the presence of the wind. Dawn and dusk can be chilly and humid during navigation.



The endangered Mediterranean short-beaked common dolphin

10.2 CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

Due to the kind of activities carried out by the Ischia Dolphin Project, participants should:

- be in good physical condition, comfortable in hot weather and with spending relatively long periods under the sun, be steady on your legs and comfortable on a boat;
- if you are anorexic or have eating disorders, this experience is not for you: at sea, everyone needs to consume an adequate number of calories to stay healthy;
- be 16 years or older (although younger may be accepted if escorted by a parent or an adult delegated by the parents, who will take care of them during the research cruise);
- be able to speak enough English to communicate with other project participants and team members;
- be highly adaptable, an essential requirement for living on a boat;
- follow all the safety instructions provided by the team members;
- be aware that the skipper or researcher in charge has the right to expel a participant at any time should her behavior or attitude hinder the regular research activities or the well-being of other participants;
- accept the responsibility to pay for any damage personally caused to the boat or the instrumentation;
- be interested in nature conservation and animal protection and have a positive attitude toward working with people from different countries;
- acknowledge the authority of the skipper who is responsible for the life of everybody on board;
- read all the information about the project and accept the conditions mentioned in this brochure. Read and sign the application form, the volunteer declaration, and the authorization.

Before coming to the field course, project participants must inform Oceanomare Delphis of any possible physical or psychological problem. Moreover, when boarding Jean Gab, participants should inform the researchers and the skipper of any issue (e.g. allergies, asthma attacks, intolerance for specific food items, backaches, etc.).

Disabled people can be accepted on board after a conversation with the project director.

As some participants may not speak fluent English, everyone is expected to be patient and aware of the implications of working in a multi-national team.

As always happens in the field, sea state and weather conditions will partly shape the daily schedule. Flexibility is therefore required as far as the scheduled program is concerned.

10.3 OTHERS

Meals and Cleaning

Onboard, **everybody (participants and team members) is expected to help with daily chores**, including shopping, washing dishes, and general boat keep. Exceptions are for the skipper, who will only cook, and for the first researcher, who will not be able to take evening work shifts, as she should check the data collected during the day. At the end of the cruise, everybody must help to clean the boat before departure. Usually, at lunch, we serve some cheese and salami followed by pasta; at dinner, we can make something more elaborate with fresh fish or meat, vegetables, legumes, and salad.

Pets

One small dog lives on board: Sterna. She is brilliant and independent and arrived on board in October 2014. During navigation, Sterna shares with participants the outside space of the boat, and the team members will do their best so that this will not cause disturbance to the participants. When in the harbor, the dog can enter inside (under the kitchen table or in the cabin reserved for the skipper). Sterna is walking on land in the morning and evening; therefore, she does not dirty the deck. However, like anybody else, she can sometimes be sick during navigation so the team members will take care of the deck cleaning.



RESOURCES

Water and electricity are precious resources onboard and should be used carefully to avoid any misuse (lights left on, taps not closed, etc.) both during navigation and when the boat is in the harbor. The electricity onboard is 12 V; if you want to recharge your mobile, 220 V electricity is available when the vessel is in the port.

INSURANCE

For each participant, personal insurance is stipulated by the organization with BPB Insurance Company of Milano (Italy). The cost is included in the participation fee and is valid for the whole period of the cruise. The insurance covers an amount of € 75.000,00 in case of death or permanent disability and a maximum of €5.000,00 for medical fees. All participants may wish to organize their travel insurance in addition to the one offered by the organization.

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SMOKING

Smoking is prohibited below the deck, except for the captain, who smokes only in his cabin. Several ashtrays are available, and throwing cigarettes and butts overboard is strictly prohibited.

VEGANS/VEGETARIANS

Many, also among researchers and assistants, are vegetarians or vegans: it is a personal choice that doesn't cause any problem in the preparation of the meals. Again, tolerance and respect are based on living together.

PHONES AND MOBILE PHONES

The skipper's mobile phone is always on, and you can be contacted in an emergency. Offshore, the reception is often limited.

All mobile phones, except the skipper one, should be turned off or in airplane mode during navigation as they disturb the acoustic equipment, the recordings, and the control panel.

You can use your phones in the harbor, and as participants will share the sleeping cabin, we would like to ask you to keep the ringing tones low or the vibration during the night.

LANGUAGE

Italian is the official language spoken in Italy. In Ischia, most people know at least some English and German. All researchers and assistants can speak English, which is used for lectures and research work when people from different countries are present. However, it is natural that researchers and participants from the same country may also desire to communicate among themselves in their native language from time to time.

BANKS AND MONEY

The local currency in Italy is the euro. Banks are open from 9:00 to 13:00 am, Monday to Friday.

MEDICAL SERVICES

On the vessel, there is a first aid kit. In Ischia, there is a hospital, and fast boats or helicopters will transfer only severe medical cases to the hospital in Naples.

ADDRESSES AND USEFUL NUMBERS

ISCHIA DOLPHIN PROJECT

Jean Gab, Marina di Casamicciola, 80074 Casamicciola Terme, Island of Ischia, Naples, Italy

phone +39 349 574 9927 and/or +39 392 442 8248

Project director: Barbara Mussi barbara@oceanomaredelphis.org

OCEANOMARE DELPHIS APS

Legal Headquarter:

Viale Rimembranze 14, 47924 Rimini

Operation Offices:

Via Zaro 22, 80075 Forio d'Ischia (NA) tel +39 334 360 1126

Piazza Bisio 31, 15040 Valmacca (AL) tel +39 349 574 9927

postmaster@oceanomaredelphis.org www.oceanomaredelphis.org

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Oceanomare Delphis APS

Ischia Whale and Dolphin Project 2026



CETACEAN MUSEUM

Corso Rizzoli 224, 80076 Lacco Ameno, Island of Ischia (NA), Italy, tel +39 081 980510

11. EQUIPMENT

Please, remember that the space on board is limited, therefore bring only what is necessary. **No hard suitcases are allowed on board, and only flexible ones are allowed.**

We suggest you take these items:

- This information brochure
- Visa (if necessary) and passport
- Money or credit card for your expenses
- Clothing suitable for navigation: shorts, T-shirts, long-sleeved shirts, and a windbreaker (a pair of jeans and a sweater for a chilly night)
- Waterproof clothing or a storm jacket (from September onward)
- Sunglasses
- Hat or cap (do not forget about how to protect your neck from the sun)
- Swimsuit or bikini
- Sun cream lotion (high protection 20-30 or total sunblock)
- Mask and snorkel if you want to go snorkeling if we stop in a bay
- Boat shoes to use ONLY onboard if you don't want to walk barefoot (saltiness stops the diffusion of fungi and infections); sneakers are fine.
- Insect repellent spray or lotion
- Bath towel and beach towel
- Personal toiletries (biodegradable soaps and shampoos are encouraged)
- Personal First Aid Kit (e.g. anti-diarrhea pills, antiseptic, insect bite relief, pain reliever, seasickness pills, etc.) and personal medications (e.g. allergy medication)
- Pillowcase
- Sleeping bag or bed sheets (a sleeping bag is suggested in early June, September, and October)
- Photo camera, film/memory cards, extra camera battery, mobile phone, power supply, and cables for digital equipment. *

Optional objects you may want to bring:

- Binoculars (7x50 or 8x50 enlargement suggested)
- Small battery-powered book light with extra batteries
- USB keys**

* To share your photos with the other participants and to help the photo-id catalog of Oceanomare Delphis grow, we suggest digital photo cameras and zoom photo lenses of 70-200 or more.

** So that we can exchange photos rapidly ☺

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12. HOW TO REACH THE ISLAND

Participants will have to organize their journey to the project location. Participants will embark and disembark in Casamicciola Terme, one of the six municipalities of Ischia (NA). You will find the boat moored in the harbor. The meeting point is the Jean Gab (refer to the map below for the mooring location).

Usually, during summer, the vessel is moored in the orange spot (see the map below), but sometimes, the Marina chooses to remain the boat in the winter mooring, the light blue dot. Please check both when you arrive.



Please, arrive on the day of your scheduled arrival. As the boat must be prepared, the **boarding time is at 4:00 pm**.

However, if you arrive before and want to visit the island, you can leave your luggage on the boat.

Please try not being late to be present for the briefing and contact us by email (barbara@oceanomaredelphis.org), a couple of days before your arrival to confirm your schedule.

If you plan to arrive or stay one or more days before or after, you can stay at one of the many hotels in Casamicciola. We suggest:

- Hotel Gemma (tel. +39 081 994045, info@gemmahotel.it www.gemmahotel.it)

For any problem or inquiry during your journey to the project, you can call +39 349-5749927. If in Casamicciola you cannot find the boat, you can ask for information from the people working at the Marina.

When you ask for information, remember that most people on the island know us as "the dolphin's group" more than Oceanomare Delphis.

13. TRANSPORTS

The following information is indicative; other alternatives, here not mentioned, are possible. Times and tariffs may change without warning. Ischia is connected to Naples by sea, maritime lines of ferries, and hydrofoils.

From the Central Railway Station of Naples:

You can take the Alibus (see next paragraph), the subway, or a Taxi. Instead of the metered taxi rate, we recommend you choose the municipal fare (in Italian *tariffa municipale*) valid for 24 hours; please let the driver know, asking for it. This fixed fare includes all the supplements and is applied to a single journey, regardless of the number of passengers carried by taxi. The municipal fare from the central station to the harbors is about 13€.

From the Capodichino Airport of Naples:

The Alibus shuttle is the best way to reach the Beverello port from the terminal. Stopping only at three locations (Airport, Central Train Station, Beverello Port) is cheaper than a taxi and more suitable than the city buses. You can find the tickets in the tobacco shop at the airport, it is also possible to buy them onboard (cost 5€); remember to validate the ticket in the electronic ticket machine on the bus! The bus stop is located approximately 50 meters from the entrance to the airport. After the train station stop, the Alibus arrives at the last stop located in front of the hydrofoil ticket booths: Molo Beverello, Stazione Marittima.



A shuttle free of charge connects Beverello and Porta di Massa, the two harbor terminals of Naples.

From Porta di Massa to Ischia (only ferries) trip duration is 1 hour and a half, and the ticket price is about 17€.

From Molo Beverello to Ischia (only hydrofoils) trip duration is 45 minutes, and the ticket price is about 25€.

Hydrofoils and ferries timetable: <http://www.traghetti-ischia.info/en/>

Be sure you disembark in Ischia. Several ferries and hydrofoils first stop in Procida!

If your ferry arrives in Casamicciola, you have only to walk few steps to find the boat; if your ferry docks in Ischia Porto, you should take a bus to go to Casamicciola. Cabs are expensive in Ischia. Most buses circle the island; they are called left and right circulars, depending on the directions.

From Ischia Porto, you should take the left circular (CS circolare Sinistra) that leaves from a small square near the harbor. <https://www.ischiainsider.com/en/bus-schedule>

If weather conditions are prohibitive, hydrofoils are the first to be stopped. Try the ferries first; if they also do not sail, you will have to spend a night in Naples. There are many hotels and hostels in Naples (<https://www.hostelworld.com/findabed.php?ChosenCity.Naples/ChosenCountry.Italy>). These costs are not covered by the project.



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14. TRIP DATES AND PARTICIPATION FEES

The dates shown in the table below indicate the arrival and departure times of the participants. Costs do not include travel expenses to and from the project location. Welcoming on board is scheduled at 4:00 pm on your arrival date. Departure is scheduled after lunch, around 3:00 pm on your departure day. There is no problem if you need to leave earlier.

Ischia Dolphin Project 2026 dates and fees				
Period	Arrival	Departure	Fee	Second Turn Fee
IDP_01	18-May	24-May	930 €	860 €
IDP_02	25-May	31-May	930 €	860 €
IDP_03	1-Jun	7-Jun	930 €	860 €
IDP_04	8-Jun	14-Jun	930 €	860 €
IDP_05	15-Jun	21-Jun	930 €	860 €
IDP_06	22-Jun	28-Jun	930 €	860 €
IDP_07	29-Jun	5-Jul	930 €	860 €
IDP_08	6-Jul	12-Jul	980 €	-
IDP_09	13-Jul	19-Jul	980 €	-
IDP_10	20-Jul	26-Jul	980 €	-
IDP_11	27-Jul	2-Aug	980 €	-
IDP_12	24-Aug	30-Aug	930 €	860 €
IDP_13	31-Aug	9/6/2026	930 €	860 €
IDP_14	7-Sep	9/13/2026	930 €	860 €
IDP_15	14-Sep	9/20/2026	930 €	860 €
IDP_16	21-Sep	9/27/2026	930 €	860 €
IDP_17	28-Sep	10/4/2026	930 €	860 €
IDP_18	5-Oct	10/11/2026	930 €	860 €
IDP_19	12-Oct	10/18/2026	930 €	860 €

Included in the fee:

- Accommodation and port;
- Electricity, water, and gas;
- Scientific supervision and lectures on cetaceans held by the researchers;
- Oceanomare Delphis 2026 membership;
- Certificate of Participation, available upon request;
- Insurance for the duration of the course, provided by the organization.

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Not included in the fee:

- Travel expenses to and from the project location;
- Food and drinks, to be divided among the crew;
- Fuel, to be divided among participants;
- Personal expenses (telephone, bar, souvenirs, etc.).

Please note that food and fuel are excluded from the fee because they depend on the group's management and are handled on-site with a shared cash box; they amount to €150 per person/week.

Second turn or participants who have already come

If you book a second week or have joined the program in the past, you will pay a discounted fee. The second-turn discount is not available in the high season (see the table with dates and fees).

Extra night service

Upon request, volunteers can spend one more night on board before or after the project.

This means, for both cases, Sunday night. The contribution for this service is 50€.



The Ischia Dolphin Project is almost exclusively supported by the financial contribution of project participants. The money you pay to participate in the program will be used to cover the project running costs (fuel for the boat, equipment, upkeep, etc.). The financial contribution of project participants is essential to allow Oceanomare Delphis study and conservation activities to continue.

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15. HOW TO PARTICIPATE

15.1 BOOKING

Please, send an email (postmaster@oceanomaredelphis.org) to the Oceanomare Delphis office to check the availability of your preferred period. Reservations are valid for one week and will be confirmed once the participation forms and a copy of the fee payment has been received. For more information contact the project director, Barbara Mussi, at +39 349 574 9927 barbara@oceanomaredelphis.org.

15.2 PAYMENT

The payment of the entire fee should be made **by bank transfer** after making the reservation.

Remember to include bank charges in the transfer.

Please, do not send checks or cash by mail.

Please, send via email to postmaster@oceanomaredelphis.org the application form filled out in block letters, in all its parts, and a copy of the bank transfer. Oceanomare Delphis will notify you of your registration.

In case of cancellation, 80% of the fee can be refunded, while 20% of the participation fee is not refundable under any circumstances (see details in the application form). The fees do not include transfers to and from the places of departure of the research and anything not expressly mentioned.





Oceanomare Delphis APS

Ischia Whale and Dolphin Project 2026



APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE USE CAPITAL

I wish to participate in the IDP research expedition #_____ from (date)_____ to (date)_____.

I am paying:_____ euro (fee for the booked research expedition and insurance included).

- I have organized the payment in EUR to Oceanomare Delphis APS, and I enclose proof of this transfer:

Bank transfer IBAN: IT10F0200822690000401439034 Bic Swift: UNCRITM1CG2

Bank address: Unicredit S.p.A., Via Stefano Guazzo, 12, 15033 Casale Monferrato AL, Italy.

REMEMBER TO INCLUDE BANK CHARGES FOR THE TRANSFER

I accept that 20% of the expedition participation fee is non-refundable. In case of cancellation on my part, I am expected to give a minimum of 30 days' notice to be entitled to a reimbursement equal to 80% of the expedition participation fee. I understand and accept that I will not be refunded if I fail to give notice of cancellation of my participation within a minimum of 30 days.

In case of cancellation originating from any technical/logistical problem attributed to Oceanomare Delphis, the organization will reimburse the applicants with the total amount of the expedition fee (no additional reimbursement is foreseen) or, upon request, will try to place applicants in another turn, depending on availability.

FAMILY NAME_____ FIRST NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

POST CODE_____ CITY_____ COUNTRY_____

TEL _____/_____ E-MAIL_____

JOB (or University attended) _____

DATE of BIRTH_____ MALE FEMALE

Signature

Date

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