



GUEST DIARY 2018



**Tethys Research Institute**



**Cetacean Sanctuary Research**

**GUEST DIARY**

**Summer 2018**



**CSR 02, June 4th - 10th**

I was not sure what to expect when I decided to join the researchers on the Pelagos, but I have not been disappointed. I have loved every moment and learned so much about these interesting and unique animals. Everyone on board have been so helpful and knowledgeable about the dolphins and whales.

*Irene, UK*

This week on Tethys boat with the crew and captain Roberto was wonderful. We learnt a lot about the cetaceans and the Mediterranean sea and were enchanted by the researchers' passion about the animals. Although for a couple of days the weather conditions were not good to sight whales and dolphins and the boat remained in the harbour, the researchers suggested different activities all related to the sea and gave us additional lectures and even made us experience a part of their scientific work. The atmosphere on board was always positive and full of energy, the food was great (and inspiring!)... we are a little sorry to leave and would like to come back for another experience with Tethys! Thank you so much!

*Gian Giacomo (39) and Camilla (31), Italy.*

It has been a fantastic week, both interesting and exciting. I learned a lot of things about cetaceans and some facts that were very fascinating. Although I have to say that the most amazing feeling was the moment we saw a cetacean, big or small, either way it was an experience. However through the beauty of that moment, there was always work to do! On the boat the vibes are great, full of laughter and joy. It was an amazing experience and I am glad my mother's cousin's friend informed us about it. Thank you very much for this unforgettable week.

*Lou (16), student, Italian/French*



### **CSR 03, June 11th - 17th**

This week did not only meet my expectations but exceeded it by far. I saw much more dolphins than I expected, I learnt a lot about them and whales, as well and - furthermore - I experienced great hospitality by the team. I really became true what Alessia said the first evening "this is your home". I really felt home and well supported and I am sad to leave so soon!

*Meike (55), Sr. Manager Recruiting & Admissions, Germany*

Dei volti familiari come se li conoscessi da sempre anche se li hai appena incontrati. Un mondo cetaceo meraviglioso che si aprì ai nostri occhi. Alla fine tutti aspettavano di vedere una maestosa balena. I nostri occhi non l'hanno vista, però era là nei nostri cuori.

*Sandro (49), Consulente SAP, Germania*

Questa settimana è stata un'esperienza fantastica nella quale ho imparato un sacco di cose nuove e interessanti e soprattutto mi sono divertito moltissimo, l'equipaggio ed i comandanti sono stati magnifici grazie alla loro simpatia e gentilezza che ci ha accompagnato per tutta la settimana. Grazie di cuore a tutti quanti.

*Massimo (18), studente, Italia.*

A great experience with the nicest crew I ever had! Great sightings, a lot of new info, and a wonderful boat. I missed the fin whale but so many striped and bottlenose dolphins... and turtles, and Mola mola. And anyway, they say it's not important what you find but how you look for it and what you learn in the process - and, I learnt a lot, which is a big achievement for an old whale like me. Thanks girls & captain, and thanks also for the food experience!

*Donata (68), retired, Italy*



### **CSR 04, June 18th - 24th**

What a trip! What were the highlights? Masses of dolphins? The majestic finwhales right beside the boat? The interesting lectures about these great species? The sightings and assistance for the researchers or just watching them closely at their important work? Yes, all of it! But the one thing that made the difference was this great team that not only has an enormous passion for the marine mammals but as well as for hosting us as the participants and making us really feel part of it. Thank you Alessia, Julia, Cynthia, Lorenzo, and - not to forget - Roberto (the whale whisperer).

*Christiane and Stefan, Germany*



Many years ago I read about this trip in a paper and want to do this, because I like dolphin and whales so much and I am very interested in this special scientist work. So I was here with all of you and it was great for me. Tanks a lot for all of you, Alessia, Cynthia, Julia and Lorenzo! I wish you good luck for your research for the future! I want to come back and continue this wonderful experience. Liebe Gruesse.

*Eva*

This was my first experience with TETHYS but also my first time to do such a kind of expedition - living on a boat and doing field work. As a student in marine biology, I was amazed by the researchers, who shared their knowledge and their experience with us and work with such a great passion. Seeing real whales and dolphins awakes in you a feeling you will definitely never forget !

*Laura, 19, student, Luxembourg*

When I started studying marine biology in La Rochelle I became more and more interested in marine microorganisms. However I think that it is important to have a bigger overview and to learn also about marine mammals for example. This trip was the perfect experience to do so, because the researchers are very experienced and have a great knowledge about their work. In addition to field work and lectures about the project, the expedition was full of fun and I had the opportunity to sight fascinating animals and to meet some wonderful people.

*Melina, 20, student, Luxembourg*

I'm so happy of what I just did and of this wonderful experience! I just want to thank all of you for making me feel so amazed by these animals and for letting me have such an incredible time. I will miss it all: from the laughs that we made, the smiles, the showers at midnight, the marathon with sandals and of course the view of my first whale. Thank you.

*Mati, 15, student, Italy*

It's my fourth CSR cruise in a row and that's a reason if I keep coming back here, summer after summer: it's just one of the best weeks I spend every year, both thanks to the amazing sightings of cetaceans (but also turtles and fish) and the company of the crew and people from all over the world.

Every time I come here and I go away with a lot of new experiences in my package and many many more friends. So, thank you to everyone and hope to see you again.

*Viola, 18, student, Italy*

### **CSR 05, June 25th - July 1st**

As I am studying marine biology, this was the perfect opportunity to have a hands-on fieldwork experience in one of the most fascinating locations of the Mediterranean Sea. The lectures have been extremely interesting and exhaustive and the crew has made this experience even more enjoyable, thank you so much for your dedication that is really inspiring for someone that wants to pursue a carrier in marine biology.

*Sofia, 19, student, Italy*

I loved taking part in this cruise and actively helping with the scientific research: I particularly enjoyed the friendly yet professional atmosphere and the teamwork environment in which the project was carried out. Being a Marine Biology student, every piece of information received in the lectures was highly valuable, but the field data collection and also just listening to more experienced people talking were great learning inputs too. I cannot describe the huge emotion in hearing dolphins whistle with the hydrophone or the awestruck silence that filled the air when fin whales surfaced to breath so close to the boat. I definitely look up to the researchers for being so dedicated and kind, keep up the good work and hopefully see you soon!

*Lisa, 19, student, Italy*



### **CSR 06, July 2th - 8th**

It was a wonderful week with great sightings, a very caring, nice crew of researchers and also participants. I loved it! Herzensgruesse von

*Jennifer, Germany*

This was a wonderful experience: the crew was incredibly nice, the monitoring of the Pelagos sanctuary was a great experience and despite the not so great weather conditions during certain days we actually managed to have a lot of incredible sightings. The effort that Tethys puts every day into the task of environmental conservation is outstanding, and it's a precious resource for the Mediterranean sea. Thank you!

*Alessandro Messori, student, Italy*

Very interesting, informative and fun week. I am pretty sure that I will be telling all my friends and family about this experience for a long time to come. Big thank you to the research team for everything they involved us in this week.

*Nikki Allen, Uk*

**CSR 07, July 9th - 15th**

We had such a fantastic week on board Pelagos, there was a group of 9 students aged 14 came from Lewes Old Grammar School in Sussex, UK, for the second year in a row. The crew were so accommodating of these young students, they were brilliant teachers, ensuring we all understood the features and sighting techniques of the cetaceans we were looking for. We saw loads of animals, had loads of fun, ate loads of ice cream, laughed a lot, and most importantly, learned a lot! The students will never forget this opportunity to see such beautiful animals in their natural habitat, and we are sure we will return again next year. Thank you.

*Abbi Nagamootoo & Lauren Burns, Teachers, UK*

**CSR 08, July 16th - 22nd**

It was an amazing week spent with amazing people. Being able to actually spot whales was super exciting, but the super nice crew made it even more enjoyable. I really loved the teamwork spirit and everyone was as friendly as you could imagine. One of the best weeks of my life. Totally would do that again!

*Fiammetta, 21, student, Italy*

My dream job has always been a whale researcher. I never became one, but this week is really something to remember. To see the real work of the scientists and to take part of the daily tasks of the project was really fun and interesting. The week really showed how much time and effort it takes to collect scientific data. To be able to take part in it makes you feel you're making some difference. Also the crew was superb and fellow citizen scientists a bunch of fun people! Highly recommend for anyone!

*Elisa Nordman, Finland*

I'm leaving this boat full of good memories. I had the pleasure to meet with amazing people coming from all over the world and a very warm and kind crew made all the experience even better. If you like



marine wild life and you're dreaming to spot whales and dolphins, then this is the right place!. When I first saw a fin whale I was speechless and totally stunned, simply one of the best animal encounter I've ever had! Guys don't hesitate to book a spot on the Pelagos to spend 7 days of your holidays in a different way!

*Alessandro Crociani, Italy*

This week on the Pelagos was a magical and enriching experience. Participating in daily shifts on board as a citizen scientist allowed me to understand better your job here, and to detect all the beauty of this place. This Pelagos sanctuary is absolutely wonderful, thank you for being there to protect it and share with us your passion, knowledge, and your kindness. Thanks to you, I realized my dream, spotting dolphins and whales, with amazing people, the week of my 18 years. Much more than a week, an initiatory journey. Thank you again for this moment I will never forget.

*Marie Lebasle, 18, student, France*

Just the most amazing, magical week!

We can hardly put into words how wonderful this week has been. Our crew of Capitano Roberto & researchers Federica, Livia, Serena & Veronica made everything so easy for us. They worked **so** hard making our stay here pleasurable, stimulating and insightful. They are all so knowledgeable in their areas so that we all leave Pelagos educated too! We have been very lucky with our sightings, seeing bottlenose & striped dolphins & fin whales, thanks to the great sighting abilities of the team. Also, we were very lucky with how lovely the guests were and how well everyone got on together, another testament to how well run this trip was from our crew. Perfetto! Grazie mille!

We will be back!

*Katie & Sarvs, UK*



### CSR 11, August 6th - 12th

Un pezzo di sogno diventato realtà. Incantata dalla bellezza che abita il mare, ho veramente apprezzato la professionalità dell'equipaggio e il profondo rispetto che ricercatori e capitano portano agli animali padroni di casa... in punta di piedi entrano nel loro mondo, lo conoscono, lo amano e dolcemente ne scivolano fuori per trasmetterlo agli altri. Grata ed ammirata auguro a Tethys di proseguire così!

*Claudia*

Un'esperienza bellissima e ricca di emozioni. Non avrei mai immaginato di trovare persone così cordiali e, soprattutto, capaci di trasmettere la propria passione per il mare e i suoi abitanti. Giovanni Verga disse: "Il mare non ha paese nemmeno lui, ed è di tutti quelli che lo sanno ascoltare". Grazie di tutto, siete grandi! In bocca al lupo per tutto al capitano e al suo equipaggio.

*Alessia*

In Greece the people say "Abyss, the soul of human". For the past week my soul came out of the abyss and swam in to Pelagos. Before I return to my deep seas, is sure that a piece of my soul will stay floating in the warmth of Pelagos.

*Efharisto Poli gia to taksidi kai tin Agapi sas!*

Siamo arrivati con la pesantezza e la calura di un agosto che diventa di anno in anno più caldo. Torniamo da questa esperienza rinfrescati dalle emozioni provate alla vista dei cetacei. La passione evidente con cui i membri dell'equipaggio lavorano, la loro estrema simpatia, preparazione e cordialità hanno, purtroppo, fatto volare il tempo.

*Federico*

La libertà del mare, la maestosità dei cetacei, le risa tra nuovi amici hanno accompagnato il nostro viaggio. Non avrei mai pensato che alla ricerca di meravigliosi animali avrei trovato persone meravigliose con cui condividere queste esperienze uniche.

*Anita*

Ultimo giorno, un pensiero su tante emozioni vissute con gente diversa per esperienze, età, vissuti, ma tutti accomunati da questa passione che lega da sempre gli uomini al mare. Far conoscere il mare vuol dire farlo amare.

*Stefano*

The few days that I spent on the Pelagos were some of the most memorable of my life. There was not a single person I met or experience I had, that I wished I hadn't.

Thank you to the friends that I have made and the stories that I can now tell because of you.

*James*

Hmm... Where should I start? The past week onboard the Pelagos was, by all means, an interesting, fun, and also a somewhat life changing experience for me. Not only did I have the chance in gape in

awe of the biodiversity that's present here in the Mediterranean, but I also met loads of *interessante* individuals which together allowed me to reflect on my past and propelled me to look forward into my future. Not only that, but I would like to give a big shout-out to all the staff members on board which made this trip possible and memorable. Thanks again and arrivederci miei amici!

*Calvin Yang*

Questa settimana Su Pelagos è stata una delle più belle esperienze della mia vita. Non solo ho avuto l'opportunità di vedere degli animali meravigliosi ma ho anche incontrato delle persone di cui non mi dimenticherò mai. Grazie allo staff per tutto!

*Bianca*



### **CSR 12, August 13th - 19th**

**J'ai** adoré ces vacances de folie en voyant des baleines et des dauphins de près, avec scientifiques très sympas, supers et forts en tout.

*Louis 11 ans de France*

Mi è piaciuto di più le balenottere e sono stata molto bene e mi sono divertita tantissimo. Grazie Mille (Caterina Mario Lele e Valentina)

*Caterina 10 anni Milano*

Hello hello it's William typing know, the little boy of 14 years old living in France.

What did I prefer, first seeing the whales on the second day and the last day with the dolphins jumping just in front of us, that was beautiful, I really enjoyed it, moreover the atmosphere on the boat was quit good and all of the crew was very nice.

In conclusion I loved the week with you guys it was great, I had a great time. Grazie mille ;)

*William 14 anni Francia*

una delle esperienze più entusiasmanti ed emozionanti che io abbia mai vissuto. Mi ha aiutata a capire come sia importante la ricerca in questo settore e quanta passione possa suscitare in una persona.

*Lara 22 anni Bergamo*

No human can leave such a trip being emotionally untouched. This is unforgettable experience, and very valuable knowledge that as much people as possible must get in order to save and preserve these magnificent creatures and our vulnerable nature. In my own turn, I will do my best to contribute to the wellness of the marine world.

*Alina, 32, Russia & Finland*

Eccomi qui, per la seconda volta su Pelagos. Anche quest'anno le emozioni sono state tante, uniche ed indescrivibili. Grazie per la passione che sapete trasmettere e per la conoscenza che divulgate, è incredibilmente entusiasmante vivere il mare e imparare a conoscerlo. Siete fantastici!

*Francesca, 33, Biella*



Esperienza illuminante e una sensibilità verso gli animali senza eguali. Grazie a tutto l'equipaggio per la fantastica esperienza.

P.S. Si mangia alla grande :)

*Tommaso, 28, Bergamo*

### **CSR 13, August 20th - 26th**

"Le giornate dal fresco tepore, limpide, sonore, profumate, strabocchevoli, ridondanti, erano simili a coppe di cristallo di sorbetto persiano, piene fino all'orlo, adorni di fiocchi di neve alla rosa." (Moby Dick)... la ricerca è qualcosa di interiore, più che di esterno a noi... per qualunque motivo voi ricerchiate la vostra balena, non resterete delusi.

*Laura, 53, Roma*

Una settimana intensa, ricca di emozioni di sole e di mare. Le capacità, la preparazione, la pazienza, la cortesia, la disponibilità e l'entusiasmo dei ricercatori (e del comandante della Pelagos) hanno reso queste giornate speciali e straordinarie. Il "mio" primo capodoglio mi ha regalato un'emozione incredibile...non potevo festeggiare meglio il mio compleanno! Grazie a tutti per le splendide giornate a bordo di Pelagos. L'organizzazione della vita a bordo merita 5 stelle :)

*Alessandra, 52, Novara*

Settimana piena di emozioni, la mia prima esperienza in mare condivisa con persone che non conoscevo, sole, mare e vento ci hanno tenuto compagnia per tutta la settimana, emozione al mio primo capodoglio, che dire fantastico, un grazie a tutto l'equipaggio fantastico e al comandante della Pelagos.

P.s. un grazie speciale a Valentina che mi ha fatto conoscere la Tethys.

*Maurizio 50, Milano*

"This is the second time I spend a wonderful week on board of PELAGOS and it won't be the last one. As the last time I got to know wonderful people and even improved my italian. And then there are those wonderful creatures spending their time under the sea giving us miracles to discover. Not only did we got to see striped and bottlenose dolphins but also fin whales and the so impressive sperm

whales. Acting as a citizen scientists gives you short nights, lots of mosquito bites, sunburned skin and stiff muscles but overall it gives you the feeling of being part of a wonderful world we're living in and why it is so important to protect it. Thank you for this incredible opportunity, TETHYS! Thank you to Federica, Caterina, Mario, Davide, Valentina, Eleonora!

*Andrea 33, Munich*



### **CSR 14, August 27th - September 2nd**

When Peter first came with the idea of a sea cruise in the Mediterranean where we would be able to assist in dolphin and whale research, the answer was an immediate yes. I never regretted it. I met a lot of like-minded people with a common cause and interest. The crew is absolutely amazing! Special thanks to Cate, Davide, Sere, Vale, Mario and Roberto who made me feel at home right away. Despite having a lot of work to do, they were always open for questions and they always gave a lot of information about the sightings. They took very good care of us. The first sighting was very special but seeing the fin whales was amazing to me. The photo-identification was a lot of fun. I would certainly do it again. It awakened an old flame in me I had buried deep under the daily humdrum of work. Special thanks to Sere: she made the most amazing vegan dishes for me. I had a feast every day and every night. An almost-all-in cruise with a lot of laughter and a whole bunch of new friends and memories. Lots of love and till we meet again!

*Lisette, 36, Leiden*

The striped dolphins were my favourite, when they were bow riding I would not have cared if my phone had fallen overboard - they were so mesmerising. So respect for the researchers being able to concentrate on recording data and taking photos for identification. When I take my University club for a week sailing in the Med next year we will be looking out for cetaceans and I will tell them where I got my knowledge. Hopefully we may find the Risso's dolphins - or if you do I will be back! I have also gained a lot of motivation for my studies, to be as passionate and make an impact like the researchers. I hope you find a new sperm whale and name it Mario... and a second called Luigi (he deserves it, he will be chuffed!)

*Ailsa, 21, Yorkshire/Liverpool*

This summer I finally managed to spend a week on board of the Pelagos as I promised Caterina some years ago. I had a great week and impressive encounters of small and large cetaceans and met wonderful people. I am very grateful for this experience. The most amazing moment was the fin whale encounter, seeing these animals so close was wonderful. Finally I owe a big thank you to Caterina, Sere, Vale, Mario, Davide and Roberto for their care and hospitality, the great food and the good company. I hope you will find the long missed Risso's dolphin during the next weeks. Lots of love

*Elke, 53, Bremerhaven*

Il mare mi ispira un forte senso di libertà ed è così che voglio che siano e che rimangano gli animali che ci vivono...liberi. E' stata un'esperienza incredibile vedere per la prima volta le balene dal vivo. Così grandi, così eleganti, maestose e allo stesso tempo così infinitamente silenziose. Rimani inerte di fronte ad uno spettacolo del genere. Nonostante da piccola li avessi già visti, i tursiopi sono sempre meravigliosi; avvistarli nel momento in cui mi trovavo a prua è stato ancora più emozionante. Vederli nuotare di fianco alla nostra imbarcazione... sarei voluta tuffarmi per nuotare insieme a loro. Idem per le stenelle. Questa settimana è volata, mi sarebbe piaciuto vedere anche i capodogli e i globicefali ma sono lo stesso contenta e magari ci sarà un'occasione in futuro per vederli. Esperienza unica e costruttiva, ho imparato anche delle cose molto interessanti. Ringrazio tutto lo staff per l'opportunità. Spero abbiate a disposizione sempre più materiale per poter proteggere queste creature meravigliose che si trovano nella nostra terra. Un abbraccio ;)

*Lisa, 25, Penne*

Un anno fa decisi di improntare le mie vacanze estive su volontariati per la conservazione della biodiversità; senza alcun dubbio posso dire di aver provato le più belle emozioni della mia vita durante questi soggiorni. Fin da piccola ho sempre avuto la passione per i cetacei, in particolare per i delfini, e vederli avvicinarsi senza paura sotto alla barca, sotto i nostri piedi, sentire il loro respiro con solo il sottofondo del mare è stata un'emozione indescrivibile. Le immagini, i video non riescono a descrivere quello che si prova quando sei lì... domani, riguardando i mille video che ho registrato non riuscirò ad avere il magone, il respiro accelerato, il senso di felicità che ho provato in quei precisi istanti.

Grazie a questa settimana sono riuscita a vedere cose, a provare emozioni che mi porterò sempre dentro ma che avrei già voglia di riprovare domani e dopodomani... sperando in futuro di poterle provare ogni giorno.

*Jessica, 24, Bologna*

### **CSR 15, September 3rd - 9th**

E' difficile descrivere a parole il turbinio di emozioni intense vissute questa settimana. E' stata un'esperienza a dir poco stupenda ed entusiasmante. Grazie ai ricercatori per la splendida accoglienza e per averci coinvolto col loro entusiasmo in questa travolgente avventura

*Silvia*

Era da tempo che avevo in mente il "santuario dei cetacei".

Quest'anno, avendo una settimana libera, ho fatto una ricerca su Google e, tra i vari risultati, ho trovato il sito di Tethys. Devo dire, ben fatto ed invitante.

L'esperienza fatta sul campo, non solo ha confermato le mie aspettative, ma ha anche contribuito ad incrementare in grande misura il mio amore per il mare. Il team di Tethys è fantastico: ricercatori preparati, motivati, gentili e disponibili....e, soprattutto, dotati di un entusiasmo coinvolgente e trascinante. Grazie mille per la bellissima esperienza.

*Salvatore*

Difficile esprimere in poche righe i sentimenti che provo in questo momento... cosa dire di più rispetto a quello che ho espresso ieri.. è stata per me una importantissima esperienza sia dal punto di vista scientifico e umano.. il lavoro che fate è veramente molto importante e trasmettete la vostra passione. Per me che sono una grande amante della natura e degli animali avervi conosciuto e aver scoperto il vostro lavoro mi ha arricchito molto. Spero anche io di poter contribuire con il mio lavoro e i miei studi

alla salvaguardia di questi meravigliosi animali e spero al più presto di poter condividere i risultati con voi. Grazie di tutto.

*Marianna*

Scrivo in italiano perché sicuramente riesco ad esprimere meglio le mie emozioni. Cosa dire? Mi aspettavo che sarebbe stata un'esperienza bellissima, ma non così tanto! Siete riusciti tutti a farmi sentire come in famiglia, avete espresso le vostre passioni, avete mostrato come il vostro lavoro è unico, va protetto e portato avanti. Non penso che la settimana sarebbe potuta andare meglio di così: ricca di esperienze, prove da superare, immagini e scene che rimarranno impresse nei miei occhi e nel mio cuore, risate piene di gioia e divertimento che mi porterò in mente per sempre. Avete trasformato un mio sogno in realtà, che spero sinceramente possa avverarsi di nuovo. Credetemi se vi dico che questa esperienza per me è stata tra le più formative e decisive della mia vita, almeno per ora, perciò in qualche modo voi avrete contribuito al mio futuro e alle mie prossime decisioni. Non posso che ringraziarvi con tutto l'amore che ho e sperare che questo non sia solo un addio, ma un arrivederci, chissà se tra qualche anno ci rivedremo di nuovo su una barca alla ricerca di cetacei. Grazie,

*Camilla*

Beautiful experience, beautiful week. Actually one of my best weeks this year, spent with great people and first class crew. I learned a lot and, at least as important, I've experienced a lot. Living with those guys, the ones on the boat and the ones in the water, was exceptional. In short, I'll never forget those days. Thanks to the crew and the participants.

*Bruno, 65, Switzerland*

It was a great experience, I had an amazing week! I enjoyed every minute! I wanted to thank you all for your enthusiasm and the wonderful work you are doing! Hopefully I'll manage to return next summer ;) Ancora, grazie per tutto, è stata una settimana bellissima!

*Lily*

Thanks for the best week I've had in a long time, nothing beats being out in the open sea with the best people you could wish for. Seeing these animals up close and in the wild was an unforgettable experience and I hope to return one day with lots more people in tow. I wish you all the best with life and I hope happiness finds you wherever you go :D

*Alex*



**CSR 17, September 17th - 23rd**

This was an amazing experience. There is so much to say about it, but I think the word amazing captures really well the mood of this trip. I was amazed at the first sight of dolphins, amazed at the first sight of fin whales, amazed at my first sight of devil manta rays. But it doesn't end there. I was amazed by the people, the skipper (Roberto, che gran capitano che sei, mi mancherai), the P.I. (Nino, è sempre uno spettacolo ascoltarti, soprattutto quando parli con quel simpaticone di Sylvan, mi mancherete entrambi), the other crew members (Cristina, scusa ancora per il caffè, sei fantastica, Arianna, sai già quanto mi mancherai, Elisa, è stato bello parlare con te di pesci e altri animali), the other participants, (I don't have time for all of you but you were great, I'm gonna miss you all). I loved the sea, the boat, everything about this, even washing the dishes at night was made fun by being with such amazing people. Can't wait to see all of you again, best wishes for the next year.

*Lorenzo*

When I first applied for this "trip" I was a little bit scared because I didn't know what to expect but now, I can say that it was AMAZING, I've met beautiful people and I've laughed a lot, most of all I've seen a lot of animals and this experience gave me the confirm that this is the job I want to do. The personal on board was awesome, they were super enthusiastic (un saluto speciale a Robi, miglior capitano di sempre!) and they taught me plenty of things. I want to say a special thank to Arianna because she was very supportive and kind...Sylvan you are something else, super-wise man (Phallusia Mammillata). Thank you Nino for sharing some of your knowledge with us. I will remember this forever, hoping to come back someday. Ciaoneee

*Vale*

Sometimes a trip looks very good on paper, but the reality is different. However, I am pleased to say that helping research cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea for a week was just as amazing as I had hoped. On trips like this, the most important factor for enjoying the trip is the crew. The Tethys team were fantastic throughout the trip. They were all very knowledgeable and open to sharing that knowledge and interacted well with the team. Many thanks to everyone involved, I would love to come back some day.

*Emma*

Thank you all so much for making this a very interesting, intimate and FUN experience. It is the crew and all the volunteers who made this trip, guest starring the cetaceans of course. Good cooking, long but interesting days and also educational. You have all broadened my horizon! Thank you.

*Paal*

I came to this trip afraid of the ocean and deep water desperately and because of this trip I feel a lot less afraid and see the water as beautiful and as holding the most amazing creatures. Every day on the boat had something new and educational and I came thinking I would never go on a boat again but now I am sure I will try another experience like this. The crew were amazing and so helpful and lovely and each evening was full of laughter and fun! I learnt so many different species of whale and dolphin and am now more determined to do more to help these creatures when they are trapped in nets or have collisions with ships. Thank you to all the crew and to everyone on board!!

*Mina Altaf*

"A horse, a beautiful dog, arouses sometimes a quick emotion, but of inanimate things only a boat can do it. And a boat, above all other inanimate things, is personified in a man's mind. When we have been steering, the boat has seemed sometimes nervous and irritable, swinging off course before the correction could be made, slapping her nose into the quartering wave. After a storm she has seemed tired and sluggish. Then with the colored streamers set high and snapping, she is very happy, her nose held high and her stern bouncing a little like the buttocks of a proud and confident girl. Some have said they have felt a boat shudder before she struck a rock, or cry when she beached and the surf poured into her. This is not mysticism, but identification; man, building this greatest and most personal of all tools, has in turn received a boat-shaped mind, and the boat, a man-shaped soul."

*John Steinbeck, The Log From The Sea of Cortez*

