



## TETHYS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

*A non-profit research organisation supporting marine conservation through science and public awareness with a focus on large marine vertebrates*



## Cetacean Sanctuary Research

# 2023



## GUEST DIARY



### CSR03

🐬 As Roberto would say, "Imagine a world made of sound", and you'll get the ocean. Thanks everyone to let me explore the infinite beauties of the sea! See you soon!


*Michela Cuppone, 29, Cave (RM)*

🐬 This was a unforgettable week and we were really lucky that we saw so many marine mammals. Thank you that you make this possible! Tutto bene! ;)


*Minja Taponen, 34, Finland*




### CSR04

 Thank you for a great experience. I saw a part of nature, which not many could see. Also I met people, who are making a passion-job. This helps the nature a lot. I think I will come back sometimes.


*Claus (56, from Germany)*

 This week with Tethys was an incredible and unforgettable experience. Thank you for allowing citizens to come aboard and participate in the research that you are conducting. It gave me the opportunity to not only see the amazing animals that Tethys studies and have a once in a life time encounter with a sperm whale, it also gave an insight in the great work that you are doing. I will never forget this week.

*Maegan, 21, Netherlands*


 This was the second time that we spent a week with Tethys and it was again an unbelievable week! We saw dolphins and whales and experienced great teamwork. I am sure that this will not be the last time that we have joined.

*Meike (60, Germany)*

 I think I will never forget the time I spent on the Pelagos. If you count the days it would be only 6. But they feel like several weeks to me. It was the first time for living so close to the sea, actually living with the sea. Being able to experience maritime life, dolphins jumping next to the boat, seeing giant finwhales from a distance, hearing the loud blow and having such a special encounter with a playful sperm whale.. I m still lacking words, but feeling so grateful and deeply fascinated. Also I loved the life on the boat I was able to experience - the positive energy, cooking and eating together, friendly affirmations, light but also deep talk conversations.. they were the essence of this trip. I m so glad to have met so many amazing and friendly people and a special thank goes to the Pelagos peeps who create this amazing space and helped us so much the past few days. Honestly, you re amazing human beings <3

*Lisa (29, Germany)*

## CSR05

 We will always remember Harald, as our first identified sperm whale. Hopefully one day we can come back and see her. With the jump of the whales and funny screams, with ARTE, the nonexistent tv canal... learning the complicated Burraco and wait, wait, whaleeee! Cheers and beers but per favore pasta basta!!! Always too excited to see the Ballenott(er)i AAaaah and the silly lazy baby dolphins :) And finally don't forget..

ECCOLOO!!

*Nicole, Cat-Cat, Emma*



🐬 Thank you to all the Tethys institute crew for the amazing time spent aboard Pelagos. It was a week full of learning and experiencing incredible moments with the dolphins and whales we were able to see!! I think we all enjoyed these days a lot and we are so sad to have to say goodbye on this domenica bellissima ;(

Thank you!!!!!

*Nicole, 21*

🐬 Thank you for this incredible experience Tethys. It was truly amazing to see all the dolphins and whales swim so close to the boat! We made so many great memories aboard and we will always remember this week with the whole crew :)

*Cat-Cat, 17*

🐬 Amazing crew, unforgettable experience!! Grazie mille di tutto :)

*Francesca (38, Italy)*




## CSR06


🐬 Thank you so much i had an amazing time, Im so glad I got to see the fin whale.


*Megan, 20, UK*

🐬 Having the chance to see striped dolphins and a fin whale in their natural habitat was really amazing, as you can see their true behaviour.


*Marco, 18, Italy*


 Wonderful as usual....always great to be back in Pelagos with new and old friends.  
*Massimiliano*

 Thank you so much for this wonderful stay, and great lessons on the cetaceans, I learnt a lot. Will remember you and the beautiful fin whale :)  
*Joelle, 36, France*


 Wonderful experience. Life on board was something new for me and it was cool. Amazing crew and amazing cetaceans as well.  
*Massimo, 22, Italy*

### CSR07

 It was an incredible experience! i loved spending my days on the Pelagos searching for cetaceans and I really hope to have the opportunity to spend other time with Tethys (hopefully next time as a crew member ;)).  
This experience helps me a lot because it makes me understand that I really want to spend my life studying the sea and everything that lives in here (of course, I'll always have a crush for whales)  
Thank you so much for the opportunity!  
*Alessandro*

 This experience, even though our expectations were already positive, filled our hearts with joy and curiosity. We met wonderful people full of such passion, energy and affection, that we grew very fond of them and spent so much time chatting, laughing and sharing experiences. We learned so many new things about cetaceans and loved observing them, but the whole experience wouldn't have been half as exciting and fun as it was living it with these people. Other than the wonderful crew members, Cristina, Nino, Roberto, Alice and Sofia, it was also thanks to our adventure buddies, Aurora, Michal, Kiara, Monika, Naomi, Silvia, Alessandro and Alex, that we had an experience filled with laughter and complicity. Whales are pretty  
*Giulia and Bea*


### CSR08

 Thank you to all the crew of the Pelagos for such an amazing trip. We were enormously lucky with the wildlife we saw and this was obviously the highlight. However, witnessing the elegance and beauty of these spectacular creatures would not have been nearly as enjoyable without the tireless work of the staff on board to keep us comfortable and well-fed. (I am endlessly impressed with the quality of meals that are made using such fresh ingredients in such a tiny galley). The crew is always helpful, friendly and an overall pleasure to be around and really helped smooth the experience of living together in such close proximity with people who were previously strangers (and now friends).


A special shoutout to Nino, who was our principal investigator for this trip. His near-encyclopedic knowledge of all things cetacean was phenomenal and I learned a lot from him. Apart from the scientific knowledge he shared he was also very happy to talk in detail about the Pelagos (which fascinated me as an aspiring marine engineer) and about his own life and his culture.

There is nothing more to say other than to thank again the crew for such an enjoyable week and that given the chance, I would most certainly come again.


*Ben Jenkin*

 Thank you so much for a fantastic experience and environment. It was a very informative week; being able to see how research is conducted "live" was incredibly interesting, also being with a group so interested in the topic and sharing the experience with them was very valuable. As an aspiring marine biologist being able to experience many of the animals and environment we study in a classroom, and especially being able to almost shadow the research, seeing the technology utilized and what a "day in the life" of a scientist might look like was very rewarding. Thank you for everything.

*Giovanni Rizzuti*


 This was an experience we will never forget. The life on board was phenomenal and the crew was extremely nice. To see cetaceans from such a close distance was incredible. We are very grateful for everything!

*Max and Sophie :)*

 Like most seven year olds, I wanted to be a marine biologist when I grew up. And like many children, my interest in animals was welcome as a hobby - but I lacked the role models and seriousness to follow my heart. Many years later, I have found my way back to that part of my soul. Tethys was founded in 1986, my birth year. It feels serendipitous to be here, to have spent time with the second largest creature on the earth. I even braved swimming in the Med, 2300 meters above the ocean floor! I am filled with awe and gratitude for this experience, and for the scientists who are leading to ensure we increase our understanding of and respect for cetaceans. Thank you for the life-changing experience of being a citizen scientist

- *la dolce vita!*


*Ashley C. Nunes, Washington, D.C.,*

 We bathed in so much knowledge this week. It was such a privilege to learn from the experts in the field, so enthusiastically communicated. We'll head home with much to tell our friends and anyone else we can influence!

We've been very well looked after by everyone on board and the mix of people has been great fun, yet everything still ran like clockwork. Great work everyone.

I wish you all lots of success in your chosen fields of study - may your influence spread even further than your travels.


*Jo Jenkin 50, Data Engineer, UK.*

 A perfect week has come to the end. I thank you all - the team and all participants - for the great experiences in so many ways. Information about the sea and its animals were so good and I learned many new things. Nino, Roberto and Elena, Anna and Gwen did an incredible effort to make our stay unforgettable. The sightings Dolphins, Sperm-, and Fin Whales will stay in my mind forever. Thank you - Thank you - Thank you!

The only thing may be considered - the glasses all are unique and once put on the table it is lost. Maybe there is a possible to sign the own glasses with a sticker to find it again.

I wish you all the best and a good summer with a lot of sightings.

*Doris, 57 anni, Austria*

 Has it happened to you, looking for a specific address in the city while driving/listening to the music and not being able to focus because the sound interferes with your search so you: turn off the volume! to better see (?). Well the expedition on board Pelagos is the OFF moment that you need to find the direction you might be looking for.

On board they, willing or unwillingly provide you with (beyond kindness and lots nice food and treats), the necessary silence to \*better see.

Appreciation of silence and the gentle gestures of the marine mammals we encountered is something I found and wish you all to find on Board. God speed.

*Andrea Mendoza*

 While looking for whales I discovered people, and whales. Lactose free.

*Egon*

 Dear Roberto, Nino and all the crew,

Thank you so much for this amazing week. Meeting with a sperm whale, fin whales and dolphins is a dream that came true. I also loved to spend those moments on that wonderful PELAGOS boat. Thank you Roberto for leading us with so much care and knowledge through

the waves. Thank you so much Nino for sharing your knowledge and taking time to explain things in such a clear and interesting way! I will cherish those moments passed with all of you forever. And thank you all for your passion, your experiences and knowledge you generously shared with us during that one magic week time. It opened new horizons to me. I look forward to seeing you again on board.

I wish you all the best! Take care! 16/07/2023

*Minh-Kha (From Lausanne, Switzerland)*



Dear Elena, dear Guen, first of all I especially want to thank you guys for two of the most extraordinary, breathtaking, wonderful and informative weeks I ever had. Thank you for letting me help you with some stuff especially during the weekend where I got so much more insight about the ship and your work here. You made me feel so welcomed and included and with the environment you created here on board, everybody felt at home. Furthermore, preparing all this vegan meals for me... you girls are like superheroes. You're doing an incredible job here. Thank you so much!!! Thank you for being such great friends! I will always remember cooking with you in this small kitchen, swimming with you in 2300 meter deep waters and laughing about the silliest things together with you. <3

Also, a huge thanks to Nino and his - I quote Ben - "near-encyclopedic knowledge". I was able to learn so much about all the different marine mammals in the Mediterranean Sea. Thanks that I could always ask you questions about whatever was on my mind. I really appreciated all of our conversations. Also, showing how to do all the knots and telling me this pirate-tale was very sweet. I really enjoyed it and I hope that I'll remember all the knots so I can show them to all my friends :)

Also thanks to Alice (week 08) and especially thanks to Anna (week 09) for encouraging me to sleep in a hammock for the first time. What a great experience, definitely have to buy myself one! Thank you so much!

Now to the whales: seeing those huge animals in real life is a gift and it feels like a "once-in-a-lifetime" experience; even though I hope it's not ;)

It's incredible how such a long animal like the fin whale can be so elegant, agile and majestic but still weight up to 50 tons! But my absolute favorite moment was when we could hear the clicks of a sperm whale and when the clicks would stop it felt like everyone held their breath and we would wait until someone screamed "blooowww!" xD

And I loved it when the sperm whale went down and you could see the fluke. It was an incredible view... or to say it as a German compliment "wasn't the worst thing to look at".

Farewell, my fellow friends, I'll miss you until our paths may find each other again.

*Luise, 18 years, from Hamburg (Ger), CSR 08 and 09 2023*


"How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

*Winnie the Pooh*





## CSR10

 We were lucky to join the Tethys-Team in July 2023. We got the opportunity to help to collect important data for Striped Dolphins, Fin Whales as well as Sperm Whales and thus enjoyed our duties very much. We lack of words to describe the goose bumps on our arms when being next to a whale or a dolphin.


The team, Valentina, Anna, Guendalina, Elena and Captain Roberto were very helpful and got never tired to answer all our curious questions (which sometimes came in hundreds).

The food was great and the atmosphere was relaxed although we were excitedly tensed whenever we saw a blow.

To be part of such important work was unique and we strongly recommend it to everyone who is interested in our environment.

Earth has music for those who listen - and you guys made us listen! Thank you very much!


*Britta and Gerlinde*

 It was a really fantastic experience to travel with this good team in a group of interested people, to see and learn a lot about the whales and dolphins and the researching methods to protect their living conditions in this area. To see the animals was unforgettable and also an emotional touch. I liked also the live on this beautiful boat with a experienced captain and to sleep outside under the stars.

I will come back!


*Marion from Badalucco*

## CSR11


 First of all: You are a very, very nice crew!!!

Second to that: The whole trip was very interesting, the animals, the people and the boat. I think, I will not forget anything of it all. And I will hope that the project goes on and on!  
Thank You for it all!


*Karsten Klement from Germany (trip from 24. to 30.07.2023)*

 Thank you all, the whole team and also the other participants for this wonderful cruise. Even though in the first two days it was impossible to go out, later in the last three days we saw many different animals, like fin whales, sperm whales and also striped dolphins. The meals were always delicious, very tasty and also healthy. Thanks to everyone for the interesting discussions and all other conversations. The Researchers and also the participants are all very nice and friendly. Thank you!


*Kolja Klement from Germany*

 Thank you all for your time, your kindness and for making this dream come true! I will never forget this experience and all the people that took part in it. Wish you all the best :)

*Greta Guiducci from Italy*


 This has been a truly unforgettable experience. Everyone was so nice and the researchers were very helpful. Thank you.

*Anna Bogumil from Belgium*

 Thanks all for the precious emotions and for the kindness. I spent wonderful days with all the staff and with the other guests!

*Arianna Gallicchio, Italy*

## [CSR12](#)

 Thank you for the amazing time, we really enjoyed the sightings of the dolphins and the sperm whale. The food was delicious and always very fresh. Our group, including the crew, was truly amazing to spend time with. Even the two days in the harbour, due to bad weather, were fun (despite my phone falling into the ocean).

Kind regards,

*Franka and Heike*


🐳 Many thanks for the truly inspirational time. Great crew, great company, great food and a great experience. Lifelong learning on many levels. So wonderful to see cetaceans up close and personal and having the opportunity to share and take part in such an important project. Some wonderful memories. Highly recommended. Wishing you every success for the future. All the very best  
*Tara & Adam*

🐳 Thank you very much for a great stay on Pelagos! It was a pleasure for me experiencing the life of a cetacean researcher in Italy. I was impressed by your commitment and your hard work you do for science, and at the end, for moving forward the conservation of cetaceans! Great work. All the best,  
*Tanja, Germany*


🐳 Thank you for the incredibly fun and enriching experience over the past week! Lectures were never boring, analyzing data was always interesting, and watch shifts were always entertaining. Even though we only had a few sightings, the sperm whales, stenelle, and tursiopi all had an impact on the both of us. Whether if it was playing Taylor Swift on full blast, or drawing silly little images of whales and dolphins, or gossiping about our neighbors next door, this was truly an experience that we will remember forever. We want to thank you, the crew, for giving an amazing experience, regardless of the unfortunate weather. Hope to be back again next year,  
Xoxo,  
*Gaia and Elena, New York and Turin*



[CSR13](#)


 I've learned so much this week about all the amazing cetaceans and animals which we've seen in the beautiful waters of the Pelagos Sanctuary. Thank you all for showing us and teaching us about these amazing creatures. I feel privileged to have had the chance to observe them so close up.

Please continue with your excellent and valuable work which gives us hope for the future. Brave ragazze, bravo Roberto, e grazie mille! Saluti,  
*Charlie (UK & Berlin)*

 This week has been the most amazing experience. As an aspiring conservationist this has been such an inspiring trip. I have learnt so much about teamwork, environmental research and most importantly about the beautiful and intelligent animals in the Pelagos sanctuary and all that is being done to look after them.

Thank you for being such an incredible crew!  
*Sibylla, UK*

### [CSR15](#)

 It has been an amazing week on board Pelagos. After joining the Ionian Dolphin Project in Greece I knew that I want to do this one as well. Living on the boat for a week together with the other participants and the crew was really lovely. We had funny evenings and good food and drinks. My favourite moment was seeing all the striped dolphins just next to the boat and playing in the water. But there was so much more to see. Besides all the sightings we also get to learn a lot about all the species and the mediteranean sea. Everyone should be able to see those great cetaceans in their natural environment. Thank you so much for everything and see you soon:)

*Mattia, Switzerland*

 We have all had a beautiful week and have gained many shared experiences on board Pelagos. We were incredibly lucky with our sightings, with sperm whales and a fantastic rare sighting of Risso's dolphins as particular highlights. Even the day we spent in the harbour due to bad weather was the perfect conclusion to the trip, with an informative lecture from Caterina providing further depth and understanding to our sightings, followed by an exciting afternoon playing in the big waves at the beach, and a lovely evening in the beautiful old town of Sanremo. We hope our participation has helped the crew with their data collection and onboard activities, and we will miss all the friends we made on board (and Rosie the sperm whale! :)), and hope to see everyone again in the future!!

*Rosie, Jake and Jasper, UK*



🐳 Thank you all so much amazing team! This trip was booked to inspire and educate our children and it has done that in huge amounts!! We have shared some very special time as a family and we have all learned so much. Travelling with teenagers can teach them so much, and we wanted something memorable and special for them - and this project is the perfect opportunity to work together and learn together. It was a privilege to see the incredible sea creatures, not only the cetaceans but also the manta ray, turtles and jellyfish.

But the most fundamental thing we will take away with us is the knowledge about the hard hard work that goes on behind the scenes in conservation - securing the vast amounts of data and evidence that secures protection for these species and their habitats. The individuals, the collaborative work, the international cooperation, the constantly dedication of time and skills that is needed to achieve fundamental change.

Thank you team Pelagos!

*Helen & Craig, UK*

🐳 Thank you SO much for this beautiful, beautiful and very interesting week. Everyone on board, the crew & the participants, were all so lovely. I really enjoyed the lectures and learned so much. This week will have a very special place in my heart and I feel really grateful for every animal we have been able to see. Having seen the Risso's Dolphin was amazing.

Sometimes I need / only to stand / wherever I am / to be blessed (Mary Oliver)


*Judith, Germany*



[CSR16](#)

🐳 The week was really amazing! Despite the fact that the weather was not on our side the whole time, the research team managed to organise some interesting and engaging activities anyway! Considering that each day is dependent on weather conditions and random


factors, such as the encounter of various animals, it is also difficult to make exact plans, which makes their efforts all the more rewarding. The environment that has been formed within the group was very nice and the involvement in the monitoring activities was really exciting! In very few episodes (1 or 2) there were moments that were a little confusing and it would have been better to receive exact orders as to who was supposed to do what, but considering that these situations only happened in unplanned situations or unexpected encounters and there was a bit of a rush it is understandable that there could be a bit of misunderstanding, and yet it all worked well. I can't be anything other than delighted to have had this experience with this fantastic group! Thank you very much for everything and the good time spent together! 😊  
*Mark Brandenburg*

 This week has been an amazing experience, thanks a lot to the Captain(s) and the crew for creating a wonderful atmosphere among participants, and participants for being so nice! It was a pity to lose a couple of sailing days because of the weather (the dreadful Poppea!) but the crew was amazing in proposing interesting alternative activities and preparing us for the encounters at sea. The first day of training was very helpful, and their patience in explaining every bit of sea life and encounters behaviour was extremely precious and appreciated.

We had the chance to discover how to act during research, a lot of time watching the sea but also some amazing bits of excitement and action! The most difficult thing was to remain focused while something incredible was happening in front of you, but the chance to learn how to use gears and cool stuff was amazing!

The first search and sight of a Sperm Whale was just incredible: to hear it through the hydrophone, and then chase it and finally see it surfacing was exciting and tender as a first date. And then Pilot Whales! So many of them, and so willing to be watched and be stared at! It is of course difficult to know what to expect before starting such an experience: we made this experience as a couple, and it was very easy and pleasant to meet other people. Of course you cannot expect a romantic escape, but you can have both private and team moments. Maybe it could be an idea to send some experiences (videos, some details about the days at sea, ecc) of previous cruises, from participants, crew and Captain(s) before embarking. Talking to the Captains was a precious insight on sea life and on decades spent looking for cetaceans, and all the researchers were more than willing to talk about their experiences and professional lives – even open to discuss weird ideas and proposals! It was a real pleasure to share this experience with you: thank you all!

*Camilla and Alberto*

 What an incredible week, with some wonderful people! The knowledge on the boat was amazing. Not a single question went unanswered and the whole team were always ready to talk about their experience and share their knowledge in a clear way for all to understand and with so much enthusiasm; you can tell everyone loves what they do. Everyone was made to

feel so welcomed right from the beginning, making the stay so easy and enjoyable. Whilst the weather was not always on our side, the crew were always ready with alternative suggestions or open to ideas about what we could do instead. When we were able to go out, everyone was made to feel included and useful, being able to experience how the research is done first-hand and taught how to collect observational data. When signing up, nothing could have prepared me for the excitement of chasing a group of Pilot Whales across the Mediterranean sea and the final thrill of being able to watch them so closely as they swam by our boat. The insights provided by the captains, crew and people I was lucky enough to be on board with, will stay with me for a life-time! Phenomenal experience with great company, weather and food. Thank you so much to you all!

*Zoë Sturgess*



The day I arrived I was listening to the cracks of the boat ropes while getting closer to Pelagos. Friendly hellos were greeting me and reaching out for my temperatures. This week was an inspiring time of learning from biologists with all their different states of knowledge, learning the spy hopping of the pilot whales, listening to the breath of the giant beings, learning from bas to insist on sea scanning...blow.....blow.....blow.....blow.....blow... .blow....blow.....blow.....

Thank a lot to all of youuuuuu heartfelt beings,

*Franziska*



This week has been nothing more than informative and exciting. The entire experience of being on a boat with other like minded people was really eye-opening. I want to thank Marina for the amazingly informative week, and your unrelenting enthusiasm. I will miss you all. Much love,

*Bas Westra*




The simple thing to say about my week on board of the Pelagos is that I learned a new word in Italian - "grande". It is much more complicated to express how rich and wonderful the experience with CSR16 was, how professional and at the same time spontaneous the team worked, how much at ease they made us feel on the boat as well as in the process of collecting data for the research, and how lovely a group we could form.

And the expeditions themselves were incredible, encountering a family of pilot whales was truly a magical moment.

Thank you so much dear team from Tethys! Grande!


*Dagny Gioulami*

 This has been a spectacular week. The crew have been super helpful and Marina in particular brought such enthusiasm to the subject matter. The boat is small but charming with everything you need and the whole trip was a great mixture of organisation and flexibility to cope with the changing weather. The experience of getting so close to a school of pilot whales will live with me for the rest of my life.


The other thing which makes it special is getting to meet the other volunteers from many countries and ages but all determined to have a good time and learn about those beautiful cetaceans. Not to mention have ice-cream at Gelateria Garibaldi.

*Michael*


### [CSR17](#)

 I had the most wonderful time on Pelagos and would recommend it to anyone for endless reasons. Living on a boat, accepting humility, discomfort and challenge are only a part of this. I believe what makes this trip unique is the appreciation and the gentleness towards the animals and the environment. The team has been fantastic on so many levels, and I am leaving with a head full of dreams and a heart full of gratitude.

*Sophie Howe*

 There aren't enough words to describe the wonderful time I had on board the Pelagos! It was a privilege to be invited to this adventure and I will always look back with a heart full of incredible moments of excitement, laughter and joy. Experiencing everyone being deeply passionate about this project and the wildlife was really inspiring. I just had the best time of my life and will definitely be back next year!


*Helena*

 My first week on the Pelagos is over and I can say that it was even better than I imagined. Everyone was so welcome and nice, so that you felt like home immediately. If you had any questions there was always someone to answer them and tell you a little bit more about the sea life in the Mediterranean Sea. especially Yaya had always time and enchanted us with her lovely recipes and soul.

The last day of the week was certainly the best because we saw so many different animals and it was wonderful to see how the crew was excited about every sighting.


I am very curious about all the things that will happen next week.

*Paula Spielmeyer*

 I had such a wonderful time on Pelagos and am coming away with so many happy and wonderful memories thanks to the crew. The whole week felt like such a dream and I learnt so much about the marine fauna that inhabit the Mediterranean Sea. Getting to listen to




dolphins on the hydrophone was such a magical experience and I will treasure my time spent on Pelagos for years to come.

 Grazie mille for this amazing week on board of the Pelagos! It was such a great experience to be out on the water every day, enjoying the elements, looking out for all the marine life. For me this is the best way to have (the most wonderful!) encounters with whales and dolphins and more, instead of joining commercial whaling trips. I learned so much from you guys! Seeing the fin whales, striped dolphins and risso's so up close is something I will remember for the rest of my life. I really enjoyed listening to the hydrophone as well. Thank you all so much, you were incredibly kind, you cooked us great Italian meals and made me feel at home instantly.

Ho visto le balene e i delfini :)

Arriverderci,


*Irène (The Netherlands)*

 Dear Tethys team, thanks a lot for a wonderful, brilliant time on board of the Pelagos. It was a great experience and just what I was looking for. Thanks for making the stay so relaxing and enjoyable. Happy to have been able to contribute a tiny bit to your important, interesting work. Keep the spirit and all the best with your work! may you spot many whales and dolphins on the excursions. Always have a few inches beneath the keel!


Take care and hopefully see you somewhere sometime again,

*Philipp(e) (Bonn, Germany)*

### [CSR19](#)

 Thanks for all guys. You are doing a great job, always with a smile, disponibility, kindness. I will never forget the magic time with the pilot whales. Thanks for all your knowledge and passion you transmitted to us. I spent a beautiful time with you in this wonderful place. Such a rich experience. Take care.

*Dominique Demey, Belgium. September 2023*

 From the moment I set foot on Pelagos, everything began to dance. I spent a week dictated by movement, at times gentle in the harbor, with the waves cradling my sleep, and at times lively out at sea. My eyes struggled to keep up with all the stimuli the sea had to offer, but determined, they never tired during the thrilling spotting shifts. I saw generous researchers sharing their knowledge, their passion bursting forth in every task, story and toast. Heartfelt thanks to Valentina, Veronica, Alessandro, Alessandro, Sabina! The only thing that remained constant, static, was my smile I couldn't wipe off my face

throughout these days, and it will accompany me forever as I reminisce about this experience and the people I had the privilege to meet thanks to Tethys.

*Anna Favaretto, 25, student, Italy. September 2023*



It was a great experience to stay here together on a sailing boat, see whales and learn a lot of whales, the weather, the waves. It is a perfect team on board, very friendly and always helpfully in everything, also a really delicious cooking,

A wonderful great week !

*Carola Pfeiffer, Germany, September 2023*



On board of the Pelagos, I met many people, who instead of chasing a white whale, pursue, each in their own way, what the ancient Greeks called eudaimonia, their own good spirit, their inner fire that gives meaning to our existence This instills great hope for the future. It was a gift to sail this sea with together with the Pelagos, and a privilege to have such special encounter with the cetaceans. Now it is time to go. I wish everyone fair wind.

*Gaia Gullotta, Italy, September 2023*



This week on board Pelagos has been amazing. The staff's dedication and passion for this place and the species that inhabit it have been heartwarming to see. I have learned so much during my time here, be it through the lectures, conversations during meals, museum visit, or out at sea. Even though we had unlucky weather, I'm leaving with a happy heart and many beautiful memories I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Thank you to the amazing staff for sharing this experience with us and always being helpful, kind, and fun to be around. Everything you've done and continue to do for this project is seen and appreciated. Till the next time :)


*Giulia Coloso, 17, Italy, September 2023*



I'm grateful for jumping in a new, surreal reality - for cooking, eating and cleaning in a sailboat during a thunderstorm - where everything rises and falls as in the world of Alice in Wonderland, for falling asleep under the stars as in a spaceship that connect sea and sky. I'm thankful for teaching me to welcome the unpredictable and for teaching me that we all are a whole, part of this world that is called Earth, and that we work in the same way and we have a lot to learn one from each other, starting from the stunning creatures that whales are. Thank you to all of you for the enthusiasm and passion that you put into this journey that I will carry within me.

*Gaia Dall'Osto, 21, Italy, September 2023*

[CSR20](#)

 Tethys has been such an unforgettable experience, these last two weeks! I'm forever grateful for the memories I've made and the people I get to share them with. Pelagos, truly has been a sanctuary and safe haven from real life, and it's been a feeling of comfort like any else. I'm so grateful to Valentina, Veronica, Sabina, Allesandro, Fede, Elisa, Allesandro and our amazing skippers for the incredible, ecstatic atmosphere they always created. This team is so full of life and hope for the future of Pelagos and our worlds' Cetaceans, you can't help but feel inspired all the time in their presence, and their work. They've truly made me feel so at home. No matter the weather, the day, the non-existing sightings in the first week, the most constant part through it all, was my smile and laughter. To be able to share such passions and love, is the most fulfilling feeling. The second week has been unforgettable! I'm so ecstatic that I got to see those Rissos Dolphins! ;) Being able to be one with nature has been amazing and I cannot wait to come back next year! (Maybe next time as an assistant ;) ) Thank you Tethys!

*Jesse Eshelby, 20, Student, South Africa/England (CSR 19 Participant as well ;) )*