



Francesca Page

THE AZORES

29th August - 8th September 2022

**SHARKS PARADISE, MARINE CONSERVATION AND
PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP**

inspired

200
SHARKS

Welcome!

I am a British internationally selling artist, published illustrator, award-winning photographer, storyteller and dive professional.

I'm passionate about exploring our blue planet and capturing the magic of nature with my creative skills. I believe when you love something you will do anything to protect it.

I look forward to meeting you and sharing some unique and once in a lifetime shark diving with you.

I want this trip to allow you to come with me on my ocean adventures and hopefully not only inspire me but also to inspire you.

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EXPLORE - CAPTURE - PAINT - PROTECT

"As well as my art being an extension of my soul and serves as a form of personal expression and therapy, it also gives me a voice for nature.

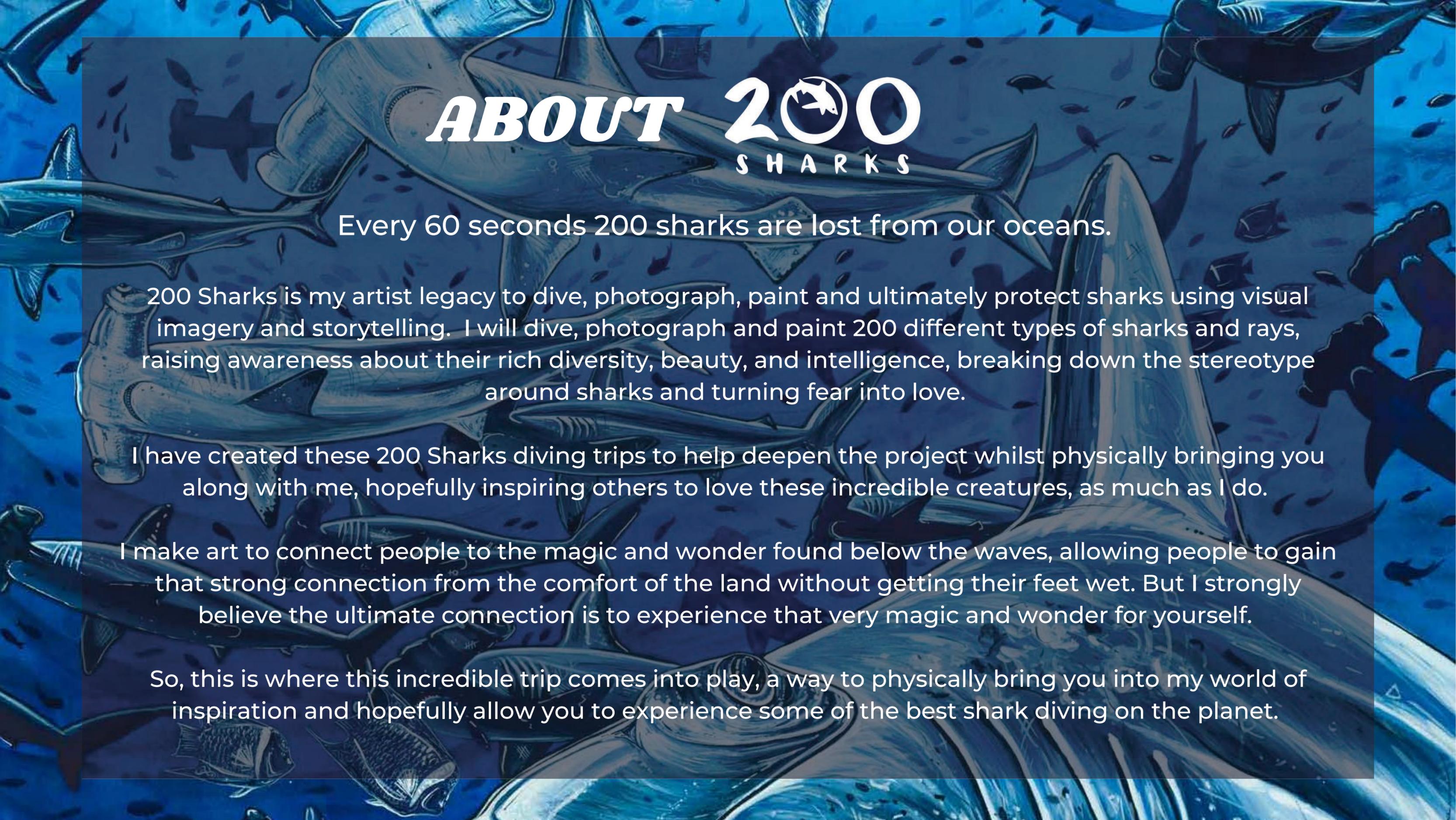
It is a powerful medium to communicate my experiences out in the field and also serves as an important catalyst to connect you, the viewer, with the incredible planet I have fallen in love with.

Art opens the empathy door, inviting you in to a world you may not have explored or to a place in your mind you have not investigated. Art helps to provoke feeling and passion, which I believe is the foundation to taking the first steps into anthropogenic consciousness.

Once you love something you will do anything to protect it. "

Francesca Page





ABOUT 200 SHARKS

Every 60 seconds 200 sharks are lost from our oceans.

200 Sharks is my artist legacy to dive, photograph, paint and ultimately protect sharks using visual imagery and storytelling. I will dive, photograph and paint 200 different types of sharks and rays, raising awareness about their rich diversity, beauty, and intelligence, breaking down the stereotype around sharks and turning fear into love.

I have created these 200 Sharks diving trips to help deepen the project whilst physically bringing you along with me, hopefully inspiring others to love these incredible creatures, as much as I do.

I make art to connect people to the magic and wonder found below the waves, allowing people to gain that strong connection from the comfort of the land without getting their feet wet. But I strongly believe the ultimate connection is to experience that very magic and wonder for yourself.

So, this is where this incredible trip comes into play, a way to physically bring you into my world of inspiration and hopefully allow you to experience some of the best shark diving on the planet.

Why the Azores?

*I'm incredibly excited to share one of my favourite and most magical diving spots with you in 2022 -
The Azores.*

When I first visited Azores a few years ago it was love at first sight with the volcanic islands, dramatic black sand and rugged rocky coastline, the bluest water you will ever come across. The magic you can find below the waves didn't just steal my heart, but was the foundations to the magical energy found in my artwork today.

It was my blue shark encounter in Azores which changed my life and my 200 Sharks project.

The marine life that can be found in Azores is mind blowing, from once in a lifetime blue shark encounters, to schools of Mobulas, to giant sting rays, baby eagle ray nurseys, humpback whales, snorkelling with pods of 100's of dolphins and that's just the tip of the ice berg.

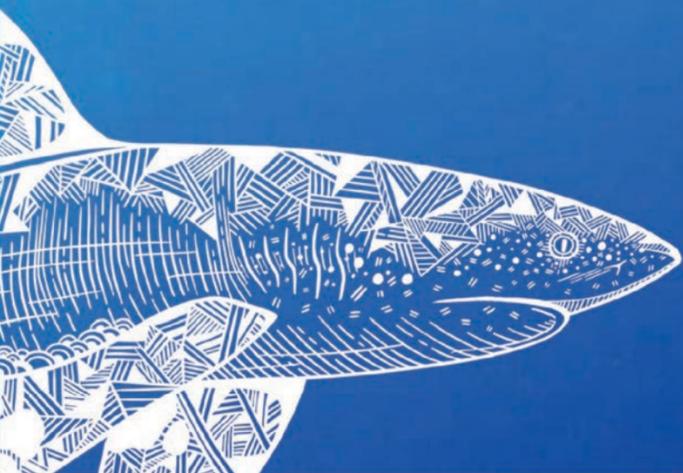
The diving is world class and something you will remember for the rest of your life. I can't wait to bring you this special place and to experience some incredible marine life encounters with me.

HIGHLIGHTS:

AWARENESS THROUGH ART

As an internationally selling artist and published illustrator, expressing myself and creating awareness through art, I wish to share my passion and how I aim to make such a difference.

Sharing the details of my campaign '200 Sharks' my hope is you too will find ways in which you can help and protect this amazing species.



WORLD CLASS DIVING

Based in one of the best diving areas in the world, we'll explore many of its dive sites, including Princess Alice.

A seamount 48 nautical miles offshore that sinks down from below 1000m to 30m it attracts a huge number of pelagic fish like Amberjacks, Barracudas, Bonito's, Wahoo's, Tunas, Mobula rays, Manta rays, big shoals of fish, marlin, and sharks!!

One of the main reasons to dive here is for the Mobula ray migration.

Together with other experts, we will give you a real insight into all the wonderful marine life and the opportunity to learn about the different species and how we can help protect them.

EXPLORING PICO ISLAND

Not only will we be spending time in the water, we will also have the opportunity to explore the stunning Pico Island.

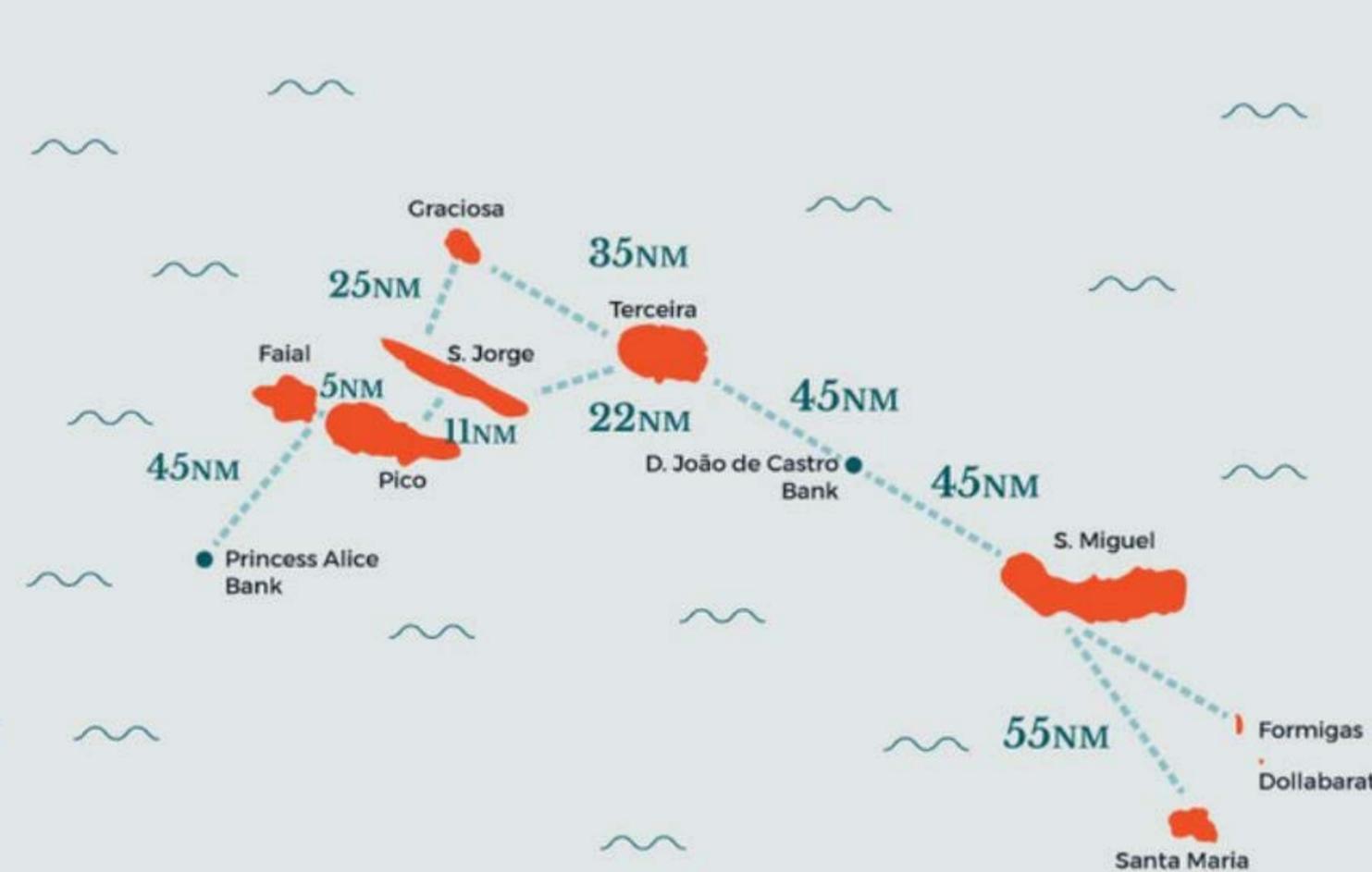
We will be climbing to the top of Mount Pico to be rewarded with some spectacular views over the Atlantic Ocean.

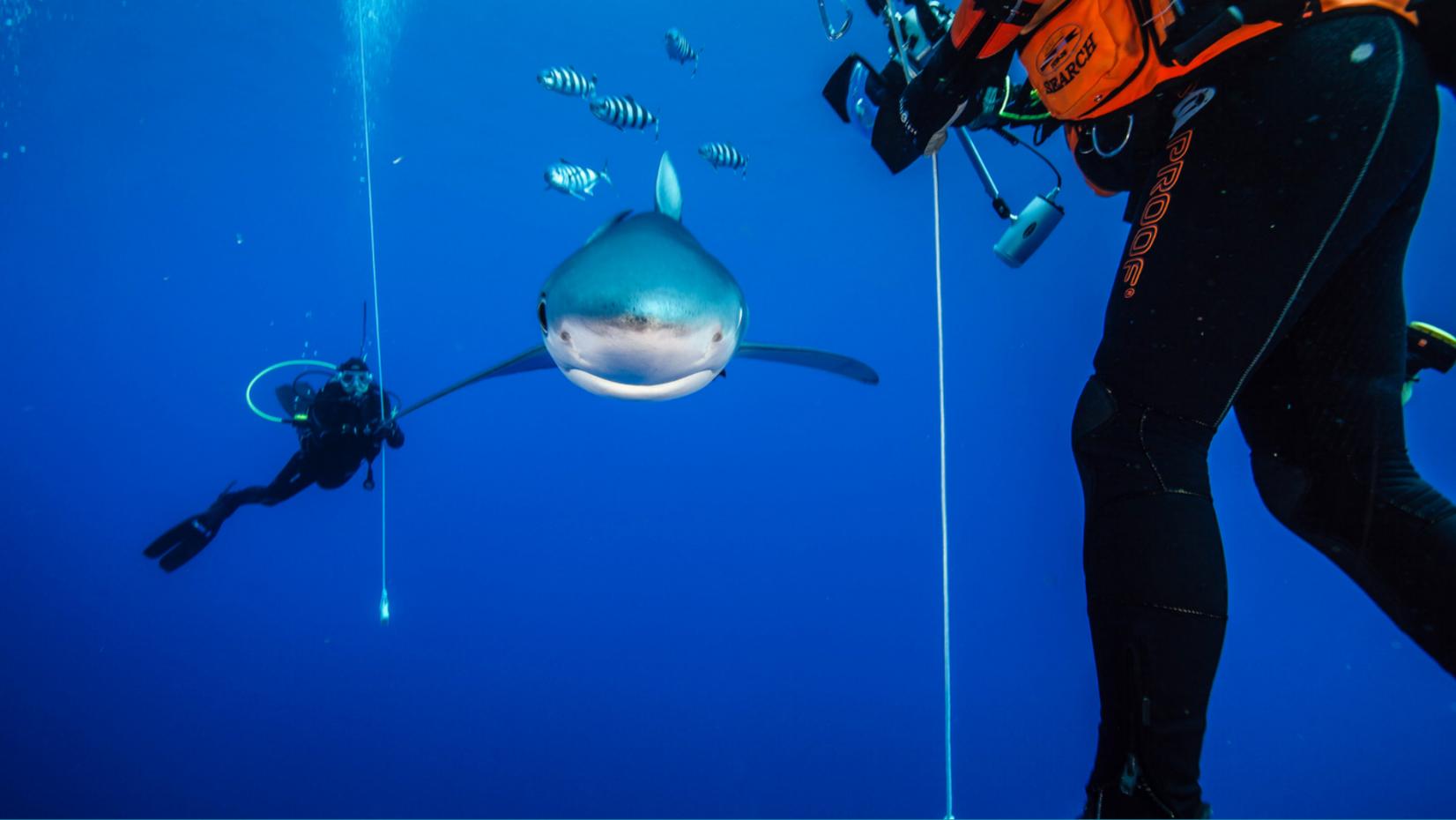
We will also be heading into the Gruta da Torres, one of the best places to appreciate the volcanic origin of the island. It is the longest lava tunnel in Portugal and will be an extremely unique experience.

Trip Overview

The aim of this workshop in The Azores is to capture through photography the experience of some of the best shark diving on the planet, deepening our connection to wanting to protect this incredible species, expanding on the work of the 200 Sharks project.

- Dates: 29th August - 8th September 2022
 - Places Available: 16 places available staying on Pico Island
 - Dive Certification required for trip: Advance Scuba Diving with a minimum of 50 logged scuba dives in order to go on the shark expedition and Princess Alice dive.
- ~ Passion ~ Inspiration ~ Sharks ~ Rays ~ Wild places
~ Incredible diving ~ Education ~ Marine biology ~ Conservation ~ Photography workshops ~ Scuba diving
~ Once in a lifetime encounters~





The Workshops

We will be based on Pico Island and will be doing all our diving activities with the wonderful CW Azores.

Our itinerary is packed full of wonderful activities and the order we do things will depend on weather, sightings and much more.

Along with expert guides, I will be sharing presentations, tutorials, and advice from my experiences in the ocean with the aim of expanding your range when it comes to underwater photography.

I will also demonstrate how to turn your photography into a piece of fine art including composition, editing in a lightroom and photoshop, colour theory and white balance underwater.

I will guide our itinerary to make sure we capture stunning shots and once in a life time encounters to add to our own portfolios.



About CW Azores

We will be diving with CW Azores a fabulous dive centre based on Pico Island and an official Whale Watching operator in the Azores.

Being eco-friendly is at the heart of how CW Azores work. They conduct non-commercial scientific research, aimed at safeguarding local cetaceans and other marine life. Every year they collect from the sea between 1 and 2 tonnes of waste between ghost nets, plastic bottles/boxes and lines.

Informing and educating their guests is an integral part of their work, with a briefing preceding every single boat tour. All of the staff are extremely knowledgeable and passionate about what they do and are very experienced in their field.

They are heavily involved in the local community and strive to ensure that they are as eco friendly as possible whilst also contributing positively to sustainable tourism.



The Diving

During the workshop, we will complete four regular dives.

Pico Island is a new frontier for recreational scuba divers, so we are sure to spot some incredible marine life.

The Gulf Stream and varied seafloor topography create ideal conditions for a rich, abundant and diverse underwater fauna that spans tiny invertebrates to huge pelagic fish and marine mammals.

Temperature From up to 25°C in the summer.

Visibility From 15 to 30+ metres.

There are no strong thermoclines and often no thermocline at all in the waters around Pico, apart from a couple of dive spots that we will promptly signal to our divers.





Shark Expeditions

This unique and outstanding opportunity for divers arose from a successful project carried out by CW Azores who have been exploring these waters for over 2 years, to establish how and where to find the sharks with repeated success.

Whilst diving off of Pico Island, we will discover the secrets of two pelagic sharks synonymous with the deep ocean - the Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) and the Mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*).

The success rate is over 90%.

We have two shark dives included and each experience is likely to last around 5-6 hours. This gives us plenty of time and opportunity to get some breath taking sightings and photography shots. Lunch will be provided on these days.

Please note that you must have a minimum qualification of PADI Advanced Open Water Diver (or equivalent) and at least 50 logged dives.



Princess Alice

Imagine waters deeper than 1000 metres suddenly rising up to only 35 metres from the water surface.

This is Princess Alice, a mid-Atlantic seamount 45 nautical miles (about 85 km) off our base on Pico Island.

Well renowned for the extraordinary Carousel of Mobulas, Princess Alice is also inhabited by Jacks, huge Tunas, and Barracudas.

The Success rate between July and mid-October is virtually 100%.

Please note that you must have a minimum qualification of PADI Advanced Open Water Diver (or equivalent) and at least 50 logged dives.

Lunch will be provided.



Whale Watching

The island of Pico features an unparalleled diversity and abundance of cetaceans.

Over 20 species of whales and dolphins either inhabit or pass by these waters along their migratory routes, so that Pico is one of the very best spots in the world for Whale Watching, arguably second to none.

Known in the past as an important ground for Sperm whale hunting, since the mid 80's the Azores have become one of the best case studies of how the presence of whales and dolphins can be turned into an ecologically sustainable business, with great educational value and full protection granted to the animals.

Before heading out we will have a briefing, to let you know more about the biology and behaviour of the whale and dolphin species we are most likely to meet at sea, along with their conservation status.

Hints on how to tell species and individuals apart are provided to furtherly enhance your experience on the boat.



Swimming with Dolphins

Without doubt watching cetaceans in their natural environment is an unforgettable experience.

However, in Pico, it is possible to enrich that experience with an even more exciting one - swimming with the dolphins.

For most this will be a once in a lifetime experience!

Our trip to swim with the dolphins will last 3-4 hours and will allow each of us to enter the water at least 2-3 times. Sometimes it is possible to swim with more than one species at the same time.

In the Azores, swimming with the dolphins is allowed with 5 different species, all belonging to the to the family Delphinidae which contains 17 genera and is one of 10 families belonging to suborder Odontoceti.



Gruta das Torres

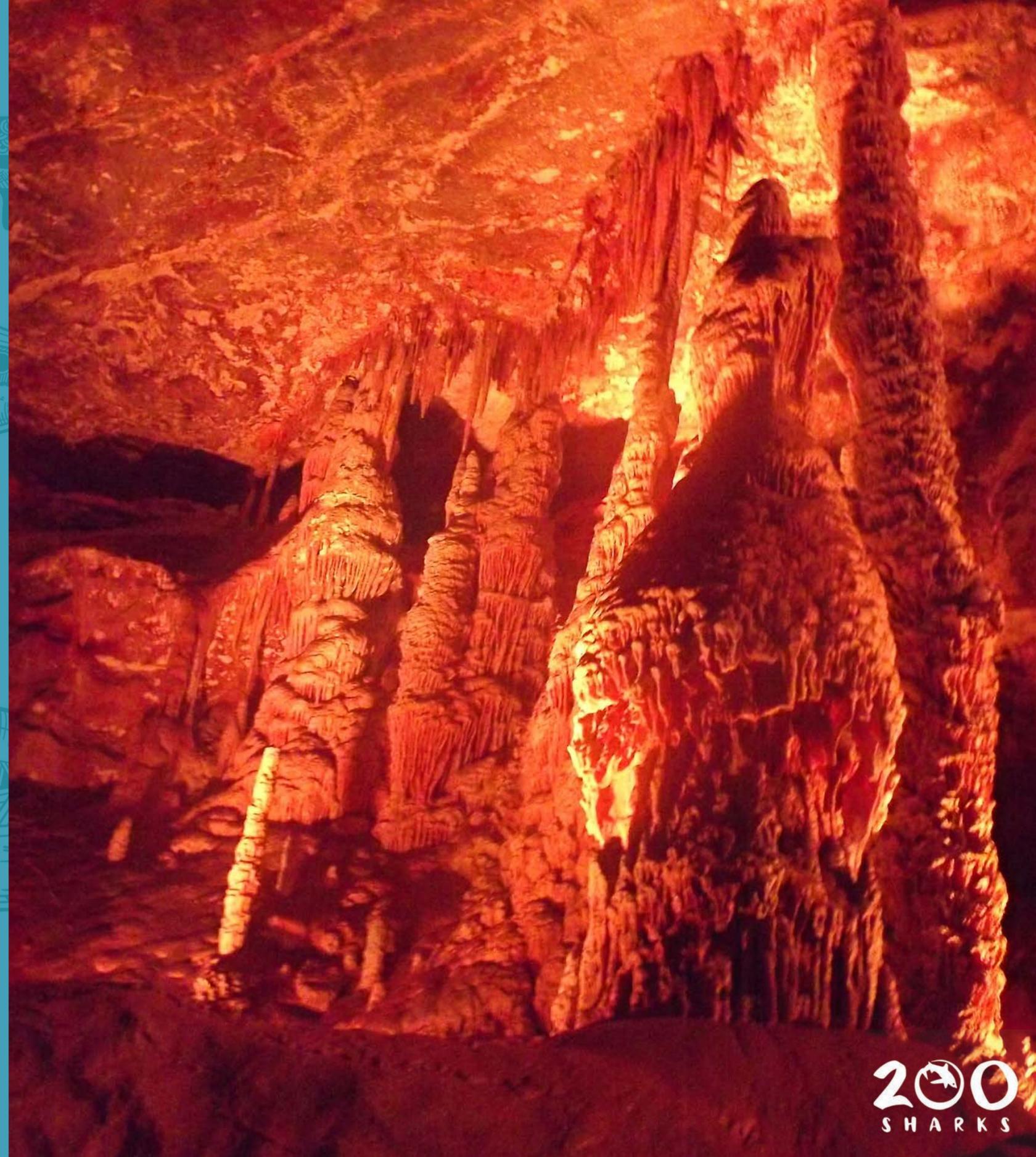
Gruta das Torres is one of the best places to appreciate the volcanic origin of the island.

The Gruta das Torres, at an altitude of 285 metres, is the largest lava tunnel known to exist in the Azores, with a total length of roughly 5150 metres and a maximum height of 15 metres.

The interior is rich in geological formations, resulting in the presence of various types of lava stalactites and stalagmites, lateral "side-benches", lava balls, striated walls and long rope-shaped strings of lava.

On a tour we will learn about the volcanism in Pico, the different types of lava flows and experience the sensation of absolute darkness underground.

It will be a thrilling and unique experience with some incredible photographic opportunities.



Mount Pico

During the first few days together we will head up Mount Pico, the mountain stands at a height of 2,351 meters (7,712 feet). The reason to do this early on in our trip is due to the high altitudes mixing with our diving.

Scientists believed it was formed around 6,000 years ago and at the summit is the Pico Alto crater around 500 meters in diameter and 30 meters in depth.

Whist it is a steep walk to the top, you will be rewarded with a spectacular view over the Atlantic Ocean and all five islands from the central group of the Azores, for those who make it !!

We will choose a clear weather day for the hike but even so will be accompanied by a certified mountain guide, as weather conditions can change fast and safe navigation to and from the mountain base at 1200m can be difficult.

We'll let you know what gear is needed for the hike in the pre departure pack. Lunch will be provided.



Our accommodation

During the workshop we will spend 10 nights together on Pico Island, which is located in the beautiful archipelago of the Azores.

We will be staying at Hotel Caravelas (4 stars) , which is set in a very central position and faces the Marina of Madalena, a few yards from our base.

A nice bar and a pleasant outdoor swimming pool provide the ideal setting for relaxing.

The air-conditioned twin rooms at Hotel Caravelas open out onto private balconies with views of the ocean or Pico Mountain.

All rooms include a flat-screen TV with satellite channels, a minibar, and an en suite bathroom.



What's included?

- Full support and advice from Francesca and the team
- 10 nights accommodation
- Breakfast each morning and 4 lunches
- 4 dives, 2 shark expeditions (5-6 hours), Princess Alice (2 dives), 1 whale watching trip, 1 swim with dolphins trip (3-4 hours)
- Mount Pico climb - full day
- Gruta das Torres - Portugals longest lava tunnel (2 hours)
- Dive weights, tank and local dive guide (there is the option to hire other dive gear at the centre)
- Art presentations, tutorials and workshops

Not included in trip cost: Flights, travel insurance, dive insurance, gear hire.

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How to book your place

The price of the trip to The Azores is £2,195

To secure your place on the trip, click on the link below to make your booking and pay the deposit of £650.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

The remainder of the payment is due in two installments. The first (50% of the remaining balance) on the 1st May 2022 and the remainder 90 days before the trip starts.

If you have any questions about the trip please email travel@inspiredventures.co.uk or message Francesca via [Instagram](#) who will reply over the next few days.

[Full terms and conditions for booking are available HERE](#)



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A shark diver in the Azores. A diver in a black wetsuit is swimming towards a large shark. The shark is swimming towards the camera. The water is clear blue. There are other divers and equipment visible in the background.

***We look forward to
hosting you in The
Azores!***

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