Expeditions 2020

On the tracks of great pelagic marine animals (whales, dolphins, sea turtles, swordfish and tunas) in the central Mediterranean Sea
Welcome to the KYMA Expeditions

Many people know the Mediterranean Sea as a holiday destination and some have already seen dolphins. But for many people it is a complete surprise to hear that there are also whales in the Mediterranean. In fact, there are three native whale species: sperm whale, fin whale and Cuvier’s beaked whale. A total of eleven different whale species occur in the Mediterranean. This is an extremely impressive biodiversity, considering that the Mediterranean accounts for only about 1% of the world’s ocean surface.

The Mediterranean biodiversity is also impressive beyond the cetacean species, since about 10% of all marine species researched worldwide are found in this intercontinental sea. However, the biodiversity of the Mediterranean is threatened more than almost anywhere else. Overfishing, habitat degradation and pollution are all affecting marine animals in this almost closed sea. Improved protection measures are urgently needed, but they must be based on sound scientific data. The latter are not sufficiently available in some places. With its expeditions to the central Mediterranean, KYMA sea conservation & research is helping to close data gaps so that cetaceans and other marine life can be better protected.

KYMA expeditions include monitoring the distribution of large pelagic1 marine species such as whales, dolphins, sea turtles, swordfish and tuna. The research area is located in the central Mediterranean Sea and covers the waters in the east and northeast of Sicily, in the Strait of Messina, in the south of Calabria and around the Aeolian Islands. The data basis on the occurring species is so far fragmented. We also investigate the quality of the animals’ habitat by documenting the plastic pollution on the water surface and observing its temporal development.

The KYMA expeditions are designed as Citizen Science2 research projects and can only be carried out thanks to the participation and support of interested persons. It is organized in weekly expeditions at sea and offers interested people the opportunity to get to know various marine life and their habitats better and to actively contribute to their research. Accompanied by experienced skippers and competent scientists, the expedition participants are not only involved in research, but also in various activities on board the sailing ship. Apart from interest, respect for other people and life in the sea, humour and motivation, no specific qualifications are required to participate in our expeditions.

If you would like to become part of our expeditions, please contact us via e-mail at info@kyma-sea.org or via the online form at www.kyma-sea.org, projects/KYMA expeditions section, so that we can send you the relevant registration documents.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Your KYMA Team

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1 Organisms living in the open water column

2 Citizen Science: “Scientific work carried out by members of the general public, often in collaboration with or under the leadership of professional scientists or scientific institutions”. (From: OED Oxford English Dictionary)
Content and goals of the Expeditions

Research: We carry out random counts of cetaceans and other pelagic marine animals using the line transect method. The method involves observing the cetaceans at constant speed and course and recording various parameters such as the number of animals sighted, their position and behaviour by observers. In addition, we investigate the quality of the habitat using microplastic samples in surface water and the counting and logging of drifting macroplastics.

Environmental education and awareness raising: Expedition participants will learn exciting facts about the life and behaviour of whales, dolphins and other marine creatures and will become better acquainted with the existing threats to which marine animals are exposed. At the same time, they are given the opportunity to actively learn about various aspects of cetacean research and actively contribute to the protection of marine animals through their participation.

Sailing and life on board: The expedition participants live on a sailing ship (46-51.9 feet) in bunks of 2. The crew consists of 1 skipper, 1 scientific expert and 6-7 participants. The expeditions allow to acquire knowledge in sailing or to expand existing knowledge. The expedition participants actively participate in life on board and are involved in ship manoeuvres under the guidance of the skippers.

Cleaning of coastal areas: We are also active at the land/water border and carry out beach cleanings with the expedition participants. These cleanups are either scheduled in certain expeditions or conducted if the weather does not permit research at sea. The collected plastic waste is classified and registered in a European database.

Our field research provides long-term data on the spatial-temporal distribution and abundance as well as the life situation of large pelagic marine animals and the ecological development in the research area. With the help of the expedition participants, we make an important contribution to marine animal research in the Mediterranean and develop a scientific basis for conservation measures.
Research
Our main task is to scientifically document the occurrence of large pelagic marine animals. In addition, we record the waste that floats on the water surface and record human activities at sea.

Beach Cleaning
If we are unable to conduct research at sea, we collect waste on beaches and document it.

Responsible encounter with wild animals
We leave it to the animals to decide how an encounter is to take place, behave as inconspicuously as possible and do not touch or feed the animals.

Waste
We don't throw anything in the sea that doesn't belong there. This also includes organic waste. Because the sea is neither rubbish bin nor compost.

Food
The meals during the KYMA expeditions are vegetarian and we prepare them in teamwork.

Learn & marvel
Our research vessel is also a floating learning studio that brings knowledge about the sea and its creatures and also about sailing closer.

Respect
We cultivate an appreciative and positive approach to people and animals.

Sailing
During the KYMA expeditions we sail whenever possible under sails and adapt our route to the wind conditions. We only sail under motor if not otherwise possible.

Slower travelling
We are convinced that travelling by train is not only good for the environment, but also allows us humans to fully adjust to what is to come and to let what we have experienced have a deep effect. We therefore recommend this option when travelling to and from KYMA expeditions.
## Expedition data and costs 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expedition</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Departure / destination port</th>
<th>Costs / person*</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expedition 3</td>
<td>04.07. – 10.07.2020</td>
<td>Tropea (Calabria) / Siracusa (Sicily)</td>
<td>CHF 1’540. --</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expedition 4</td>
<td>11.07. – 17.07.2020</td>
<td>Siracusa (Sicily) / Siracusa (Sicily)</td>
<td>CHF 1’540. --</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expedition 5</td>
<td>18.07. – 24.07.2020</td>
<td>Siracusa (Sicily) / Tropea (Calabria)</td>
<td>CHF 1’540. --</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expedition 1B</td>
<td>22.08. – 28.08.2020</td>
<td>Tropea (Calabria) / Tropea (Calabria)</td>
<td>CHF 1’540. --</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expedition 2B</td>
<td>29.08. – 04.09.2020</td>
<td>Tropea (Calabria) / Tropea (Calabria)</td>
<td>CHF 1’540. --</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expedition 6</td>
<td>05.09. – 14.09.2020</td>
<td>Tropea (Calabria) / Tropea (Calabria)</td>
<td>CHF 1’830. --</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expedition 7</td>
<td>16.09. – 25.09.2020</td>
<td>Tropea (Calabria) / Tropea (Calabria)</td>
<td>CHF 1’830. --</td>
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</tbody>
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**Detailed information on the costs:**

- Price includes 6 nights on board (expeditions 1-5, 1B, 2B) or 9 nights on board (expeditions 6-7), meals, harbour dues, whale/sea research, expedition documents and membership in KYMA sea conservation & research in the calendar year of the expedition. Not included are travel costs to and from the port of departure/destination. Bad weather, which does not permit departure, does not entitle the participant to a refund. Shore excursions, e.g. in case of bad weather, are at the expense of the participants.

- Students receive a price reduction of CHF 250 (proof of student status by copy of student card). For a two-week participation in expeditions 3-5 or 1B-2B, the participation costs are CHF 2,470 per person.

- **Boarding** takes place on the first day of the expedition from 17 o’clock. **Deboarding** takes place on the last day of the expedition at approx. 18 o’clock (the night from the end of the expedition to the following day can still be spent on board if required).

**Condition of participation:**

Minimum age 18 years (exceptions only in consultation with KYMA sea conservation & research); good health; participation in research activities according to the instructions of the scientific expert as well as in beach cleaning activities; participation in all work on board and sailing (previous knowledge not required); interest, respectful treatment of people and life in the sea, humour and motivation.