



Who we are

The Mantamaria Dive Center emerged in October 2010 to take advantage of the marine life of Santa Maria Island by the company Mantamaria (Registration MT 10/2010 and AT 14/2015 / RAA).

[GPS: 36° 57' 4" N – 25° 8' 58" W](#)

Mantamaria Team is composed by experienced dive instructors, divemasters, skippers and support staff trained to offer a relaxing environment and provide the best underwater experience in Santa Maria.

The Center is equipped with five excellent boats, all suitable for diving and tours around the island, a state-of-the-art Bauer B_Trox Membrana Nitrox and Trimix filling station and all the necessary diving equipment to carry out this activity comfortably and with the highest safety standards.

Diving

Santa Maria Island

Around Santa Maria Island, the diverse underwater geological formations far from coastline will offer different dive types such reefs and submarine mounts.

Some dive sites...

West

- Ilhéu da Vila – (Beginner)
- Baixa da Cagarra – (Beginner)
- Calçada do Gigante – (Beginner)
- Baixa de Fora – (Intermediate)
- Cabeço João Lopes – (Experienced)
- Ambrósio – (Experienced)

A Este

- Pedrinha - (Beginner)
- Baixa da Cré – (Beginner)
- Baixa da Maia – (Intermediate)
- Gruta dos camarões – (Intermediate)
- Pedrinha da Maia – (Intermediate)
- Pinheiro – (Experienced)
- Gruta Azul – (Experienced)
- Cabeço Badejo – (Experienced)

Important Note:

For safety reasons, a proof of certification and experience is required at our Center. The same applies for the medical certificate and the application form. We also ask you to carefully read and sign our Terms and Conditions. Thank you for your understanding.

Formigas Islet and Dollabarat reef Nature Reserve

Diving in Formigas islet and Dollabarat Reef Nature Reserves is our product of excellence, as we are the closest island to this magnificent place, considered by many to be the best diving site in Europe - This reef is 20 miles northeast of Santa Maria. Formigas islet is made up of 8 cliffs that rise to the surface, where the lighthouse is located. Around the islets there are several dive sites, with the shipwreck "Olympia" on the southwest side and a slotted area and high slope to the southeast are the most sought after. About 3 miles southeast is the undersea hill Dollabarat. It rises from the depths to shallow waters at 5 meters, revealing itself through an intense turquoise blue tone, from its spectacular rock formation, where the extensive flat rocks stand out. Both sites are located in open sea and subject to strong currents. Because of the great depths diving is recommended only to experienced and well prepared divers. Here you can see a large number of species such as Patricks, Moray Eels, Congers, Dusky groupers, Whiting, Dogfish, Black Coral, etc. The great attraction is however the high diversity of pelagic species in the region - Great Amberjack, Tuna, Barracuda, Atlantic Bonito, Manta rays, Wahoo's and sometimes sharks. It is noteworthy that this is a privileged area of the Azores archipelago for the observation of such pelagic species.

Santa Maria

Beyond the sea there is much to explore. The natural surroundings and richness of this small island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean invites us to discover nature, leaving behind the buzz of modern times.

Santa Maria Island is the oldest of the Azores Archipelago and the first to be discovered and then populated (XV century) by Portuguese from the Algarve and southern Alentejo.

Christopher Columbus spent some time in Santa Maria on the return of his first trip to America, a fact that is marked in the place of the Anjos.

The landscape contrast is one of its great charms. It can be said that the island is divided into two distinct zones. One extends from South to West, flat and sunny, with a low vegetation and another to the North and Northeast, with mountains and abundant vegetation.

Its coast is very jagged, forming bays and small coves that give way to very nice beaches, the most famous being the Bay of São Lourenço and Praia Formosa which has the particularity of being the only ones with clear sand in the Azores.

One of the major contributors to the richness of Santa Maria's natural heritage is its geological and geo-morphological aspects. It is the only island in the Azores that has marine fossil deposits - Pedreira do Campo, Figueiral Caves, Cré and "Pedra que Pica"; Paleopark Sta Maria offers the Fossil Route unique in Atlantic islands; Must-see places.