

Dolphin & Whale Volunteer Research Project, Italy

A sailing-boat based cetacean research and conservation programme in the Cetacean Sanctuary, Western Mediterranean.

Since 1990 this project has been investigating the ecology and behaviour of cetaceans living in the Cetacean Sanctuary - a special marine protected area extending between Italy and France. The research focuses on the spectacularly large fin whale as well as on sperm whales, Risso's dolphins, pilot whales, striped and bottlenose dolphins.

Participants will be directly involved in field activities, helping the researchers to collect cetacean data and assist them in preliminary analyses of digital photos and acoustic recordings, while learning basics in sailing.

Sample day

Participants are full members of the crew, and they will be assigned a number of duties. These include sighting shifts (looking for cetaceans), computer shifts (data entry and hydrophone listening), navigation shifts, cooking and boat-keeping shifts.

You will be trained through specific lectures and work side by side with researchers. During this period you will be asked to contribute to the data collection and analysis (e.g. recording cetacean's number and behaviour at regular intervals, preliminary analysis of cetaceans digital photos, etc.).

Dates

Placements are available for **one to several weeks throughout the year.**

Costs

The total cost ranges from £720 to £885 GB pounds per week (depending on course date). This includes a £180 GB pounds deposit payable with the application with the balance payment to be paid in Euros (700 to 810 Euros depending on course date and duration, or for students under 26 years old, 622 to 810 Euros).



Application information:

For more details and how to apply, visit

<http://www.workingabroad.com/projects/italy-dolphin-whale-volunteer>

or contact WorkingAbroad by email or telephone

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