

Te Moana  
EXPEDITIONS

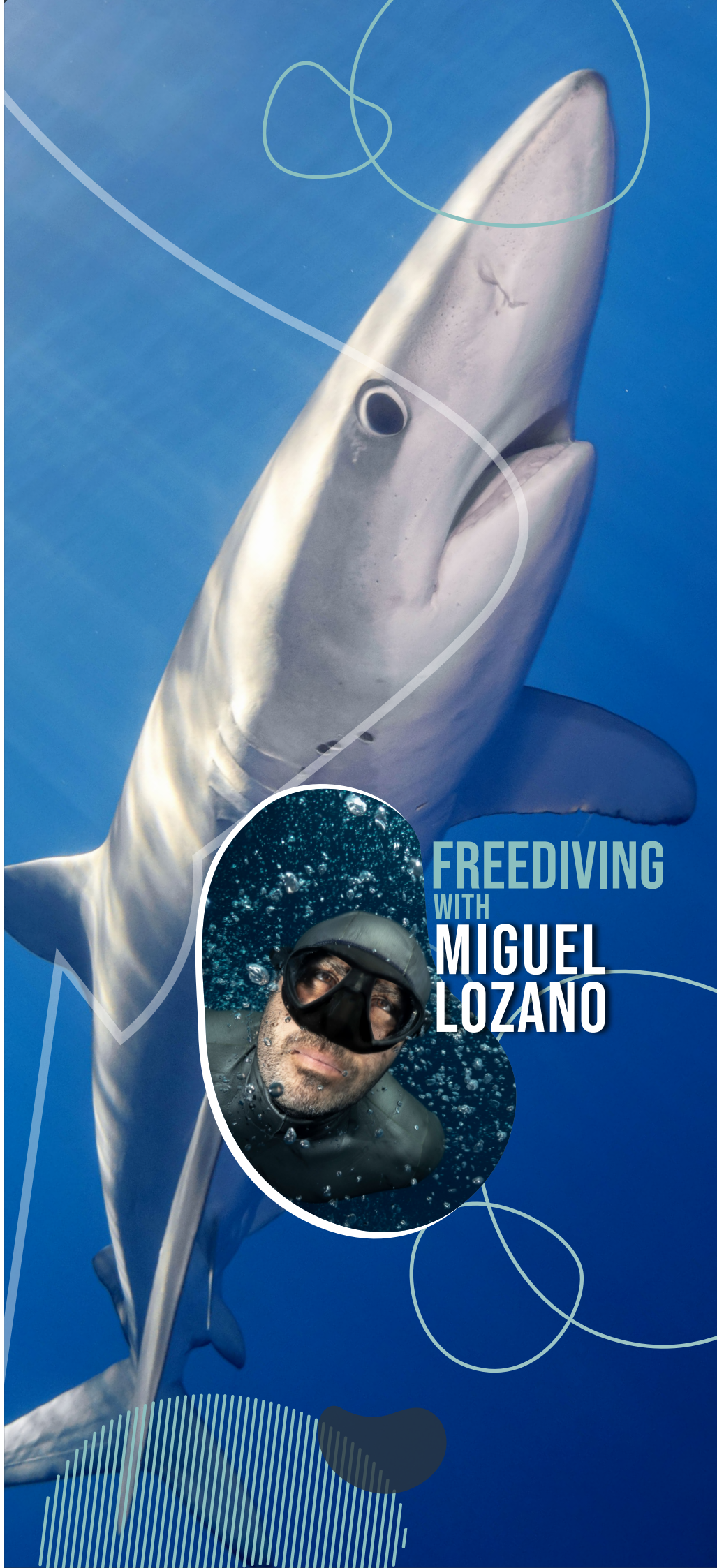
# THE AZORES

## FAIAL ISLAND



Miguel Lozano

Trip organised by Te Moana Expeditions S.L.  
C.I.F. B-75679423, travel agency registered with  
the Generalitat de Catalunya.



FREEDIVING  
WITH  
**MIGUEL  
LOZANO**



## A PARADISE IN AND OUT OF THE WATER

The nine islands of the Azores are of volcanic origin and are located approximately between 37° and 40° north latitude and 25° and 31° west longitude, marking the western boundary of the European continent, on the island of Flores. A total of 244,780 people (2008 data) live in this archipelago, which lies 1,815 kilometres from mainland Europe (Portugal) and 2,625 kilometres from the North American mainland (Canada).

The islands are divided into three geographical groups: the Eastern Group, made up of Santa Maria and São Miguel; the Central Group, which includes Terceira, Graciosa, São Jorge, Pico and Faial; and the Western Group, formed by Corvo and Flores.

The Azores have a maritime climate with mild temperatures ranging from 16°C in winter to 26°C in summer. Sea temperatures, influenced by the Gulf Stream, average between 14°C and 22°C.

Faial Island is located at the western end of the Central Group, separated from Pico Island by an 8.3 km channel. Long known for its strong connection to the ocean, it is an essential stop for sailors and for those passionate about the sea and diving.

This is a trip focused on freediving. We will be joined by Miguel Lozano, professional freediver and one of the best in the world, who will provide daily classes and training sessions.





Measuring 19.8 kilometres in length and up to 14 kilometres in width, Faial is the third most populated island in the archipelago, with 15,629 inhabitants (2008 data). It belongs to the Central Group and forms the western corner of the so-called “triangle islands”, together with São Jorge and Pico. The island’s highest point is Cabeço Gordo, at 1,043 metres, located in the caldera area.

On Faial, the diving season runs only from June to October due to harsh weather conditions in winter, autumn and early spring. Diving here offers easy, lively dives with plenty of marine life, small caves and a few wrecks. The highlights include Princess Alice Bank, known for regular mobula sightings, and blue shark dives.

Close to the island, water temperatures range from 18°C to 21°C with visibility between 10 and 20 metres. At more remote sites like Princess Alice, visibility can reach 40 metres and water temperatures can rise to 24°C. A 5 mm or 7 mm wetsuit is recommended.

Dives are done from RIB boats and travel times can be long. We usually don’t return to the harbour between dives, as surface intervals are spent on board. Reaching Princess Alice takes around two and a half hours. Diving in the Atlantic can be very dynamic, with conditions changing daily, so seasickness medication is recommended, especially for those prone to rough seas. Overall, the diving is easy, with only occasional currents in some areas.





# TRAVEL SCHEDULE

**From August 14th to 21st, 2026**

## **Day 1 (14 August, Friday)**

Departure from Spain airport to Horta (Faial), with a stopover in Lisbon. Arrival at the Manta Ray Lodge Hotel.

## **Days 2 and 3 (August 15th and 16th)**

Two dives per day (except blue shark day) or freediving (depending on your level), visiting the most remote and special dive sites: Princess Alice Banks & Blue Shark.

## **Days 4 and 5 (August 17th and 18th)**

Days of freediving sessions with Miguel Lozano.

## **Day 6 (August 19th, Wednesday)**

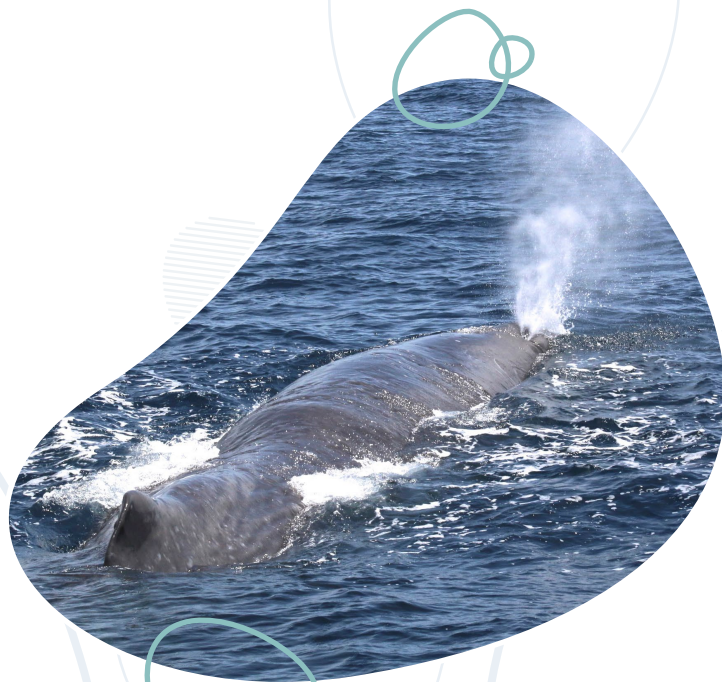
Experience the thrilling sight of whales on the island.

## **Day 7 (August 20th, Thursday)**

Free day for land excursions.

## **Day 8 (August 21st, Friday)**

Breakfast, check-out, and transfer to Horta Airport to take the flight back to Spain. Flight with TAP Air Portugal. End of services provided.



\*The itinerary could be modified in case weather conditions do not allow it or the flights suffer schedule changes. It is not possible to guarantee the sighting of the planned species. They are wild animals and we cannot always predict exactly where to find them.



## WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS TRIP?

### Services included:

- Round-trip airport transfers.
- 7 nights' accommodation in a shared double room with private bathroom at Manta Ray Lodge, including breakfast.
- Dive package as per program.
- One day Princess Alice upgrade (2 dives), including: 2 dives, boat trip, 12 L air tanks, weights, guide and light lunch.
- One day Blue Shark upgrade (1 dive), including: 1 dive, boat trip, 12 L air tank, weights, guide and a snack (water, biscuits/fruit) between dives.
- Freediving sessions and workshops with **Miguel Lozano**.
- 12-litre air tanks and weights.
- Tourist taxes.
- WIFI internet connection.
- Travel and diving assistance insurance.

### Services not included:

- International flights (ask for price).
- All meals and drinks not mentioned in the special diving trips.
- Diving equipment rental (ask for price).
- 15-liter tank (available upon request).
- Personal expenses and tips.
- Cancellation insurance (ask for price).
- Any item not mentioned in "Services included".

# PRICES AND PAYMENTS

## PRICE PER PERSON:

- Standard Room **1.390€**
- Partial Ocean Room **1.465€**
- Ocean View Room **1.530€**
- Ocean View Deluxe **1.585€**

\* The price of the combined trip has been calculated according to the exchange rates, transport rates, fuel costs, taxes and fees applicable at any given time. Any substantial variation in the price of the aforementioned elements may lead to a revision of the final price of the trip.

## Calendars and payment methods:

- a) Initial deposit of 30% of the total amount at the time of booking.
- b) Second payment of 40% of the total amount 3 months before the start of the trip.
- c) Third payment. Remaining amount, 40 days before the start of the trip.

(The amount paid as an "initial deposit" to reserve a place on the trip WILL NOT BE REFUNDABLE in the event of cancellation by the client for any reason whatsoever. In case of cancellation or cancellation insurance, the Insurance Company will be in charge of examining the cancellation or cancellation policy. y tramitar la cancelación.)

By bank transfer:

- Bank: BBVA
- Account number: IBAN ES71 0182 3958 1702 0028 8405
- Account holder: Te Moana Expeditions, S.L.
- Reference: TAZ-0426 "NAME" "SURNAME"

## General cancellation conditions:

The cancellation conditions will apply based on the date the cancellation is made relative to the departure date.

- 12 months before departure: 10% of the total trip price + penalty amount set by the airline for the plane ticket if issued.
- From 12 to 6 months before departure: 50% of the total trip price + penalty amount set by the airline for the plane ticket if issued.
- From 6 to 2 months before departure: 75% of the total trip price + penalty amount set by the airline for the plane ticket if issued.
- Less than 60 days before departure: 100% of the total trip price.

## Insurance:

The trip includes travel, assistance, diving (including hyperbaric chamber) and water sports insurance. The insurance policies are subscribed with Dive&Travel Solutions, S.L.U. In no case will Te Moana Expeditions, S.L. be responsible for intermediating with the insurance company in the event of a claim.



## DIVING IN FAIAL

The exceptional conditions in the Azores, both in terms of climate and the influence of ocean currents, create a truly unique setting for diving, allowing you to observe multiple marine species in a single dive.

The underwater life is remarkable. Large groups of mantas, jacks and tuna are common in open-water dives. Encounters with big groupers are iconic, moray eels are ever-present, and you may also come across colourful fish schools and macro life that draws underwater photographers.

The Azores are without a doubt one of the best diving destinations in Europe. There are dive sites for every taste and experience level, including the iconic Princess Alice Bank, Condor Bank and the channel between Faial and Pico, among many others.





## LOCAL DIVING SITES

**ENTRE MONTES:** A very quiet and sheltered bay offering a surprising diversity of life, from small creatures to pelagic fish. A ten-minute boat trip takes us there. It starts at a depth of six meters and goes down to twenty meters.

**BOCA DAS CALDEIRINHAS:** A nature reserve that is actually an ancient submerged volcano. A vertical wall begins at five meters and descends to a depth of eighty meters. The perfect place to observe all kinds of marine life, from tuna to groupers. The landscape is also incredible.

**ILHÉUS DA MADALENA:** Closer to Pico Island, these two small islets offer very pleasant dives. From ten meters down to fifteen, you can enjoy large schools of fish and incredible scenery. When the currents are strong, it is common to do a drift dive.

**PONTÃO:** 16 Specially sunk for diving, this old ship remains intact. Located on a sandy bottom at a depth of twenty meters, it is always surrounded by large schools of triggerfish, and large groups of red mullet can be found on the seabed.

**PARADE DO ALMEIDA:** This vertical wall is teeming with life. You will also find a small cave at the bottom that is home to millions of tiny shrimp. You may also encounter some striped piggyfish and small crustaceans, as well as some of the famous blue lobsters.

**BAIXA DA FETEIRA:** It is an underwater mountain with a maximum depth of 35 m that rises to a depth of 12 m. You can find moray eels, black coral, and mackerel.

**POÇINHO ARCHES:** Located on the coast of Pico Island, near Calhau Harbor, this is another volcanic formation. What remains of what was probably a lava flow from the volcano to the sea has left behind a truly interesting alignment of arches. The dive starts from a peak near the surface and descends towards Faial Island, turning counterclockwise. At the bottom, at a depth of 25 meters, the arches appear, covered with anemones and coral polyps. At the bottom there are also small caves with Saffios. As you ascend, there are often schools of pigfish and barracudas. Small Rascasses on the rock are a constant feature.



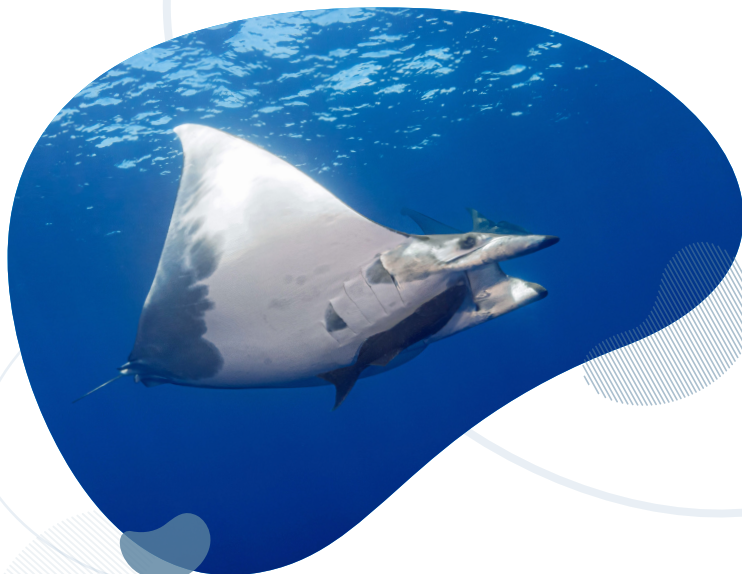
## SPECIAL DIVING SITES

**BLUE SHARK DIVING:** The fish adopted as Haliotis' mascot in Faial is the blue shark (*Prionace glauca*). It is the most abundant shark species in the world, being more common in the open ocean, but it can also appear in coastal areas. They are most abundant when water temperatures range between 55 and 64 °F. They have an elongated body with a long, conical snout. Their eyes are large and round. The first dorsal fin is low and has a rounded apex. The pectoral fins are sickle-shaped, narrow, and long. The dorsal coloration is bright blue with lighter blue flanks and a whitish belly. This species reaches 4 m in length and 205 kg in weight.

**PRINCESS ALICE BANK:** An underwater mountain with depths ranging from over 1,000 m down to 32 m. Probably the most famous dive site in the Azores, it is located 45 nautical miles from Faial Island and 50 nautical miles from Pico Island. This seamount is notable for having a large area with minimum depths of 35–40 metres, surrounded by an area of more than 100 km with depths exceeding 500 metres.

The trip takes about 3 hours and offers unique moments with stunning views of the coasts of Faial and Pico, along with excellent chances of spotting turtles, dolphins, and whales.

It's a dive you won't forget! The best season to dive here is between July and September.





## HORTA AND SURROUNDINGS

Horta, a vibrant and lively city, is situated between Monte da Guia and Ponta da Espalamanca, offering stunning views of Pico Island and the channel. Its marina and commercial port, along with the lively waterfront, bring the bay to life, where the old and new marina walls are covered with sailors' paintings, considered a good-luck tradition before setting sail.

A must-visit is Peter Café Sport, opened in 1918, which houses the Scrimshaw Museum on its upper floor, showcasing carvings in whale bone and teeth. Other highlights include the Santa Cruz Castle (1567), the Praça do Infante gardens, and the Church of São Francisco in the old town, home to the Sacred Art Museum.

Additional points of interest include the Igreja Matriz do Salvador, the Horta Museum, the 18th-century clock tower, and a new park with dragon trees and an araucaria. The upper part of Horta offers beautiful walks with views of the channel and Pico Island, featuring buildings such as the Templo da Senhora do Carmo, the Regional Legislative Assembly, and the Conservatory of Music.

In the outskirts of Horta, protected by the São Sebastião Fort and a 17th-century wall, there is a black sand beach. Across the bay, Ponta da Espalamanca provides spectacular panoramic views. Recommended is the walk from Horta's port to Monte da Guia, a coastal volcano, and the Nossa Senhora da Conceição viewpoint, with a monument to the Virgin and classic city views. On the other side of the road, Almoxarife Beach is considered the best on the island.



## OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST ON FAIAL ISLAND

### CALDEIRA GRANDE

Caldeira Grande is the most emblematic and important natural monument on Faial Island, and one of the largest volcanic cones in the Azores, measuring 1,450 metres in diameter and 400 metres deep.

The cone is covered with shrubs and a remnant laurisilva forest, with a smaller cone at the bottom formed by a later eruption. Next to the crater is a viewpoint offering stunning views over the Flamengos Valley, Horta, and the islands of Pico and São Jorge.

To the south of the caldera rises Cabeço Gordo, the island's highest point at 1,043 metres.

The slopes are not very accessible, and descending them is not recommended on rainy days. A more manageable route is the trail around the rim of the old volcano, approximately 7 km long, passing through fields of hydrangeas.

### PLAYA DO ALMOXARIFE

Almoxarife Beach, located just 1 kilometre from the Conceição viewpoint, on the outskirts of Horta, is undoubtedly the best beach on Faial Island, Azores.

Here you can enjoy an unforgettable day at the beach with Pico Island as a stunning backdrop. It is a long sandy beach awarded the Blue Flag for its water quality. Nearby, you'll find restaurants, cafés, and a well-equipped campsite.

### NOSSA SENHORA DA CONCEIÇÃO VIEWPOINT

Relax and admire the city of Horta from the Nossa Senhora da Conceição Viewpoint on Faial Island, Azores. The Nossa Senhora da Conceição Viewpoint is located in Ponta da Espalmaca, on the outskirts of the city of Horta, on Faial Island, Azores, Portugal. From this privileged viewpoint, you will enjoy a beautiful panoramic view of the city of Horta on one side and the beautiful Almoxarife Beach on the other, with Pico Island in the background. On clear days, you can also see the islands of São Jorge and Graciosa.



# MIGUEL LOZANO

**“Twelve people have walked on the Moon in the entire history of humanity, but only eight of us have descended to a depth of 120 meters.”**

Miguel Lozano is a professional freediver specializing in depth disciplines. He became Double World Vice-Champion in two of the three depth disciplines (Constant Weight without Fins and Free Immersion) at the AIDA Depth World Championship in Cyprus in 2015.

On May 30, 2016, he reached a depth of -122 metres in Free Immersion at the Caribbean Cup in Roatán, Honduras, making him currently the fourth deepest diver in the world in this discipline, just 5 metres shy of the current world record (-127 m). He was also the first Spaniard to reach -100 m in Constant Weight (with fins) and -83 m without fins.



# MANTA RAY LODGE HOTEL

Manta Ray Lodge is a boutique bed and breakfast located in Horta, Faial Island, Azores. With relaxed and comfortable elegance and stunning views of the ocean and Pico Mountain, it is the perfect retreat for the active traveler after a day exploring the Azores' natural beauty. The lodge offers 7 uniquely decorated rooms, all with private bathrooms, accommodating up to 20 guests.

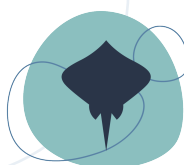
Manta Ray Lodge pays tribute to Azores' marine life, with rooms decorated in natural tones and textures that blend with the colors of the ocean, creating an elegant yet natural atmosphere.

The lodge is within walking distance of Horta's highlights, including the marina, Monte da Guia Marine Reserve, Porto Pim Beach, the whaling museum, and the botanical garden, as well as local shops and restaurants, and just 10 minutes by car from the airport.





# Miguel Lozano



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## MORE INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS:



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