



### Why should you book this trip?

- World's best: As per the research, the deep south of Sri Lanka (off Mirissa) is one of the world's best locations (amongst the top two or three) for watching Blue Whales and Sperm Whales, two of the most sought after marine mammals. In fact, for seeing both Sperm and Blue Whales together, it may even turn out to be the best location in the world.
- The waters off Mirissa in the southern coast of Sri Lanka are home to some of the largest whale and dolphin colonies in the world.
- Experienced: Sri Lanka Day Tours owning company Eco Team initiated commercial whale and dolphin watching in Sri Lanka way back in 2000 in association with the international dolphin watch. Back then, whale watching was not commercial and only serious researches, whale enthusiasts did whale watching in Sri Lanka.
- Responsible: We run our whale watching trips as per the guidelines given by the International Whaling Commission. <https://iwc.int/wwguidelines>
- Out of the three whale watching and dolphin watching destinations, namely Mirissa, Kalpitiya and Trincomalee. Out of the three locations Mirissa remains most popular.

- Sri Lanka is situated within the International Whaling Commission's protected zone in the Indian Ocean. Of the 80 species of cetaceans observed and identified worldwide, 26 are found in the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal, which we can access freely.
- We operate purpose built boats fitted with all the necessary safety devices including compass, GPS, nautical charts and UHF radio for whale watching. Our boat is steady, fast, reliable and safe. We have on board washroom facilities, resting facilities etc.
- Our whale watching crew is customer friendly, experienced and responsible.
- We may not be the cheapest but we are the most responsible and most dedicated to find you whales in Sri Lankan waters.
- One of the most popular things to do in Sri Lanka, when you are in the south during the whale watching season.
- We do private whale watching safaris for groups and individual couples/families as well.
- We are able to cater to wheelchair bound guests and very proud of it

## Details of boats used for whale watching in Mirissa

- We mostly use two boats for whale watching in Mirissa. A smaller boat is mostly used for private charters.
- Passenger capacity: 50 people
- Maximum speed: 12 Knot
- Engine OBM: Hyundai 429 HP
- Manufacture: Hull – Sri Lanka, Engine – Hyundai
- Observation deck
- On board sanitary facilities
- Powered with GPS navigation and radio and mobile communication facilities
- Insured and certified by required government authorities
- Wheelchair access could be arranged

## Quick Facts

- Meeting point – Mirissa Sri Lanka Day Tours/Eco Team, whale watching operations centre. Alternatively you could come to the Mirissa fishing harbour as well.
- Meeting time – Morning 6 a.m. (most preferred)
- Duration of tour: Max. 5 to 6 hours
- Possible period: Daily departures from November until end of April/early May. We do not run trips in mid-May and June. From July until October, there is a possibility of us running the trips based on the weather and sea conditions
- Children 6 to 12 years of age will be charged 50%
- If you are staying in a hotel in Mirissa, we will pick you up at no extra cost.

- Please take precautionary measures recommended by your doctor if you are prone to seasickness.
- This Mirissa whale watching excursion could be coupled with accommodation and many other excursions available in the deep south of Sri Lanka.

## Types of whales you can see during the whale watching tour to Mirissa

- Blue Whale
- Sperm Whales
- Bryde's Whale
- Killer Whales (rarely)

## Types of dolphins you can see

- Common Dolphins
- Bottlenose Dolphins
- Spinner Dolphins
- Risso's Dolphins
- Striped Dolphins

## You will meet



**Nimantha**

Our skipper Nimantha is a skilled deep sea fisherman turned whale watching boat skipper. He has been going into the waters in Mirissa for the last 15 years and knows the ocean like his home's backyard. He has a responsible approach towards the whales and he manoeuvres his boat with comfort and ease for his guests.

## Included in the price

- Charges for the boat for a half-day dolphin and whale watching excursion in Mirissa
- Lifejackets – Lifejackets for every size and age are kept aboard for our whale watching guests
- Drinking water and a light snack during the tour
- Current prevailing Government taxes and service charges
- First aid if you are the type to be seasick

## Exclusions

- Transportation to/from location (Mirissa Harbour) – could be arranged on request
- Optional activity costs
- Any personal effects not mentioned here
- Tips for the staff

## Tour in brief

Sri Lanka Day Tours' guided whale and dolphin watching tour takes you on an unforgettable adventure from the Mirissa Harbour to have one of the best whale watching experiences in the world.

We first go to our meeting point and do the registration by 6 a.m. You will be given your snack pack, water etc. and directed to the harbour, which is a short drive away. Your boat will be waiting at the jetty.

The waters off Mirissa in the southern coast of Sri Lanka are home to some of the largest whale and dolphin colonies in the world. Whales are nature's giants. As long as 30m and weighing as much as 180 tonnes, the blue whale is the largest animal to have roamed the earth. All varieties of whales were hunted in large numbers until the middle of the 20th century, and their dwindled numbers have not improved. This makes whales a rare sight anywhere in the world.

November to April is the best period to watch whales and dolphins, as colder weather in the northern hemisphere brings these magnificent creatures to the tropical waters of the Indian Ocean.

Among the varieties you might see are blue, Bryde's and sperm whales. Killer whales are a rare sight, but not unknown in these waters. More numerous than whales are the varieties of dolphin you find here. Playful and attractive, dolphins are among the most intelligent animals on earth. Among the varieties on view are common dolphins, bottlenose, spinner, Risso's and striped dolphins.

## Important

- Personal effects for windy, rainy, warm weather conditions should be considered
- Insect repellents, sun protection creams etc, are highly recommended
- Suitable casual clothing/footwear for outdoor activities
- Emphasis on importance of safety standards we provide
- Passengers according to the number of seats and not more
- Lifejackets to each and every client
- Obey all safety rules given by the crew
- Whale sightings: There is a 90 to 95% high probability to see whales during our tours. We do our best to find them for you on every single whale watching excursion. However, on some days, even with our best efforts, it is impossible for us to show you the whales. It's important that we are aware that it's wildlife we are going to see in the ocean.
- Getting seasick: There is always at least a light swell in the not-so-calm Indian Ocean. If it's the first time for you on a boat in the Indian Ocean or if you tend to get seasick, we advise you to take medication for seasickness recommended by your doctor, Avomine and it's freely available in any pharmacy.
- Do not feed any wild animals (Yes, they are wild animals). Coming near your boat doesn't mean they want your food
- Do not compel your guide/boatman to take the boat too close to them