

Whale and Dolphin Watching in Trincomalee

Whale and Dolphin Watching Trips in Sri Lanka's Eastern Capital Trincomalee

SLDT/1702/WDW01



Why should you book this trip?

- Our experienced crew will take you to where you can observe the friendly Spinner Dolphins in their hundreds as they play, dance and show off their acrobatic skills. The best time to see them would be from May to September.
- If you arrive between March and May, you will be able to catch a glimpse of Blue Whales and Sperm Whales that are considered to be some of the largest creatures on earth.
- Whale watching is one of the most popular things to do while in the east of Sri Lanka during this season.
- Trincomalee is celebrated as one of the most picturesque coastal areas in Sri Lanka with its white sandy beaches and blue waters. The best season to visit Trincomalee is between May and October.
- This coastal city boasts a history that spans over 2500 years during which it has been used as one of the country's and region's primary centres of sea trade as a result of its strategic positioning on the Indian Ocean.

- We operate safe and reliable purpose-built boats that are equipped with all the necessary safety devices including GPS, nautical charts, compasses and a UHF radio for whale watching. The boats also include on board washrooms, resting facilities etc.
- Our crew is friendly, responsible and vastly experienced. We may not offer the cheapest excursions but we guarantee that our crew will be the most dedicated to ensuring that you get to experience the fantastic experience of watching whales in the wild.

Types of whales you can see during the whale watching tour to the Trincomalee sea

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

Types of dolphins you can see

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

Quick Facts

- Meeting point – Sri Lanka Day Tours/Eco Team whale watching operations centre in Trincomalee. Alternatively you could come to Trincomalee fishing harbour as well. If you are staying in a hotel in Trincomalee, we will pick you up at no extra cost
- Meeting time: Morning – 6 a.m. (preferred)
- Duration of tour: Max. 5 to 6 hours
- Possible period : March to September
- Most sightings occur between March/April and August/September
- Children 6 to 12 years of age will be charged 50%
- Distance – Approximately 40 nautical miles to reach whale sighting location
- Please take precautionary measures, recommended by your doctor if you are prone to seasickness
- This Trincomalee whale watching excursion could be coupled with accommodation and many other excursions available in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka

You will meet



Anura

Anura is 28 years old and was born in Mirissa, where he now lives with his mother, father and sister. After graduating from school in Matara, he did a mechanical apprenticeship at BAFF. Afterwards, he was trained in boat building and sail making as well as diving. Before going into working on the boat, he worked at BAFF Polymech (shipyards and electrical repair shops). He gained lots of sailing experience and is now the captain of the boat "Pearl" and works as a sailing instructor as well. Six months of the year he works in the Eastern seas.

Included in the price

- Charges of the boat for half-day Dolphin and Whale Watching in Trincomalee activity
- 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 get seasick

Exclusions

- Transportation to/from location (to the Harbour) could be arranged on request
- Optional activity costs
- Tips for the staff
- Anything that is not mentioned above

Tour in brief

You will have to wake up early and travel to the Trincomalee Harbour where you will be met by our friendly crew at 6 a.m. You will then take a boat along with your guide and travel for around half an hour out to sea where you will be able to see dolphins, turtles and maybe even blue whales and sperm whales. It is a truly unique experience and a brilliant opportunity to witness the earth's largest mammal – the blue whale.

The largest mammals on our planet travel in pods and follow a matriarchal system similar to elephants. Off the eastern coast of Sri Lanka, you can often encounter super pods containing as many as 40 or more as well as large numbers of Spinner Dolphins.

Sri Lanka is considered to be one of the best places in the world for whale and dolphin watching while as many as 26 of the 80 species of cetaceans recorded around the world are also found in the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal.

Trincomalee is also one of the deepest and most strategically placed natural harbours in the world and has a rich history dating back thousands of years.

Come experience these magnificent sights and take back with you experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.

Important

- Personal effects for windy, rainy, warm weather conditions should be considered
- Suitable casual clothing/footwear for outdoor activities
- Insect repellents, sun protection creams etc. are highly recommended
- Emphasis on importance of safety standards we provide
- Passengers according to the number of seats and not more Lifejackets to each and every client
- Do not feed any wild animals (yes, they are wild animals) that come near your boat as it doesn't mean they want your food
- Do not compel your guide/boatman to take the boat too close to them
- Obey all safety rules given by the crew
- Whale sightings: There is a 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 that we are going to see in the ocean.
- Getting seasick: There is always at least a light swell on the 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 recommended by your doctor, on the morning of the trip (about 1-2 hours before you enter the boat). We use Avomine and it's freely available in any pharmacy

Whale watching in Sri Lanka

After whale-watching tours in Mirissa suddenly rose in popularity, Trincomalee, on the eastern coast of the island, has also rapidly emerged as an internationally-significant whale-watching destination.

Blue whales (plus smaller numbers of sperm whales) can regularly be spotted around 6-8 nautical miles east of Trincomalee (about half an hour by boat). These magnificent beasts can even be spotted from the shore on occasion – with Swami Rock offering the best vantage point.

Dolphins are also regularly seen with the Spinner Dolphins being the most frequently spotted while most sightings occur between March/April and August/September. Whales continue their migrations around the island from the south coast (where they mainly congregate from December to April) which means that whale watching is an excursion which is available in Sri Lanka for around ten months of the year at different points around the coastline.

Sri Lanka enjoys a very unique positioning as its continental shelf sits very close to the shore in three areas around the island which means that the sea drops to depths of close to 1000m just a short distance away from the shore. This provides the perfect habitat for whales that look for deep waters but benefit from the nutrients found closer to the shore. Even though the exact population numbers of whales around Sri Lanka is unknown, the chances of spotting them during the season is as high as 90%, making it one of the best locations in the world for whale watching.

Sri Lanka is also situated within the International Whaling Commission's protected zone while Trincomalee is commonly regarded as the best place for this seasonal activity in the country.