



Snorkelling with Humpback Whales

An exclusive adventure, with Mark and Rachel

4-14 February 2027



Swimming alongside a curious humpback whale and looking it directly in the eye under water is a truly unforgettable experience.

About our trip

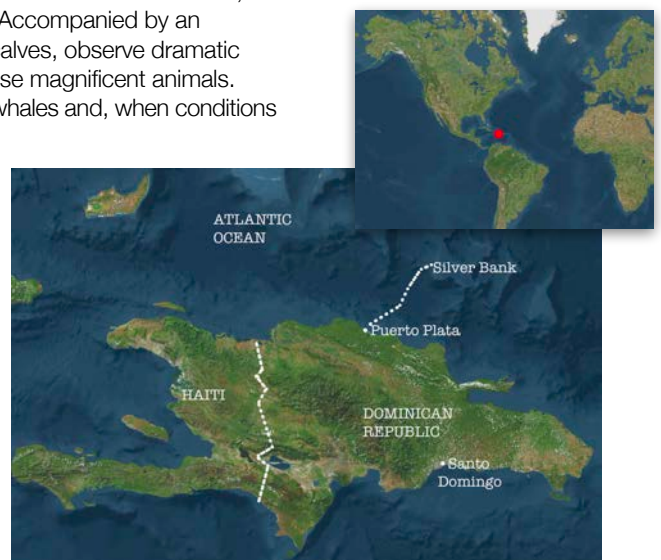
Between January and April each year, North Atlantic humpback whales gather at Silver Bank, a remote sanctuary some 80 miles/130km north of the Caribbean island of Dominican Republic. Up to 3,000 whales migrate here each year from as far north as Arctic Norway to court, mate and give birth in these tropical and protected waters.

We spend a week aboard the comfortable live-aboard vessel *Turks & Caicos Aggressor II*, one of only three whale-watching vessels permitted to visit Silver Bank. From our low-lying tenders (small boats), we witness breathtaking displays of breaching, pectoral fin-slapping, lob-tailing and spy-hopping at astonishingly close quarters. Mothers and calves, meanwhile, rest and socialise in the calm, sheltered waters of the sanctuary. Accompanied by an experienced expedition team, we hope to encounter mothers with playful calves, observe dramatic courtship behaviour and, one of the greatest highlights of all, swim with these magnificent animals.

After breakfast, we head out twice daily aboard two tenders to search for whales and, when conditions allow, enter the water for carefully managed snorkel encounters. These interactions are strictly regulated to ensure respectful experiences with the whales. (A maximum of 10 people can be in the water at any one time.)

At lunchtime and again at sundown, there is time to relax and enjoy life onboard. Stretch out on the sun deck or unwind in the comfortable lounge while sharing stories and photographs from the day's encounters. Evening presentations by Mark and the expedition team offer fascinating insight into humpback whales and the wider marine environment.

As the week unfolds, you will become increasingly adept at recognising individual whales by the markings on their tail flukes and interpreting their behaviours. The memory of floating beside these immense creatures while hearing their haunting songs resonate through the water, is something that will stay with you for ever.





Highlights

- An exclusive, highly regulated trip to swim with humpback whales in warm tropical waters – only two other whale-watch vessels are granted permits to swim with humpback whales at Silver Bank.
- Travel and stay on a comfortable, exclusive boat, with a maximum of 15 guests (we've chosen to limit the numbers, it takes up to 18 guests).
- Fabulous photography opportunities from low-lying tenders.
- Guide services of cetacean expert, Mark Carwardine, and Rachel Ashton.
- Five full-day whale-watching days with maximum time out in tenders looking for whales, plus a professional guide.
- A film of the trip made by Rachel, as a link.

Itinerary

4 FEB: Fly from the UK to Miami and overnight in a comfortable airport hotel.

5 FEB: Fly to Puerto Plata and transfer to Cofresi Hills Residence, which overlooks the marina where we board the *Turks & Caicos Aggressor II* tomorrow.

6 FEB: Meet Mark and Rachel and board the boat at 5pm. Meet the crew and set sail for Silver Bank later this evening.

7-11 FEB: The next five days are devoted to whale watching and swimming with humpback whales (conditions permitting). Each day begins with breakfast and we set off in two tenders. When a whale is located, we observe with care and respect, ensuring our presence does not disturb them, so that we can get in the water with them. Using mask, fins, and snorkel, we adopt a passive approach, allowing the whales to decide if – and how closely – they wish to approach.

12 FEB: Depart Silver Bank this morning and retrace our steps to Ocean World Marina. After dinner ashore, we return to the *Aggressor* for one last night

13 FEB: Enjoy a final breakfast and proceed with our onward travel.

14 FEB: Arrive back in UK.



Turks & Caicos Aggressor II is a 118-foot/36m fully air-conditioned yacht designed for comfort and stability, cruising at a comfortable speed of 10 knots. Guests can relax on the spacious sun deck, complete with a hot tub, loungers and deck chairs, as well as a shaded cocktail deck with BBQ facilities. Accommodation is in seven ensuite cabins, including one master stateroom with a queen bed and six deluxe cabins with double-and-single bunks. All cabins are equipped with TVs, media players and climate control.





Puerto Plata



Cofresi Hills Residence, Puerto Plata



Ocean World Marina

Price per person

From £7,295 (excluding flights); from £8,895 (including return flights from London via Miami); single supplement from £5,100.

Price includes

Flights, one night in hotel at an airport hotel in Miami, one night in Puerto Plata prior to embarkation, and return transfers from airport (if included in your flight package); seven nights on board the *Turks & Caicos Aggressor II*; two whale excursions per day at Silver Bank; all meals on board (excluding final dinner); water, tea, coffee, juice, soft and local alcoholic drinks onboard; snacks and water on the tenders; team of onboard naturalist guides; guide services of Mark Carwardine and Rachel Ashton; film of the trip made by Rachel, as a link; whale-watch permits; port fee and fuel surcharge; conservation fund contribution.



Price does not include

Flights, hotels and transfers (if not included in your package); travel insurance (compulsory); drinks and meals on land; items of a personal nature such as laundry and telecommunication charges; passport and visa expenses; excess baggage charges; cancellation; crew and hotel gratuities.



This exclusive trip has been put together in partnership with Wildlife Worldwide

To book, please contact Rachel Ashton

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