WILDLIFE WORLDWIDE TRAVEL EXPERIENCE CONSERVE

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Trap-feeding Eden's whales of Thailand

An exclusive photography trip for *just six guests*, with Mark

28 August - 6 September 2027



This very special trip has one specific objective - the chance to watch and photograph one of the most extraordinary whale behaviours on the planet - Eden's whales trap-feeding.

About our trip

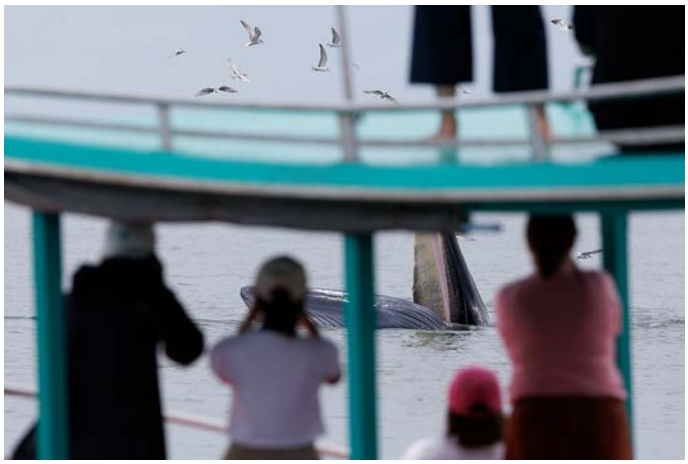
Little more than an hour away from the hustle and bustle of Bangkok, a secret and exciting wildlife experience awaits, completely off-grid from the Thai tourist trail. Few people know that the upper Gulf of Thailand is home not only to a resident group of Eden's whales (a subspecies of Bryde's whale – likely to be declared a new species in the not-too-distant future) but is also the setting for their extraordinary feeding behaviour, too. We have planned our trip in late summer, the perfect time to watch this behaviour, when the whales hunt shoals of anchovies, their favourite food.



Eden's whales have a novel way to hunt – 'trap-feeding' – which was only documented in recent years. First, there is an eruption of water as the whale surfaces; then it slaps the water surface a few times with its tail, before hanging vertically, with its lower jaw dropped and humongous mouth wide open. Anchovies, keen to seek shelter to avoid all the tail-slapping commotion, unwittingly perceive the now-still whale to be safe and they shoal into its mouth. The whale can hang there, mouth agape with fish leaping in, for as little as 10 seconds or as long as many minutes. There is nowhere else on the planet you can witness Bryde's whales doing this. Heaving its mouth closed, as it rises up and traps hundreds of fish in a single gulp, the whale then slowly sinks back into the water.

Various species of terns all add to the thrilling drama, circling, diving and feeding on the panicked anchovies (which sometimes also seek shelter on our boat, too, leaping onto the deck). There is also a very good chance of seeing endangered Irrawaddy dolphins, a charismatic species that is on every keen whale watcher's wish-list. In fact, this is one of the best places to see them (they are usually shy of boats, but are quite approachable in this corner of the Gulf of Thailand). There are two other rarer cetacean species, too, which we hope see: finless porpoise and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin.





Highlights

- Travel each day on an exclusively chartered boat, which was the first dedicated whale-watching operator to work in the area, promoting wildlife eco-tourism, with a very experienced crew.
- Small group of a maximum of 6, plus guides and crew. The low-lying boat (*above*) is fabulous for observing water-level activity and offering a low-angle perspecitve. It can take up to 15 passengers, but we have chosen to limit numbers so that there is lots of deck space for observation and photography.
- A fun and inspirational week, with Mark giving photographic advice throughout – a perfect chance to practise and perfect your photography.
- Seven full-day whale-watching days (eight hours each day).
- Seven nights at a comfortable resort (see last page), nestled beside a peaceful canal and surrounded by greenery, each room with a balcony.
- Witness Bryde's whale behaviour rarely seen anywhere else on Earth.
- Good chance of seeing pods of Irrawaddy dolphins and other cetacean species.
- A unique trip that is not offered by any other wildlife operator.
- Guide services of Mark Carwardine.
- We include a direct flight from London to Bangkok within the flight package, removing the inconvenience of connecting flights and ensuring a smoother, more seamless journey from the outset.

Itinerary

Day 1: Fly to Bangkok.
Day 2: Transfer 70 miles/110km (approximately 2 hours) southwest to the charming Asita Eco Resort in Samut Songkhram Province, which will be our base for the next seven nights. Settle in and meet for supper and briefing from Mark.
Days 3-8: The next week we will pack in as much whale watching as possible. We will be transferred 20-30 minutes each morning to the pier for breakfast and set off on our boat. We may encounter our first whales within a few minutes or couple of hours. Each evening we return to check our photos, relax and perhaps enjoy the sunset with a sundowner, and then meet for supper.
Day 9: This is our last full day at sea. We transfer afterwards to Bangkok airport for overnight stay in an airport hotel.
Day 10: Fly home or extend your stay in Thailand.













Price per person

£11,695 (including direct flights from London to Bangkok);
£10,895 (excluding flights); £1,245 single supplement.

Price includes

Seven full days' exclusive whale-watch charter including local guide and crew; whale-watch permits; seven nights' accommodation at comfortable eco-resort; one night's accommodation at comfortable airport hotel on last night; return transfers from airport to hotel; return transfers from hotel to pier (where the whale-watch boat is moored); picnic breakfast and lunch, coffee, tea and soft drinks, snacks, on the boat each day; evening meal each night at eco-resort; direct international flights from UK (if included in your package); guide services of Mark Carwardine.

Price does not include

Travel insurance (compulsory); drinks at the hotel; items of a personal nature such as laundry and telecommunication charges; international flight (if not included in your package); passport and visa expenses; excess baggage charges; cancellation; crew and hotel gratuities; single supplements at hotels; evening meal or breakfast at airport hotel.







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

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