



Miljøministeriet
Miljøstyrelsen

Enjoy nature Watch the seals but do not disturb



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Watch the seals but do not disturb

The Danish waters harbour two species of seal: Spotted seal and grey seal. They breed and haul out on the shores, but find their food in the sea, often far from the coast. The seals might look cute when they pop up from the waves, and it is exciting to watch them resting on the shore. However, please consider that they need peace and quiet when foraging, hauling out, and when nursing their pups. So, watch the seals but please do not disturb them.

Guidelines for safe seal tourism

Do not disturb the seals

Never go onshore to a seal haul out site from the seaside.

Watch the seals by day

You should only visit seal haul out sites in daylight.

Watch your speed

When sailing reduce the speed to max 5 knots when approaching seals hauling out from the seaside.

Pay attention when you approach the seals by boat

Only approach seal haul out sites perpendicularly - never go straight towards them.

Avoid loud and sudden noises

Resting seals get anxious if you start the engine or change gears nearby.

Do not touch or feed a seal

They are wild animals and it can disturb them. In addition, seals can transfer diseases to humans and dogs.

Never swim with seals

They can get disturbed and behave aggressively.

Leave your pets at home

Do not walk your dog close to a seal.

PHOTO: EMILIE N. STEPHEN

