



Miljøministeriet
Miljøstyrelsen

Enjoy nature Take care of the small whales



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Take care of the small whales

There are several species of whales in the Danish waters, but harbour porpoises and dolphins are seen most often. The harbour porpoise is the most common whale and the white-beaked dolphin is second. However, they live far from the coast in the North Sea and are only rarely seen. Lately, bottlenosed dolphin have become more common in the Danish waters. It is a great experience to see a harbour porpoise gliding through the water or a jumping dolphin. Nevertheless, our presence can disturb the whales, so please show consideration when you encounter them.

Guidelines for good whale tourism

Slow down

Reduce the speed to maximum 5 knots within 300 meters of a whale.

Keep your distance

Boats should never get closer than 50 meters to a whale. Keep a distance of 200 meters if the whale has a calf, is feeding, resting, or socialising with other whales.

Approach with care

Approach whales carefully and only from the side. Never approach from the front or back. Maintain the same speed and course. Do not attempt to follow the whale.

Never box a whale

If there are several boats close to a whale, do not surround it.

Be aware of the whale's behavior

Leave the area if the whale suddenly changes direction, slaps its tail, clamps its jaw or starts blowing bubbles. These behaviors mean that you are disturbing it.

Limit the visiting time

Move on when you have watched the whale for maximum of 20 minutes.

Do not touch or feed a whale

They are wild animals and it disturbs them.

PHOTO: JEPPE BALLE DALGAARD

