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WHALE WATCHING ALONG MONTEREY COAST

Year Round Whale Watching Provides a Calendar of Natural Wonder

MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIF. – Because different species of whales travel the waters of the Monterey Bay all year long, and some species of whales and dolphins pause here outside of their migration seasons, the bay is a favorite among whale watchers and nature enthusiasts. Monterey Bay is home to an underwater canyon, nearly twice as deep as the Grand Canyon, which allows deep water types of whales and dolphins to be found near the shore.

Among the most impressive are the gray whales, migrating from the Bering Sea to Mexico's Baja Peninsula between December and March. Some 7,000 make their way along the coast each year. Also popular are blue whales, the largest animals in the world, which feed on the nutrient-rich waters, are viewable from June through October-November. Humpbacks travel the area around the same time; other species include the Orcas (October), minke whales (May-October), and dolphins (different species year-round). Guests on whale watching excursions may also see Pacific white-sided dolphins, bottlenose dolphins, Dall's porpoise, Northern right whale dolphins, harbor porpoise, common dolphins, sea otters, California sea lions and harbor seals. Fin whales, bottlenose dolphins and beaked whales are observed occasionally.

For information on whale watching tours, visit <http://www.seemonterey.com/whale-watching>.

Monterey Coast Whale Watching Calendar

January

gray whales

February

gray whales

March

gray whales

April

gray whale
 humpback whale

May

minke whales
 humpback whale

June

minke whales
 blue whales
 humpback whale

July

minke whales
 blue whales
 humpback whale

August

minke whales
 blue whales
 humpback whale

September

minke whales

blue whales
 humpback whale

October

orcas
 minke whales
 blue whales
 humpback whale

November

blue whales
 humpback whale

December

gray whales