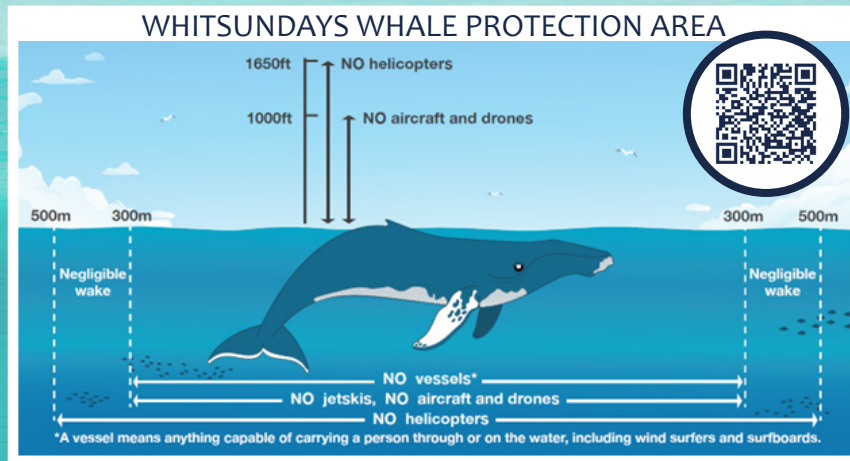


Whales of the Whitsundays

The Whitsundays has regulations in place to help protect both yourself and these ocean giants. However, whales can make an appearance at any time, at any distance - Should you be lucky enough to spot a whale on your Whitsunday adventures, turn off your engine whilst you wait for them to move on, sit back, relax and enjoy the show!



Learn more about the Whales of the Whitsundays



Join the Whales of the Whitsundays Facebook Group



Download the Eye on the Reef App

Discover how we have become a Whale Heritage Site Candidate



Report an incident



Remind yourself of our Whale Watching Regulations



LEARN TO SPEAK WHALE

BLOW

- Condensed breath when the whale comes to the surface to breathe and exhale.

TAIL SLAP

- Slaps tail on surface of water hard and fast.
- Used for **communication**, **scaring fish** or as a sign of **aggression**.

HEAD SLAP

- Head comes up first and is smashed forcefully on the water.
- Less than **40%** of the whale is above the surface.
- Function is relatively **unknown**.

FLUKING

- Fluke (tail) is raised **above** water surface in an arch like movement.
- Normally indicates a **deeper dive**.

SPY HOP

- Whale brings head **above** water surface and is **vertical** in the water.
- Often performed to **visually inspect** the environment above the water line.

PEC SLAP

- Whale is **on side** and hits surface with one or both **flippers**.
- Various possible functions including **feeding**, **playing**, **communicating** and **mating**.

PENDUNCLE THROW / SLAP

- Fluke and peduncle are thrown out of the water with **great force**.
- Possible **aggressive connotation**, **dominance behaviour**.

BREACH

- Whale **leaps** out of water. More than **40%** is above the surface
- Many different meanings that include **communication**, **playing**, **dominance**, **dislodging parasites**, **courting** and **stunning prey**.

