

Whale Watching

SEALINK

A *Brilliant* TRAVELS EXPERIENCE

When is the best time to go Whale Watching in Townsville? The peak of the Whale Watching season in Townsville is between Mid-July to Late-August. Whales are occasionally seen outside of these times off Townsville but they are limited in number and often difficult to spot.

What happens if I don't see a whale on my tour? Historically we have had 99% strike rate on our tours, we set our start and finish dates in the peak of the season to minimise leaving our guests disappointed. In the rare case we don't come across any Whales, it is still a great morning/afternoon on the water, and you would have received a 3-hour cruise plus a delicious morning or afternoon tea

How close can we get to whales? There are strict guidelines on how close vessels of all kinds, from kayaks to cruise boats, can approach whales. It also depends if there are calves in the pod and the number of vessels in the area. As a guideline the approach distance can range from 100m to 300m. This however does not stop whales from taking matters into their own hands for a close look of us! At all times, SeaLink operates with the safety and enjoyment of both our passengers and the whales.

What time is the best time of day to see whales? Anytime is a good time to see whales from the water

How big is the boat? All our Whale Watching vessels are spacious catamarans with at least two passenger decks and spacious outdoor and indoor seating. The large windows provide a great view should you wish to remain seated inside.

Will I see baby whales? We see many mothers and calves during the whale watching season, however it all depends on whether they want to see us.

Can I interact (feed/swim) with the whales? Feeding and swimming with the whales is not permitted.

Are we imposing on the whales? Whilst we are eager observers, ultimately, it's up to the whales how much interaction they have with us. Whales can dive from 2 to 20 minutes, in any direction, and can out manoeuvre a spectator vessel if they choose. Mostly the whales are as curious of us as we are of them.

Is the GBR Environmental Management Charge (EMC) included in this price? Yes! The \$6.50 fee payable by adults & children entering the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area is included in the trip price.

What food is included? Our tours are catered by Absolute Cravings who provide delicious and nutritious options to cover a variety of tastes and dietary requirements including gluten free, dairy free and vegan options. Morning tours consist of fresh fruit and cakes. Afternoon Tea is antipasto and cheese platters. If you have food allergies or specific dietary requirements, please advise at least 48 hours prior to departure where possible we will endeavour to meet your request.

Is this tour wheelchair accessible? Yes, this tour is wheelchair accessible. All SeaLink vessels are wheelchair accessible, for toilet use travel in the lower cabin is required.

I'm travelling from Magnetic Island, do you provide a pick up for this tour? No, unfortunately this takes too much time out of the tour itinerary. SeaLink will however provide Magnetic Island guests with a complimentary return ticket to make their way to Townsville prior to the tour (Morning Tour – 7.50am service at the latest / Afternoon Tour – 12.15pm service at the latest). Tickets are available for collection from the Nelly Bay office on day of travel, please show your booking number or travel itinerary.

Can I BYO alcohol? All SeaLink vessels are fully licensed venues, all liquor must be purchased and consumed on-board (BYO liquor is not permitted). Our on-board bar is open for the duration of the tour for the purchase of light snacks and refreshments (alcoholic drinks available from 10am).

This is an open water cruise and you will experience sea motion. We recommend you eat lightly before and during the cruise. Travel sickness tablets are generally most effective if taken prior to the departure. Please dress according to the weather – it will often feel colder at sea. Smoking is not permitted on board.

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