

Cetaceans of Saint Vincent and The Grenadines area

Beaked whales

Sowerby's beaked whale
Mesoplodon bidens
(5-5.5m)

Gervais' beaked whale
Mesoplodon europaeus
(4.5 - 5.2m)

True's beaked whale
Mesoplodon mirus
(4.9 - 5.5m)

Blainville's beaked whale
Mesoplodon densirostris
(4.4-4.6m)

Cuvier's beaked whale
Ziphius cavirostris
(5.5 - 7m)

Bottlenose dolphin
Tursiops truncatus
(3 - 4m)

Sperm whale
Physeter macrocephalus
(12 - 18m)

Minke whale
Balaenoptera acutorostrata
(5 - 10m)

Short-finned pilot whale
Gobicephala macrorhynchus
(5.5 - 7.3m)

Fin whale
Balaenoptera physalus
(18 - 22m)

Pygmy sperm whale
Kogia breviceps
(2.7 - 3.5m)

Dwarf sperm whale
Kogia sima
(2.5 - 2.7m)

Bryde's whale
Balaenoptera edeni
(13 - 17m)

Striped dolphin
Stenella coeruleoalba
(2.4 - 2.6m)

Atlantic & Pantropical spotted dolphin
Stenella frontalis &
Stenella attenuata
(1.6 - 2m)

Orca
Orcinus orca
(5.5 - 8.9m)

Risso's dolphin
Grampus griseus
(3m)

Spinner dolphin & Clymene dolphin
Stenella longirostris &
Stenella clymene
(2.10 - 2.35m)

Long-beaked common dolphin
Short-beaked common dolphin
Delphinus delphis & *Delphinus capensis*
(2 - 3m)

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Whales and dolphins are highly intelligent animals. They are sensitive to disturbance and can be hit by vessels, including their propellers. If they approach the boat or bow-ride, maintain your course at a slow and constant speed until they are clear of your vessel. Cetaceans should never be chased or harrassed in an attempt to watch them, allow them to determine the nature of the encounter and never disrupt their natural behaviour and movement.

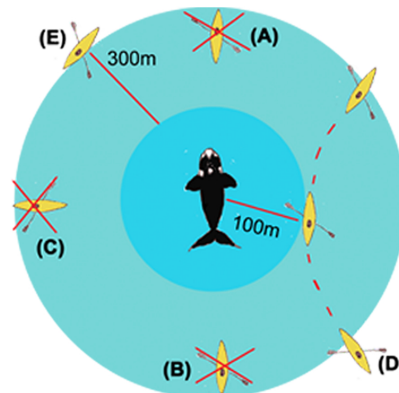
When watching marine mammals please follow these simple guidelines:

- **KEEP** your distance. Never go closer than 100m (200m if another boat is present)
- **NEVER** drive head on to, move between, scatter or separate dolphins. If unsure of their movements, simply stop and put the engine into neutral
- **PLEASE** spend no longer than 15 minutes near the animals
- **SPECIAL** care must be taken with mothers and young, do not come between mothers and calves
- **MAINTAIN** a steady direction and slow 'no wake' speed
- **NEVER** try to swim with cetaceans for your safety and theirs
- **NEVER** feed or attempt to feed a wild cetacean, as it alters their natural behaviours and puts them at risk of injury
- **DO NOT** touch or attempt to touch cetaceans



While many countries do not have legislation in place, it is common practice to follow guidelines or a Code of Conduct when approaching cetaceans. This ensures that not only are they not disturbed but it is also important for your own personal safety.

- On the approach to a cetacean **avoid making loud noises and sudden movements.**
- **Never** attempt to approach from the front (A), from behind (B) or from the side of the animal (C), instead **make the approach** from behind and slightly to the side (D), always maintaining a minimum distance of approx. 100m.
- Another option is to do the approach from the front and slightly to the side of the animal (E) and stay there, at a distance of 300m.



*The present material was specially compiled for the **Responsible Whale Watching and Conservation Workshop** held in Bequia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in October 21st - 24th, 2014. This was conducted by **Fundación Cethus** from Argentina with the auspices of the **Animal Welfare Institute (AWI)**, **Cetacean Society International (CSI)**, **OceanCare** and **Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC)** in collaboration with the **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines National Trust**.*