

BOOK #005

The Smart Traveler's Whale Watching Guide

Chapter 5 — What to Bring

Imagine stepping onto the whale-watching boat just as the morning breeze rolls across the water. The temperature feels cooler than it did on the ship, but you're comfortable because you packed the right gear. A little preparation goes a long way toward making your whale-watching adventure enjoyable.

Dress in Layers

Weather on the water can change quickly. Start with a comfortable base layer, add a fleece or lightweight sweater, and finish with a waterproof jacket to stay warm and dry throughout your excursion.

Don't Forget Your Binoculars

While whales often surface close to the boat, binoculars make it easier to spot distant blows, sea lions resting on rocks, bald eagles, and other incredible wildlife you'll encounter along the way.

Photography Essentials

Bring a fully charged phone or camera, extra batteries or a portable battery bank, charging cables, and additional memory cards if you're using a dedicated camera.

Comfort Items

Pack sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm, a refillable water bottle, and a small snack if your tour allows it. Motion sickness medication may also be helpful if you're sensitive to movement on the water.

Your Whale Watching Daypack

- Waterproof jacket
- Layers for warmth
- Binoculars
- Camera or smartphone
- Portable battery bank
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Water bottle
- Cruise card and photo ID

Aimee's Insider Tip

One of the best things you can pack is a sense of patience. Wildlife doesn't perform on a schedule, but when that first whale surfaces beside your boat, every minute of waiting becomes worthwhile.