

BOOK #005

The Smart Traveler's Whale Watching Guide

Chapter 7 — Photography Tips

Imagine watching a humpback whale launch completely out of the water. Your camera is ready, your phone is charged, and you capture the moment just before the whale crashes back into the sea. Great wildlife photos are often the result of preparation more than luck.

Keep Your Camera Ready

Whales can surface with little warning. Keep your phone or camera turned on and easily accessible whenever you're on deck or aboard a whale-watching excursion.

Use Burst Mode

Most smartphones and cameras include a burst or continuous shooting mode. Taking several photos in rapid succession increases your chances of capturing a breach, tail slap, or a whale surfacing.

Focus on the Experience

While it's fun to take photos, don't spend the entire excursion looking through a screen. Watch with your own eyes, then take a few photos when the opportunity presents itself.

Protect Your Equipment

Keep a microfiber cloth handy to remove water droplets from your lens, and use a waterproof pouch or small dry bag if rain is in the forecast.

Photography Checklist

- Fully charged phone or camera
- Extra battery or portable battery bank
- Extra memory card (if applicable)
- Lens cloth
- Waterproof pouch or bag

Aimee's Insider Tip

Some of my favorite Alaska memories aren't my sharpest photos—they're the moments I simply stopped taking pictures and watched a whale surface against the backdrop of glaciers and mountains. Capture a few great images, then enjoy the experience. Those memories will last a lifetime.