

BOOK #005

The Smart Traveler's Whale Watching Guide

Chapter 8 — Amazing Whale Facts

Imagine hearing your naturalist explain that the humpback whale you just watched may have traveled more than 3,000 miles to reach Alaska's feeding grounds. The more you learn about these incredible animals, the more amazing every sighting becomes.

Whales Travel Incredible Distances

Many humpback whales migrate thousands of miles every year between warm tropical breeding waters and Alaska's rich summer feeding grounds. It is one of the longest migrations of any mammal.

Bubble-Net Feeding

One of Alaska's most remarkable wildlife behaviors is bubble-net feeding. Groups of humpback whales work together, creating curtains of bubbles that trap schools of fish before they swim upward to feed. This cooperative behavior is rarely seen elsewhere in the world.

Every Tail Is Unique

Just like fingerprints, every humpback whale has a unique tail fluke pattern. Researchers use photographs of these markings to identify individual whales and track their migrations over many years.

Whales Communicate

Humpback whales are famous for their haunting songs, while orcas communicate using a variety of clicks, whistles, and calls. Scientists continue to study these fascinating forms of communication.

Whales Help the Ocean

Whales play an important role in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems. Their feeding and migration patterns help recycle nutrients that support plankton and other marine life.

Aimee's Insider Tip

One of the most rewarding parts of whale watching is realizing you're observing animals that have traveled incredible distances and returned to Alaska year after year. Every encounter is a reminder of just how amazing nature can be.