

Get closer to whales on the East Coast Whale Trail

The East Coast Whale Trail is a series of coastal stops you can visit with information signs about whales and where you have a good chance of seeing whales.

Whales can throw their fins and flukes, or even their bodies, high out of the water, making great explosions of foam on the sea surface that can be seen from far away. Sometimes they come within a few hundred metres to shore; if they do you might get the feeling you are being watched!



There are 14 trail sites scattered all along the coast, from The Gardens in the larapuna/Bay of Fires area near St Helens in the north, to Eaglehawk Neck on the Tasman Peninsula. At each East Coast Whale Trail site you will find a sign with information and stories about them and big sea views to search for signs of whales. There are binoculars installed at two of the Trail sites to help you get a closer view.

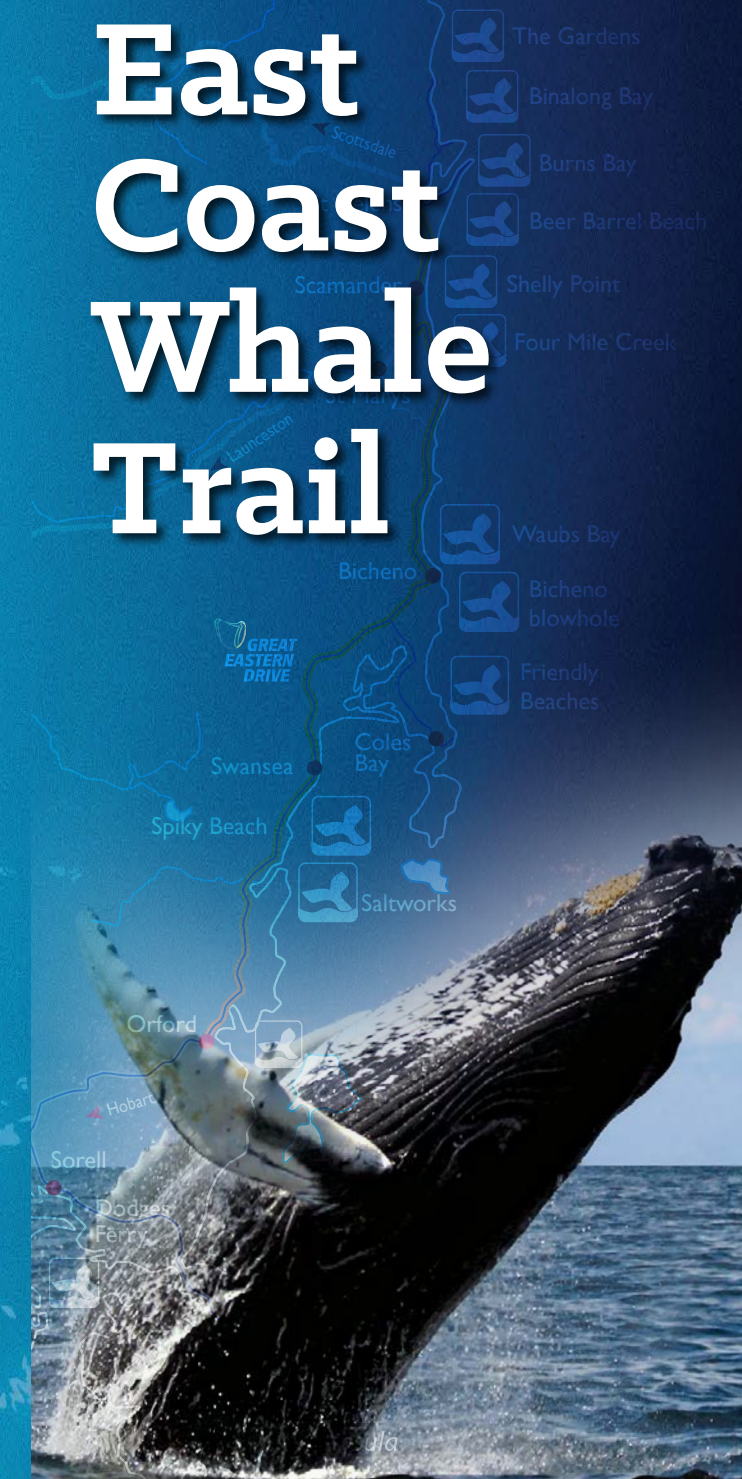


Use this brochure to help you follow the Tasmania's East Coast Whale Trail on the Great Eastern Drive and its side roads.

Stop for a while; gaze out to sea contemplating the vast marine habitat of whales and you might just be lucky enough to see one!



East Coast Whale Trail



Eaglehawk Neck
Tasman Peninsula

Whales you might see along the East Coast Whale Trail

The waters around Tasmania support about 40 known species of whales and dolphins. Large whales such as humpback and southern right whales are regularly seen during their annual migrations and dolphins are a frequent sight in Tasmania.

Southern right whale - *Eubalaena australis*

- No dorsal fin.
- Broad triangular paddle-shaped flippers.
- White callosities (barnacle-like growths around mouth and head).
- Black apart from callosities and possibly white on belly.
- Adults 14m to 17m long and big and round (up to 80 tons).
- Blow pattern, when they come to the surface and take a breath, is a V-shaped bushy blow, up to 5m high.



Humpback whale - *Megaptera novaeangliae*

- Small low dorsal fin.
- Extremely long flippers.
- White on undersides of flippers, the flukes (tail fins) and throat pleats.
- Arches back high above the water surface and flukes lifted out of the water before diving down.
- Adult Length: 14m to 18m (up to 40 tons).
- Blow pattern is small and bushy, up to 4m high.



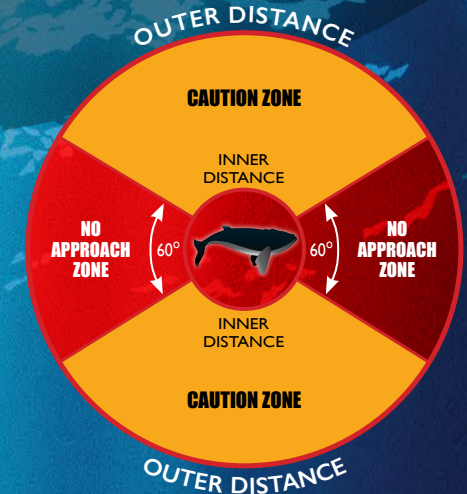
Killer whale - *Orcinus orca*

- Tall triangular dorsal fin on males, varies between animals.
- Distinctive black and white colouring.
- Teeth – Orcas are toothed as opposed to 'baleen' whales.
- White on undersides of the flukes.
- Arches back out of water.
- Adult Length: 9.5m to 8m.
- Blow pattern is small and bushy, up to 4m high.



Safe whale watching

Whales are protected animals and, due to their size, can be dangerous if approach too closely. To protect them, you and your vessel, follow the guidelines for whale watching when you are out on the water.



Distances	Outer	Inner
For vessels	300m	100m
For swimmers	100m	30m

For the full safe viewing guidelines and for more information on whales and dolphins in Tasmania go to dipwve.tas.gov.au/whalestas Or check out the Tasmanian 'Whales and Seals' App for iPhones.

Please report sighting, strandings and injured animals to the Tasmanian Whale Hotline: 9427 WHALES (0427 942 537).



This project is supported by Break O'Day Council, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

Photos of Humpback whales leaping: Whit Welles (front) and Ange Anderson. Whale art & other photos courtesy Marine Conservation Programme, DPIPWE.

For detailed whale identification information see the "Tasmania Cetaceans Identification Guide" from the DPIPWE website (see opposite).