

HUMPBACK WHALE MIGRATION CALENDAR

EAST COAST AUSTRALIA

After a summer of feeding on krill in chilly Antarctic waters, from April each year, more than 20,000 humpback whales migrate 5,000km north to the warm waters of Australia and it's Great Barrier Reef. It's a magical sight, not to be missed!



BE RESPECTFUL - ALWAYS KEEP A 100 METRE DISTANCE

DEC- FEB

Feeding in the Antarctic

Humpbacks feed on krill and stock up their blubber which must sustain them during the long migration

FEBRUARY

The northerly migration commences!

...often in the following order:

- Juvenile males
- Mature breeding whales
- Cow/ calf pairs
- Pregnant cows (follow later)

MARCH

The migration is well underway!

First sightings in Tasmania!

The humpbacks will travel up to 10,000 km round trip

APRIL

Pregnant females follow

Females stay in the Antarctic feeding for longer to build up stocks to support themselves and their young on their long journey

MAY

Migration arrives off mainland Australia

Time to grab the binoculars in NSW!

JUNE-JULY

Migration arrives off Queensland!

Time to grab the binoculars in QLD!

Whale watching tips

be patient - be respectful
keep your distance - get educated

bliss out - this is heavenly!

JUL-SEP

Main mating time Great Barrier Reef

Males show off breaching, tail slapping & singing!

JUL-AUG

Pregnant females give birth (mainly around the Southern Great Barrier Reef)

Migration begins to head south

SEP-OCT

Great time for spotting new-born calves traveling south

Humpbacks tend to journey closer to shore on the return - to protect their young

OCTOBER

The migration continues south towards the Antarctic Humpbacks can still be sighted from the coast of Australia

NOVEMBER

Humpbacks begin to arrive back in the Southern Ocean

Humpbacks can still be spotted off Eden in NSW
Last humpbacks seen off Tasmania at the end of November

DECEMBER

Feeding in the Antarctic

Humpbacks are back in the Antarctic, feeding on krill and stocking up on blubber reserves before their next migration north

EDUCATE - INSPIRE - PROTECT