



Humpback Whale

Megaptera novaeangliae

DID YOU KNOW?

Humpback whales sing! Their songs can be heard 30-40km away and each population has their own song.

Ocean Safari

From September to December, join AQWA Adventure's Ocean Safari for incredible encounters with these majestic animals.

Whale wings

Humpback whales are named after the way they 'hump' their back before diving underwater. Their side fins are up to 5m in length and give the humpback whale its scientific name '*Megaptera*' - big winged.

As long as three cars!

Humpback whales can grow to 18m in length and weigh up to 45 tonnes. The female is larger than the male and both can live for over 50 years.

Feeling the strain

Humpback whales feed on small prawn-like animals called krill, that they strain through hundreds of hair-like strips called baleen. During their summer months in Antarctica these ocean giants may eat nearly 1 tonne of food a day, they then don't eat for 8 months!

Locals

There are six main populations of humpback whales in the southern hemisphere, one for each side of the three continents (Australia, South America and Africa). In the summer months, they all feed in Antarctica. When autumn arrives, the Western Australian population heads off on its northern migration reaching their mating and calving grounds in our Far North region by winter. After mating and giving birth, the humpbacks head back down south to Antarctica to eat. It is on this southern leg of one of the longest migrations in the animal kingdom that we get to see these majestic mammals in the waters right off Perth.

Aquatic Acrobats

Humpback whales are famous for their remarkable surface displays. These displays include: propelling their body out of the water then crashing back down, slapping their side fins, slapping their tail and lifting their head out of the water.

