

Best in World

- **Sri Lanka is best for Blue Whale** in the world. December to mid April from Mirissa. In Trincomalee, peak encounter rate is in March and April, but season extends to August.
- **Sri Lanka is best for super-pods of Sperm Whales** in the world. Kalpitiya from December to April. Trincomalee from March to April.
- **Sri Lanka has best chance of a Blue Whale and Sperm Whale on the same sailing**, in the world. Mirissa and Trincomalee, seasons as above.
- Swamy Rock is **best shore-based site for Blue Whales** in world for watching. In Trincomalee, seasonal.



Noteworthy

- Super-pods of Spinner Dolphins off Kalpitiya. December to mid April.
- 5 species of marine turtle come ashore to nest, months vary by species. Turtles seen on sailings.
- Bryde's Whale regular in Kalpitiya.

Sri Lanka's Ranking: Blue and Sperm Whales

Target Species	World	Asia
Blue Whale	1	1
Sperm Whale	Top 10	1
Sperm Whale Super-pods	1	1



Time & Encounter Rate	Blues Whales: Resident vs. Migrant	Rough Seas
Mirissa		
<p>Blue Whales November to mid April. December-January Blue Whales migrating East to Bay of Bengal and return migration to Arabian Sea (Horn of Africa) in April- March. 90% Encounter rate in season.</p> <p>Sperm Whales Ad hoc throughout season. Super-pods not common.</p>	Outside the migratory period, the seas are too rough to look for resident Blue Whales.	South-west Monsoon: May to Sep. Inter-monsoonal October. Calming from November. Turns rough in mid April.
Trincomalee		
<p>Blue Whales March to April: Max numbers of Blues because of migrants. 90% Encounter rate in this period.</p> <p>May to September: Resident Blues</p> <p>Sperm Whales March to April, super-pods have been recorded. Data still thin. Between May to August, Trincomalee has a combined encounter rate for Blue or Sperm Whales.</p>	<p>Migrants + Resident Blue Whales.</p> <p>Resident Blue Whales.</p>	North-east Monsoon: October to February. Seas calm from March to late September.
Kalpitiya		
<p>Blue Whales Rarely seen.</p> <p>Sperm Whales Most reliable site in Sri Lanka for Sperm Whales. December to mid April. Encounter rate from 1 in 3 to 1 in 5. But data still thin. March to April, super-pods have been recorded.</p> <p>Orca Seems to be recorded every year, best site in Sri Lanka but too infrequent to go in search of it.</p> <p>Dugong Whale watchers have encountered it. But too infrequent to go in search of it.</p>	Resident Blue Whales may be present during South-west Monsoon, but seas are too rough to look for them.	South-west Monsoon: May to September. Inter-monsoonal October. Calming from November. Turns rough in mid April.

Adapted from *Wild Sri Lanka* (published by John Beaufoy Publishing, UK), written and photographed by Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne. The author has done more than any other person to publicise Sri Lanka as a whale watching destination and broke the stories that Sri Lanka is 'Best for Blue Whale' and 'Best for Super-pods of Sperm Whales'.

