



Swami Rock At Trincomalee Bay

Sri Lanka - The World's Top Spot For Whale Watching

Sri Lanka may be the world's top hot spot for **Whale Watching** due to a high concentration of **Blue Whales** and **Sperm Whales** that can be spotted in the seas off **Dondra Head** along the **Deep South Coast** of **Sri Lanka** during the months of **January to April**. **Alankuda Beach** in **Kalpitiya** is also one of the best locations in the world if you are interested in seeing **Dolphins**.

Migration Path of Whales

Off **Dondra Head** or **Mirissa** the continental shelf narrows sharply. Marine biologists believe some of the blue whales off **Dondra Head** could be resident whales while others could be migratory ones crossing over to the **Arabian Sea** from the **Bay of Bengal**. It is suspected that in **January** they would be passing **Sri Lanka** on the way to **Bay of Bengal** and in **April** they will be passing **Sri Lanka** again down the south coast passing **Maldives** to the **Arabian Sea**. For this reason, there are peaks in the movement of whales in **Nov-Dec** and again in **March-April**.

Mirissa – Deep South Coast

During the season, **Mirissa** is the most reliable site in the world for seeing the difficult and desired **Blue Whale**. It may also be the best place for seeing **Sperm Whales**. Large **Baleen Whales** and **Toothed Whales** also come within sight of the shore.

Seeing a **Blue Whale** during **April** can be almost guaranteed. Due to the calm seas between **December** and **April**, there is an outstanding window of opportunity for observing **Blue Whales** and **Sperm Whales** close to shore. Pods of **Long-Snouted Spinner Dolphins** are also commonly observed on **Whale Watching Trips** from **Mirissa**.

Note : Whale Watching at **Mirissa** can be easily arranged as a day trip from all resorts of the **South West Coast** – although an early start may be required. **Mirissa** is only about 30 minutes from resorts near to **Galle**.





Mirissa Watersports Whale Watching Boat

One of the key catalysts of the development of whale watching off the **Southern Coast** was the involvement of **Simon Scarff** and **Sue Evans** with **Mirissa Water Sports**. **Mirissa Water Sports** was set up in **December 2005** with assistance from the **Building A Future Foundation** to help **Tsunami** affected youth.

<http://www.mirissawatersports.com>

Whale And Dolphin Watching are exciting and unique activities at **Mirissa Water Sports (MWS)** who were the first and longest established **Whale Watching** operator on the **South Coast of Sri Lanka**. Most sightings occur 3 to 6 miles off **Mirissa**. **MWS** keeps accurate logs of the sightings to predict the arrival of the **Blue Whales** for future **Whale Watching** tours. The period between **January** and **April** is also a good time for **Dolphins**. Trips are often accompanied by pods of **Spinner Dolphins**.

Trincomalee Bay

A pioneering documentation of **Whales** in the **Trincomalee Bay** began in the **1980's** by marine biologists of the research vessel **The Tulip**. They found out that **Blue Whales** and **Sperm Whales** were actually coming into the **Trincomalee Harbour** using a submarine canyon!. The **Whales of Trincomalee** also featured in the award winning film "**Whales Weep Not**", the first underwater filming of **Sperm Whales** in their natural habitat. **Trincomalee** is now again tipped to be a major **Whale Watching** hot spot, as security restrictions are eased and projects have begun to develop commercial **Whale Watching** in the area.

The amazingly beautiful seas around **Swami Rock** have deep waters where **Sperm Whales** literally come to the shore!

Note : It is possible to go on **Whale Watching Trips** in **Trincomalee Bay** organised by **The Nilaveli Beach Hotel** and **Chaaya Blu Hotel**. Be aware that **Trincomalee Bay** is a **High Security Zone** of the **Sri Lanka Navy** and permits may be required.



Spinner Dolphins At Kalpitiya



Dolphins In The Seas At Kalpitiya

Kalpitiya

During the season, at times, literally thousands of **Dolphins** can be observed in large pods at **Kalpitiya**. If you take a boat at sunrise, sightings are almost a certainty!. **Spinner Dolphins** are the most common and the most spectacular due to it's engaging in acrobatic leaps out of the water. Other **Dolphins** to be seen are **Bottlenose**, **Risso's** and **Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphins** - popularly known as "**Pink Dolphins**".

The deeper waters off **Kalpitiya's** coastline are also the haunt of five types of **Whales**. They can be seen surfacing from time to time and the sight of these enigmatic creatures is a breathtaking, spellbinding and a truly humbling experience. **Sperm Whales** are most common but **Blue Whales**, **Minke**, **Melon-Headed** and **Dwarf Sperm Whales** can also be sighted.

There are peaks in the movement of whales in **Nov-Dec** and again in **March-April**. The **Continental Shelf** comes in close to **Alankuda Beach** and for this reason you do not need to travel very far unlike other whale watching destinations in the island.

Note : **Dolphin Watching Trips** are arranged by all hotels at **Kalpitiya**, sometimes free of charge, during the season.

