



Instant getaway



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Marine Mammal extravaganza in Kenya



Although visitors to Kenya are aware of its beautiful beaches, not many know of the different species of dolphins and whales that visit its coastline.

It is believed that these marine mammals travel to warm tropical inner reefs for protection to enable them to breed and give birth to their calves, which remain with the mother for about two years, until weaned. They then make the return journey in October, swimming over 4,000km to the cold food-rich seas.

Humpback whale in the ocean

The good news is that Kenya, over recent years, has been recording new species with some apparently on the increase, revealed by scientific studies conducted by Global Vision International (GVI) and Watamu Marine Association (WMA) with KWS in Watamu and Kisite National Marine Parks and Reserves. GVI and WMA are both coast-based conservation organisations working with marine scientists, international volunteers and Kenyan communities, dedicated to conserving marine mammals through research and education.

Visitors to the Kenyan coast can expect to see Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins, Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins, spinner dolphins and humpback whales, with occasional sightings of killer whales, sperm whales and dwarf minke whales. More unusual species include pilot whales, Bryde's whales, striped dolphins, and more recently Pan Tropical spotted dolphins.



Bottlenose dolphin

Humpback whales can be seen from land and sea from July through to September. According to WMA, the whales appear to be early this year. More whales are expected towards end of July. While visiting our resort, book a whale and dolphin watching tour at the Marketing Communications Desk.



Humpback whale breaching water

Rarer still are the dugong, more commonly known as sea cow, similar to the manatee (often associated with North, Central and South America), last seen in 2009 in Lamu and Kisite, and thought now to be endangered in Kenya due to over fishing.

This year, Kenya made its debut at the humpback whale congress held in Madagascar. Young scientists, Mike Mwang'ombe and Kahindi Charo from Kenya represented Kenya Marine Mammal Network.

Charges for whale and dolphin watching - Ksh. 5000 per person

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