



Welcome to The Whale Trail

Washington State Ferries

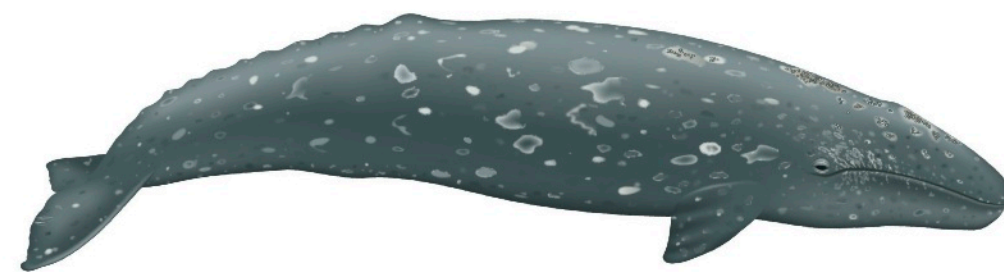


Orca (Killer whale) (*Orcinus orca*)

Length: Adult ♂26 ft • ♀23 ft • Calf 8 ft



Orcas are the largest member of the dolphin family. Highly intelligent and social, they live in tightly bonded family groups their entire lives. Three pods of fish-eating orcas (J, K and L) are resident to Washington State. These iconic mammals were listed as Endangered in 2005.

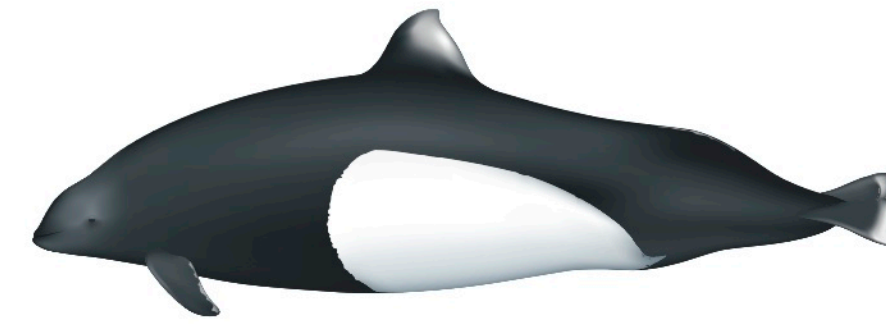


Gray Whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*)

Length: Adult 46 ft • Calf 15 ft



Gray whales use baleen to filter shrimp-like food from along the sea floor. Each year they migrate from feeding grounds in Alaska to calving lagoons in Baja California and back again. Some gray whales take a detour from their coastal migration to forage in Puget Sound.

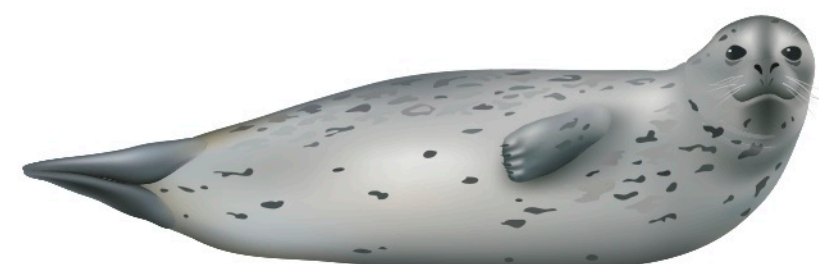


Dall's Porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*)

Length: Adult 6.4 ft • Calf 3 ft

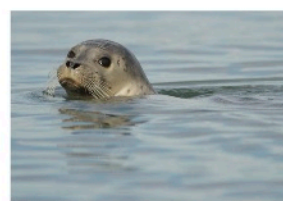


Dall's porpoises have stocky black bodies with striking white patches on the belly and flank. They often swim at high speed, producing a bow wave called a "rooster tail" as they move through the water.



Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina*)

Length: Adult 6 ft • Pup 3 ft



Harbor seals are the most common marine mammal in the Pacific Northwest. Seals are often wary of people while hauled out on land; please keep 100 yards away.



California Sea Lion

(*Zalophus californianus*)

Length: Adult ♂8 ft • ♀5 ft • Pup 2.6 ft



Sea lions are larger than seals and have external ear flaps. California sea lions have a dog-like bark. They sometimes "raft" or float with their flippers in the air to regulate body temperature.

Marine mammals you can expect to see in this area

Often seen



Rarely seen



Occasionally seen



Ecosystems in trouble

Orcas and salmon are icons of the Pacific Northwest. But they face an uncertain future due to pollution, loss of habitat, and the threat of oil spills. Fishing, shellfishing, recreation and human health all depend on healthy ecosystems.

You can help

Everyone has a role to play in protecting our marine environment. Commit to treading lightly on the earth. Volunteer on projects to restore and preserve our salmon runs and watersheds, educate yourself and your community, and ask public decision makers to support strong shoreline protections.

Keep your distance

Enjoy watching marine wildlife without causing them harm or placing your personal safety at risk. View animals from a distance where they won't be disturbed. Don't touch, feed or chase wildlife. Keep pets leashed and away from marine animals.

Washington State Ferries

Puget Sound is home to many marine mammal species, including whales, porpoises, sea lions and seals. With dozens of crossings each day, riding a Washington State ferry provides a great opportunity to view wildlife. The animals you might see depend on your route and the time of year.

Resident orca pods (J, K and L) are most often seen from the San Juan Islands ferries during the summer. The same pods may be seen in central Puget Sound during the winter, following salmon runs. Transient (marine-mammal eating) orcas are increasingly seen throughout the year.

Gray whales feed near Whidbey Island from March to May. Seals and sea lions are common throughout the Sound, and might be seen on any crossing.

To spot a marine mammal, look for a disturbance in the surface of the water. You may see the blows or spouts of whales as they surface to breathe, or their tail flukes as they dive. Splashes may be from breaching orcas, or porpoises passing by.

The Whale Trail is a series of sites around the region where you may view orcas and other whales or marine mammals from shore.

Mission:

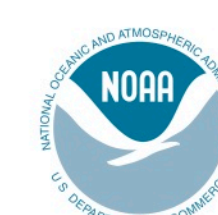
Our mission is to inspire appreciation and stewardship of whales and our marine environment by establishing a network of viewing sites along the whales' trails through Puget Sound and the coastal waters of the Pacific Northwest.



Whale Trail sites

- 1 Lime Kiln State Park
 - 2 San Juan Island National Historical Park
 - 3 The Whale Museum
 - 4 Vancouver Aquarium
 - 5 Coupeville Wharf, Penn Cove, Whidbey Island
 - 6 Port Townsend Marine Science Center
 - 7 Langley, Whidbey Island
 - 8 Jetty Island, Everett
 - 9 Dosewallips State Park, Hood Canal
 - 10 Seattle Aquarium
 - 11 Alki Beach Park
 - 12 Point Robinson, Vashon Island
 - 13 Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium
 - 14 Freshwater Bay County Park
 - 15 Salt Creek Recreation Area
 - 16 Sekiu Overlook
 - 17 Shipwreck Point
 - 18 Cape Flattery
 - 19 La Push
- Educational facilities
● Viewing sites

The Whale Trail is a nonprofit organization in partnership with



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Learn More! Visit www.thewhaletrail.org

