

# Spotting Whales, Dolphins and other Marine Animals around the Isle of Man



COAST

[www.VISITISLEOFMAN.com](http://www.VISITISLEOFMAN.com)

Although it isn't possible to guarantee a sighting, this information will give you the best chance of seeing these fascinating animals as you walk or sail around the coastline of the Isle of Man.

Eight different cetacean species are regularly spotted throughout the Irish Sea and around the coast of the Isle of Man. These include Harbour Porpoises at around 1.4m long, Common Dolphins, Bottlenose Dolphins, Risso's Dolphins, Killer Whales, Minke Whales and Fin Whales at up to 22m long. You can find ID charts and report sightings on all these species on [www.mwdw.net](http://www.mwdw.net). The Isle of Man is known internationally as a Basking Shark hotspot. The second biggest fish in the world, they grow to well over 8m long and sightings and shoal sizes are generally higher than in other British waters. You can find more information and report any sightings on [www.manxbaskingsharkwatch.com](http://www.manxbaskingsharkwatch.com).

## When and Where

Headlands are good locations for observers. Look for diving birds which are often an indication that fish may be in the area. During late spring and summer, vantage points on the West coast of the Island are usually best for spotting cetaceans and basking sharks, but sightings have been made in locations from Douglas Head to Peel. From early Autumn onwards, the herring move to spawning grounds off the East coast and the whales and dolphins follow them, with sightings from Port Soderick to the Ayres. 6am to 9am and 6pm to 9pm are often the prime times. For the best chance of success, choose a calm day when the sea isn't too choppy and scan the sea slowly.

## Code of Conduct

While watching marine mammals please keep your distance and maintain a steady speed. Spend no longer than 15 minutes near the animals and never try to swim with them. Do not move between groups of animals and avoid mothers and their young. Never dispose of rubbish into the sea.

## Marine Protected Species

A variety of species are protected under the Manx Wildlife Act. They include all species of Seals, Marine Turtles, Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises and Basking Sharks. As such they are protected from capture, intentional injury and disturbance. For more information on protected species visit [www.gov.im/daff](http://www.gov.im/daff).

## Useful Contacts

### Diving

Mann Scuba Divers	01624 835202 / 07624 425458
Discover Diving	01624 822442 / 07624 482002
Diving Air Services	01624 628123
Southern Diving Lodge	01624 832943

### Boat Charter

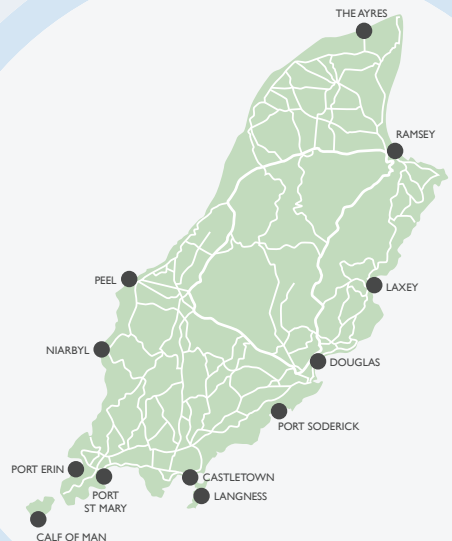
Douglas Boat Charter	01624 861691 / 07624 308047
Manx Sea Charter Services	01624 628123
Manx Coastal Cruises	07624 450688
Gemini Charter	01624 832761 / 07624 483328
Manx Voyager	01624 863664
Phil Corlett	<a href="mailto:phil.corlett@manx.net">phil.corlett@manx.net</a>
Manx Seafaris	07624 434457 / 07624 490251
IB Boat Charters	01624 836028
Melissa Faye	01624 813840 / 07624 489417
KTB	01624 832339

### Coastal Cruises

Pleasure Steamer Balmoral	0845 130 4647
MV Karina	01624 861724 / 07624 493592
Calf Island Cruises	01624 832339

### Sea Kayaking and Other Activities

Adventurous Experiences	01624 843034
The Venture Centre	01624 814240



When booking a dive or boat trip, why not enquire whether the operator has undergone WISE training? WISE operators have agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct for each of the species covered within the WISE scheme.