

# Whale Watch Kaikoura

ADVERTISING FEATURE



The tail of a giant sperm whale. Whale Watch Kaikoura provides the thrill of an up close encounter.

## Whale Watch Kaikoura takes out Supreme Award at international tourism awards

WHALE Watch Kaikoura treats many thousands of tourists each year to the thrill of an up close encounter with the giant sperm whale off the coast of Kaikoura.

Recently, the company outshone some of the world's leading tour operators to claim the Supreme Award at this year's Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism Awards in London – edging out 35 fellow finalists including tourism giants SeaFrance, Royal Caribbean Cruises and the City of Cape Town.

Whale Watch Kaikoura is also excited to have introduced a new state-of-the-art vessel to its fleet.

The first of its kind in New

is enclosed and large outside decks offer great viewing and photo opportunities.

Established in 1987, Whale Watch is New Zealand's only marine-based whale watching company offering visitors an exciting up-close encounter with the giant sperm whale at all times of the year.

Kaikoura's resident sperm whales are the worlds' largest carnivore, equivalent in size to four elephants.

A typical Whale Watch tour may also encounter New Zealand fur seals, pods of dusky dolphins and the endangered wandering albatross. Depending on the season,



**KAIKOURA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Kaikoura District Council and the Kaikoura community are delighted by Whale Watch's phenomenal success at the Responsible Tourism Awards. This award is rightful recognition of all the hard work, dedication, determination and innovation which has taken Whale Watch from its small beginnings to its position today as one of the world's leading eco-tourism operators.



Zealand, the Wawahia was built at a cost of \$2.5m, and is the first of a planned new-generation fleet of whale watching vessels using the advanced technology of Volvo Penta – world leaders in marine engineering.

The modern catamarans are designed for whale watching, with engines that minimise underwater noise and toilets that never pollute the sea. The main passenger cabin

visitors may also see migrating humpback whales, pilot whales, blue whales and southern right whales. Kaikoura often hosts the world's largest dolphin – the orca – and is home to the world's smallest and rarest – the Hector's.

Whale Watch scheduled tours operate daily. The tours have a 95% success rate, so visitors are guaranteed an 80% refund if their tour does not see a whale.



**Proud to be the name behind Whale Watch Kaikoura for more than a decade.**

HamiltonJet waterjet propulsion units offer the environmental and safety benefits award-winning eco-tourism operations require to meet today's stringent regulations.

For more information contact:  
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Modern catamarans are designed for whale watching, with engines that minimise underwater noise.

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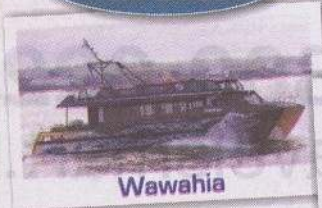
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