

General Info

Humpback Whales travel thousands of kilometres between their winter breeding ground to their summer feeding ground along the East Coast of Australia.

We are lucky enough to witness one of the longest whale migrations in the world off the coast of NSW. Humpback Whales are the most popular species with about 20,000 animals passing Port Stephens each year.

From about May, Humpback Whales begin passing by on their Northern Migration coming from antarctic waters in the south. By early August these whales have moved onto their breeding grounds up north around the equator. On this northern Migration you can see a lot of breaching whales and active males showing their dominance to impress females for mating.

By September the first whales are on their way south again but you may see whales going both ways at this time of year.

By mid to late August right up to the beginning of December the whales are now all swimming south and you can start to see mothers with their newborn calves. Flat calm days are obviously better for spotting a whale but once you know what you're looking for you will be able to spot them even on a rough day. Look out for the telltale "water spout".

A Guide to the TOP WHALE WATCHING SPOTS in Port Stephens



Top Spot 1 - Tomaree Look out.

A beautiful walk in its own right, but once at the top of Mt Tomaree you'll be able to spot any whales swimming by, look for the tell tale water spout. Drive to the end of Shoal Bay Road and park and you'll see the signs to the Tomaree Look Out Walk. Don't forget the camera for the views and a drink on hot days. *Warning this is quite a steep walk and you should take notice of the signs at the base of the path before starting.

Top Spot 2 - Barry Park Lookout, Fingal Bay

Head to the end of Marine Drive at Fingal Bay and you'll discover Barry Park, there are benches on the headland and an easy well signed boardwalk track which can take you all the way around the headland to Boulder Bay if you wish. Take a thermos and a snack and a set of binoculars and keep your eyes peeled for that tell tale waterspout.

Top Spot 3 - Boat Harbour Headland.

Drive through the sleepy town of Boat Harbour to Noamunga Street. Plenty of choices here for a good vantage point. A little bit of a rock scramble may be required if you wanted to go right to the end of the headland for the best view, but you'll still be able to see plenty from any spot along this headland in Boat Harbour. Whales tend to pass the closest to land at this spot as Boat Harbour juts out in to the Tasman Sea. Bring a chair and relax and wait...

Top Spot 4 - Birubi Point Headlands, Anna Bay

Great viewing points around the headlands at Birubi Point. Drive to Birubi Point Surf Club at the end of James Patterson Street, Anna Bay, walk along the beach and around the rocky headland if tides permit or alternatively walk along the bike track past the skate board park and through Robinson Reserve and around to Iris Moore Reserve with plenty of viewing points all along this headland. You can even park your car at Iris Moore Reserve, off Birubi Lane and you'll probably spot a whale or two without leaving your vehicle.



Top Spot 2
Barry Park, Fingal Bay



Top Spot 1
Tomaree Lookout

Port Stephens Treescape ●



Top Spot 4
Birubi Point Headland



Top Spot 3
Boat Harbour Headland

Get back to nature and enjoy some easy walks along the beautiful headlands of Port Stephens to some of the best land based vantage points for spotting the Humpback Whales that travel up and down the coast every year

Warning: Always check the tides and weather before venturing out onto rocky headlands. Make sure you take a hat, sunscreen, drinks and wear sensible shoes.

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