

Whale migration through Pacifica, CA

For those that are interested in viewing the northbound journey of migrating whales, Pacifica sets the stage as an ideal viewing post because of the many inlets and close proximity to the route and “playground” of these magnificent creatures. Some of the best viewing platforms are from the coastal bluffs of Mori Point, Rockaway beach trail, Linda Mar State Beach, the Pacifica Pier and Devil's slide walking trail.

The northern migration of gray whales generally attracts 20,000 whales and lasts from February through April. The whales, including mothers and calves, travel closer to the coast on the northbound journey, so this is usually the best time for whale watching from the shores of Pacifica.

Blue whales are not as common as gray whales, but there's an estimated population of over 2,000 on the west coast. The blue whale migration follows a pattern similar to the gray whale, but they don't seem to travel such long distances, or to travel as close to the shore.

Blue whales are typically seen along the Central California coast, with Pacifica at the center of the action. Whale watching season for blue whales lasts from late spring to fall.

As for the humpback whales, they are very acrobatic. The population along the California coast is only about 800. Prime whale watching season for humpback whales is in the summer and fall, with the largest number of sightings along the Central California coast.

For more information, check the Whale Watching calendar at <http://abt.cm/1fD9FSN>



Pacifica Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center: 650-355-4122