



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Whale Watching in Vancouver BC

**Q: Are reservations required?**

A: Pre-booking is required to hold your spots.

**Q: How far in advance do I have to book?**

A: We take bookings months in advance or even the day before. It is up to you how last minute you want to leave your booking. By leaving it to the last minute, you take the risk that there will not be any space left during the tour time which you desire. Full payment is required at the time of booking. Tours are non refundable within 24 hours of departure and 2 weeks for groups of 10 or more.

**Q: Where do the trips leave from? What time do I need to be there?**

A: Please meet 30 minutes prior to your departure time at the Prince of Whales office inside the Westin Bayshore Hotel in Downtown Vancouver (1601 Bayshore Dr.).

**Q: How should I dress? What should I bring?**

A: We recommend all guests dress warmly in layers as it is always colder on the water. The OCEAN MAGIC cruiser sells packaged snacks and both hot and cold beverages on the boat. You are welcome to bring your own food on board, remember you may be out on your trip for 5+ hours. Bring sunglasses, sunscreen and your camera. We will be traveling at more than 30 miles per hour so a windbreaker or warm jacket will help you enjoy the outdoors.

**Q: What types of boats are you using?**

A: Our new big boats, the OCEAN MAGIC I & II, are 62-foot aluminum express cruisers capable of cruising at 30 knots an hour and seating 74 passengers. The top deck is capable of seating 40 passengers; the aft deck is capable of seating 25. The main passenger cabin, located below the wheelhouse and top deck, features a heated passenger seating area, airline-style washrooms and a small pantry for snacks and drinks. Mid-ship seating is open to provide a generous view from inside the cabin, but can be protected with clear vinyl curtains during transit. The forward cabin is entirely enclosed behind large glass windows and serves as a warm-up area during cooler weather.

**Q: What are the chances of seeing whales?**

A: The chance of seeing Orcas varies with the seasons. We work with a network of whale watching operators and share sighting information this gives us a sighting success rate of about 95%. We typically travel through the Gulf and San Juan Islands and passengers see a variety of wildlife including, seals, sea lions, porpoises, eagles and more.

**Q: What if we don't see whales?**

A: Remember, we're working with wild animals and they deserve our utmost respect. We don't guarantee whales or wildlife; it's part of the adventure! During May through September, if you do not see a whale of any type we will offer a free trip within the next 48 hours on the OCEAN MAGIC Express Cruiser only on a standby basis. In other words, if there are empty seats available at departure time. You must present your receipt from your previous trip and suitable identification.

**Q: How close do we get to the whales?**

A: Prince of Whales observes the guidelines established by the Pacific Whale Watch Association (PWWA). We are allowed to get within 100 meters (100 yards) of the whales. At this distance you get an excellent view of the whales.

**Q: Can I bring my camera?**

A: Yes, bring your camera and/or video camera. We also recommend that you bring a plastic bag to keep your camera safe and dry during transit. The boat will come to a complete stop for photo opportunities.

**Q: I have young children do you recommend this activity for them?**

A: We consider whale watching a family activity and children are certainly welcome on our trip. Keep in mind that the trips can be quite long. Children are required to remain seated while the boat is in motion.

**Q: What if it is raining?**

A: We can still go out on our vessel if it is raining however we do watch the weather carefully and occasionally we do have to cancel or postpone a trip if it is too windy. When a trip is cancelled we do our best to contact you in the morning to give you the opportunity to reschedule.