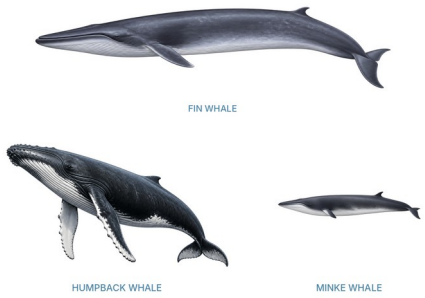
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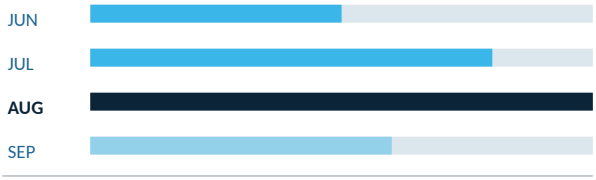
ARCTIC · WEST GREENLAND

Disko Bay, Greenland

Humpback, fin and minke whales · June – September



SIGHTING PROBABILITY



BEST MONTH
August

SEASON
Jun – Sep

§ 01 INTRODUCTION

Disko Bay, on the west coast of Greenland, combines one of the planet's greatest iceberg spectacles —the Ilulissat Icefjord, a World Heritage Site— with waters rich in krill and fish that draw several whale species every Arctic summer.

Between June and September, humpback, fin and minke whales feed in the bay, often among icebergs calved from the Sermeq Kujalleq glacier. August usually offers the best combination of calm seas and feeding activity.

§ 02 ETHICS

Whale-watching ethics

Trips leave straight from Ilulissat harbour, in boats that keep a safe distance from both the whales and the icebergs, which can roll over without warning. Local operators work with fishermen and hunters to find recent sightings instead of chasing the animals.

§ 03 IN THE FIELD

Practical tips

01
Book ahead for July–August, which is also high season for iceberg cruises.

02
Bring technical warm layers — even in the Arctic summer the wind on the boat cuts through you.

03
Combine the whale safari with a trip to the Ilulissat Icefjord (World Heritage Site).

04
July's nearly round-the-clock daylight allows some flexibility in timing; ask about last-minute departures if the weather changes.

05
A 100-400mm zoom and protection from rain and spray — salty Arctic air is hard on equipment.

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