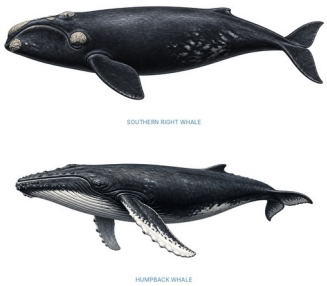
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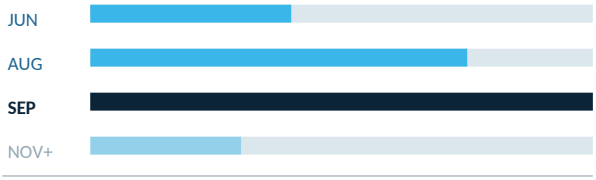
SOUTH AFRICA · OVERBERG COAST

Hermanus, South Africa

Southern right and humpback whales · June – November



SIGHTING PROBABILITY



BEST MONTH
September

SEASON
Jun – Nov

§ 01 INTRODUCTION

Hermanus, on South Africa's Overberg coast, is considered one of the world's best places for land-based whale watching: its cliffs drop straight into Walker Bay, so you can see southern right whales a few metres from the shore without getting on a boat.

Between June and November, hundreds of southern right whales come into the bay to mate and calve; September is usually the busiest month, coinciding with the Hermanus Whale Festival. Humpback whales can also be seen in the area, especially towards the end of the season.

§ 02 ETHICS

Whale-watching ethics

Hermanus has a traditional “whale crier” who announces around town where whales have been seen that day, no boat needed. Licensed boats operate from Hermanus, Gansbaai and Kleinbaai under official permits; avoid any unlicensed operator, and remember that much of the experience here is free, from the cliff path.

§ 03 IN THE FIELD

Practical tips

01
Hermanus's cliff path is free and often as good as a boat trip — make the most of it before booking a boat.

02
Book boat trips ahead in September–October, the peak of the season.

03
Follow the “whale crier” or the local webcams to find out where whales have been seen that day before planning your route.

04
Bring warm clothing — the wind on the cliffs and on the boat can be strong even when it is sunny.

05
A 100-300mm zoom is usually enough; many whales are seen close to the shore.

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