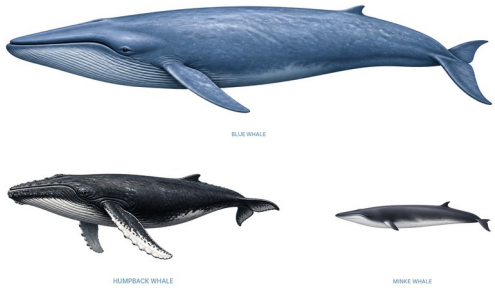
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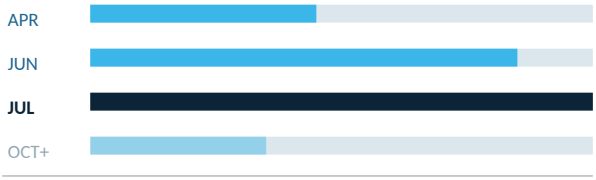
EUROPE · NORTH ATLANTIC (ARCTIC)

Húsavík, Iceland

Humpback, minke and blue whales · April – October



SIGHTING PROBABILITY



BEST MONTH
July

SEASON
Apr – Oct

§ 01 INTRODUCTION

Húsavík, in the north of Iceland, is known as the "whale-watching capital of Europe": its bay, Skjálfandi, combines deep water very close to the shore with high nutrient levels, which draws whales more consistently than almost anywhere else in Europe.

Today the humpback is the most frequently seen species throughout the season, together with resident minke whales. Between late spring and summer blue whales also appear — one of the few places in Europe where they can be seen. The season runs from April to October, with May to September as the most reliable window.

§ 02 ETHICS

Whale-watching ethics

North Sailing, a pioneer of responsible whale watching in Húsavík since 1995, keeps a long-term sightings log used for research. Local operators follow the code of conduct of IceWhale, the Icelandic Whale Watching Association, which sets approach distances and times; avoid any operator that is not a member.

§ 03 IN THE FIELD

Practical tips

01
Book ahead for July–August, the busiest months for tourism in Húsavík.

02
Bring technical, waterproof warm clothing — the north of Iceland is chilly even in midsummer.

03
North Sailing runs trips on traditional wooden boats; a good option if you want a more authentic experience.

04
No time of day gives better odds of a sighting; choose the departure that best fits the rest of your trip.

05
A 100-400mm zoom; when blue whales do appear, they are usually further away than the humpbacks.

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