02

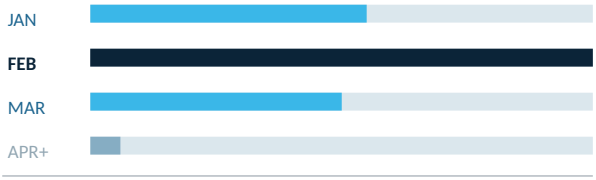
CARIBBEAN · NORTH ATLANTIC

Samaná, Dominican Republic

Humpback whale · mid-January – late March



SIGHTING PROBABILITY



BEST MONTH
February

SEASON
Jan – Mar

§ 01 INTRODUCTION

Samaná Bay, on the north-east coast of the Dominican Republic, is one of the great gathering places for humpback whales in the North Atlantic.

Every winter, thousands of whales arrive from the North Atlantic to mate and give birth in its warm, sheltered waters, making the bay one of the best places in the world to watch them at close range. The whale-watching season runs from mid-January to late March.

§ 02 ETHICS

Whale-watching ethics

Samaná Bay is a protected marine mammal sanctuary. Licensed operators follow rules on distance and approach time. Avoid any operator that promises to "get as close as possible" or lets you swim with the whales without a permit — not only is it illegal in most cases, it also causes needless stress to the animals, especially mothers with calves.

§ 03 IN THE FIELD

Practical tips

01
Book early-morning trips: the sea is usually calmer and there is less boat traffic.

02
Bring a light warm layer for the boat trip — the wind at sea is cooler than it seems from land.

03
Sun protection and polarised sunglasses — they make it easier to see the animals below the surface.

04
A 100-400 zoom or similar covers most situations.

05
Choose operators that respect the regulated minimum distance and do not chase the animals — it is also the most rewarding experience for visitors.

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