

Swim with the Orcas in Norway



November 2019 expeditions

Join us for an amazing winter expedition, high above the Arctic Circle. Here you'll swim with the pods of orca and over-wintering humpbacks that follow the massive herring schools into the Norwegian fjords.

Without a doubt, swimming with (and photographing) orcas underwater above the Arctic Circle in the winter is challenging. It's a physical activity; you're in cumbersome equipment; the days are short and cold; the weather can be extreme and; the light levels are very low...

...but the mountains, land and seascapes are spectacular, the light is truly mesmerising and the orcas and humpbacks are magical – the reward for your efforts will be immeasurable and unforgettable.



“To look into the eye of a whale and have them look back is like no other wildlife experience on the planet”



The marine adventure of a lifetime!

Every year, millions of herring over-winter in the fjords of Norway making the most of waters warmed by the Gulf Stream. Families of orca feast on these massive schools, joined by pods of non-breeding humpbacks that have stayed in the North rather than travelling to the breed grounds of the tropics. This spectacular concentration of marine life is just waiting to be experienced by you and your camera.

Here's your chance to shoot alongside and learn from renowned Ocean Photographers Darren Jew and Jasmine Carey, gaining insights into the creative processes that go into capturing their amazing images.

In addition to on-water time, there will be presentations on orca behaviour from our resident orca expert Krisztina Balotay along with photo sessions and supervised processing time led by Darren and Jasmine, ensuring you make the most of both your opportunities and the images you capture.

See you in Norway!



- ✓ 7 days on the water
- ✓ Experienced whale swim crews
- ✓ Maximum 4 guests per RIB
- ✓ Ship-based flexibility
- ✓ Northern Lights a priority
- ✓ Quality photography advice
- ✓ Expert briefings and informative talks
- ✓ Use of quality dry-suits, fins included
- ✓ Heated vests available for guest use



Swim with Orcas and humpbacks in Norway

9 days (8 nights) with 6 days whale swimming*

Code	Expedition Dates
WUWN19A	29 October to 6 November 2019
WUWN19B	6 November to 14 November 2019
WUWN19C	14 November to 22 November 2019
WUWN19D	22 November to 30 November 2019

2019 Expedition Price

Prices are per person, in Australian Dollars
AUD **\$8750pp** (Triple Share, Cabin 1)
AUD **\$9250pp** (Single bed Cabins, 6 & 7)
AUD **\$9750pp** (Double bed Cabins, 2-5)

Booking Terms and Conditions available at www.whalesunderwater.com

Day 1 6:00am departure from Tromsø. Welcome briefing, explore Skjervoy, re-group and transfer to ship. Settle-in and welcome briefing with ship's crew and expedition staff.

Dinner

Day 2 Orca swim/RIB operation briefing. Drysuit fitting. Equipment preparation. Whale watching*.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3-8 After breakfast and as daylight begins, you'll board the RIBs in search of whales*. As darkness descends, you'll be back on board the ship for lunch and time to download and process your photos and videos. Each day we'll have a short presentation on orca behaviour and biology from our expedition's naturalist. If conditions and our location allow, after dinner we may hunt for Northern Lights.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9 Today we'll say our farewells and you'll disembark after breakfast and you'll be transferred to Tromsø Visitor Centre arriving around 6:00pm. Tour concludes.

Breakfast

* Environmental conditions above the Arctic Circle can be extreme. Our schedule allows for up to 6 days of whale watching plus one day split between swim prep and whale watching if time allows. NOTE that any and all RIB operations are subject to the conditions encountered. We have expert crews that provide a high level of operational success, but please consider in-water / swimming encounters with orca are determined by many factors including but not limited to safety considerations; guest ability; weather, sea conditions and visibility; the presence of animals and; animal behaviour. All decisions surrounding whale watching / swim operations and the methods employed are made by expedition staff, skippers and guides.

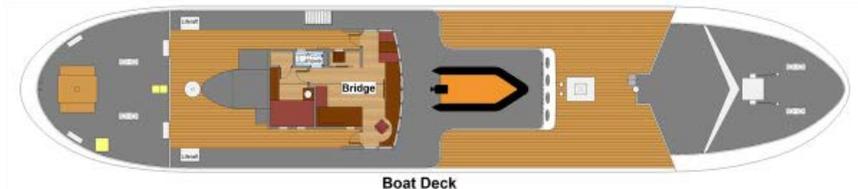




MS Cape Race is a deep-sea trawler converted to an expedition/research yacht reminiscent of the bygone era of tramp steamers. As she was designed originally to fish year round in the toughest seas of the world, she has the integral strength to travel pole to pole in safety and comfort.

Accommodations aboard are spacious and well equipped. There are four staterooms (Cabins 2,3,4, and 5) each with queen size beds; one large 3-person share stateroom (Cabin 1); two single cabins (6 and 7). All cabins have private facilities. The mahogany panelled saloon is equipped with a ship's stove and a piano.

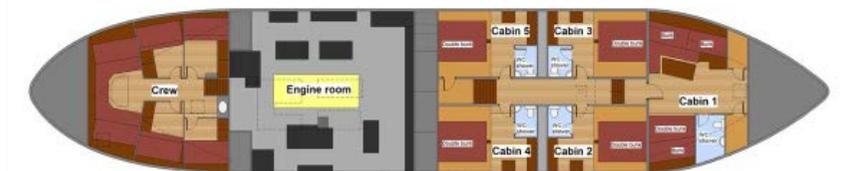
Cape Race has been redesigned with plenty of work and leisure spaces outside - the side decks are reminiscent of an cruise steamer; there is an aft dining deck under the mizzen mast and the fore-deck is the perfect spot for passing photo opportunities.



Boat Deck



Main Deck



Lower Deck



Your Expedition Ship **MS Cape Race**



Darren Jew

Ocean Photographer

Darren hosted his first whale swimming photo tour in 2001 and since then has gained a reputation for not only his own whale photography, but his enthusiasm for sharing the whale encounters with other photographers, ocean and adventure lovers alike.

Darren is six-time Australian Professional Nature Photographer of the Year; is a Canon Master; holds an Associate Diploma in Applied Photography; has been a SCUBA diver since age 14.

Darren also features in Series One of the TV series "Tales by Light" which streams on Netflix.

Jasmine Carey

Ocean Photographer

Jasmine spends most of each year sharing her underwater world with our Whales Underwater and Foto Frenzy friends. Her enthusiasm for the ocean is infectious #woohoo.

She's has been diving since 2005 and began working as part time assistant and safety diver to Darren on shoots in 2014, before taking on a full-time roll in 2016.

An accomplished diver, event manager, group leader and underwater photographer, you can see a selection of Jasmine's images on Instagram @pxlexplorer



The Whales Underwater Norway team

Dedicated to bringing you the best whale swimming experience possible—whether it's the inspiration to jump on board, the fine detail of bookings, the delivery of services on the ground or on the water – the Whales Underwater team all work hard to help make your experience one you'll cherish forever, from the moment you first enquire through 'til the sad goodbyes at the end of your trip.

On the water, our experienced whale watch skippers are the best in the business and an integral part of the success of our whale encounters.



Norbi Bus

Whale Watch Skipper

Norbi has been skippering whale watch vessels in the Arctic for seven years and this will be his third season with Whales Underwater.

Ali Takau

Whale Watch Skipper

Ali has been working as Darren's lead skipper in Tonga for over ten years. 2019 will be Ali's second season with the orcas.

Krisztina Balotay

Orca Guide / naturalist

Krisztina is our resident orca expert and has a dual role as guide and on-board naturalist. She works closely with the Norwegian orca research groups, providing them ID data to aid in the study of population dynamics. Most evenings of your expedition will feature an informative presentation on orca behaviour, biology or sociology.

Jackie Low

Reservations Expert

Jackie is your first port of call for all things concerning your booking with us.

She'll help you through the bookings and reservations process for our tours, and can also assist with flights and other travel options you might like to have coincide with your orca expedition.



Norbi and Krisztina



Jackie (and Boston)



Ali

Whales Underwater

Swim with Orcas in Norway

Expedition price **includes:**

- All activities, boat trips, etc as specified in the itinerary
- Expert and personalised photography, tuition and education from the Whales Underwater Team
- Creative Lab time
- Guided Whales Swims (4 swimmers per zodiac)
- Group transfers from and to downtown Tromsø
- Triple share, Double or Single cabin
- All Meals from dinner on arrival day to breakfast on departure day
- Use of Drysuit, Fins and Heated vest

Expedition Price **does not include:**

- Flights to and from Tromsø, Norway
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
- Snacks
- Discretionary tips
- Items of a personal nature
- Personal snorkelling equipment (you need to bring mask, snorkel, hood, gloves and drysuit undergarments)
- Comprehensive Travel Insurance as recommended by your travel agent
- Internet Connection over and above any complimentary allocation that may be provided

Tour Price:

AUD **\$8750pp** (Triple Share, Cabin 1)

AUD **\$9250pp** (Single bed Cabins, 6 & 7)

AUD **\$9750pp** (Double bed Cabins, 2-5)

Secure your booking now with a deposit of AUD\$1500 by contacting Jackie at Whales Underwater (Balance payable on July 1 2019)

Want to extend your stay exploring Norway topside, or chasing the Aurora? In addition to looking after your Whales Underwater booking, as an independent Licensed Travel Agent our reservations expert Jackie can also assist with booking the ideal and recommended flights and arrangements to and from Tromsø, extension options as well as appropriate travel insurance.

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