Presence of Whales & Dolphins: Southern Seaboard Galle - Mirissa - Dondra - Tangalle - Hambantota - Little Basses

Species	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Blue whale									
Bryde's whale									
Sperm whale									
Orca									
Pilot whale									
False killer whale									
Risso's dolphin									
Bottlenose dolphin									
Striped dolphin									
Spotted dolphin									
Spinner dolphin									

Symbols

The distribution colour keys located at the bottom right of each species description page provide information on the probability that the species is present in Sri Lankan waters as per geographic maritime area by month.

The probability of presence is the probability that a whale watcher would sight an animal.

The colour keys are as follows:

Probability of presence	Symbol		
Most likely	(>)		
Likely	(3)		
Unlikely	(>)		
Most unlikely	•		

Notes

- 1. Tabulated above is a selected list of whales and dolphins from 27 species present in Sri Lankan waters.
- 2. June to August are strong monsoonal months when sea conditions are less than ideal.
- 3. Probabilities are for whale-and-dolphin watching and are based upon historical and contemporary marine mammal records up to 2016 in the Centre for Research on Indian Ocean Marine Mammals (CRIOMM) marine mammal distribution database (MMDD).
- 4. Beaked whales, humpback whales and long-beaked common dolphins are some of the very rarely sighted species in the south. Most are highly pelagic species in Sri Lankan waters and generally out of range during daily commercial whale-and-dolphin watching trips.
- 5. Fin whale, sei whale, minke whale, Deraniyagala's beaked whale, Blainville's beaked whale, melonheaded whale, humpback dolphin, finless porpoise, and the dugong are all species that are currently not known to be present on the eastern seaboard.

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