

Type of Marine Mammal	Scientific Name	English Name	Best Place to See	Best Time of the Year	Area	Notes
Baleen Whale	Balaenoptera musculus	Blue Whale	Mirissa	November - December	Very close to land within about 5 Nautical miles	Sri Lanka has its unique resident population of Blue whales, they don't migrate, and are found throughout the year in our waters.
			Trincomalee	May - August		
				Throughout the year, depending on sea conditions		
	Balaenoptera brydei & Balaenoptera edeni	Bryde's Whale Complex	Mirissa & Kalpitiya	January - April	Mostly seen around 2-4 Nautical miles out to sea	Bryde's whale complex is due to several species having similar external morphology, it's very difficult to ascertain the species based only on surface characteristics.
			Trincomalee	May - July		
	Balaenoptera acutorostrata	Minke Whale	Kalpitiya	December - April	Mostly seen around 2-4 Nautical miles out to sea	
Balaenoptera omurai	Omura's Whale	Mirissa & Kalpitiya	October - May	Beyond 2 nautical miles	Very shy and secretive species of whale	
Megaptera novaeangliae	Humpback Whale	Mirissa, Kalpitiya & Trincomalee	June - October	No specific area	We suspect this to be part of the North Indian Ocean population	
Toothed Whales	Physeter macrocephalus	Sperm Whale	Mirissa & Kalpitiya	January - April	Best place is between the 800 - 1000m drop in the undersea slope.	Between March and April large aggregations of sperm whales can be seen in the water of the eastern half of the Gulf of Mannar
			Trincomalee	May - August		
				Throughout the year, however the best is January - April		
	Kogia breviceps	Pygmy Sperm Whale	Mirissa & Kalpitiya	November - April	Beyond the 800m sea slope	
			Trincomalee	May - August		
	Kogia sima	Dwarf Sperm Whale	Mirissa & Kalpitiya	November - April	Beyond the 800m sea slope	
Trincomalee			May - August			
Beaked Whales	Ziphius cavirostris	Cuvier's Beaked Whale	Mirissa, Kalpitiya & Trincomalee	Throughout the year	Beyond the 800m sea slope	Beaked whales are found in Deep waters, their surface behaviour is unobtrusive, hence difficult to spot them out at sea.
	Mesoplodon densirostris	Blainville's Beaked Whale	Mirissa, Kalpitiya & Trincomalee	Throughout the year	Beyond the 800m sea slope	Beaked whales are found in Deep waters, Their surface behaviour is unobtrusive, hence difficult to spot them out at sea.
	Mesoplodon hotaula	Deraniyagala's Beaked Whale	Mirissa, Kalpitiya & Trincomalee	Throughout the year	Beyond the 800m sea slope	Beaked whales are found in Deep waters, Their surface behaviour is unobtrusive, hence difficult to spot them out at sea.
	Indopacetus pacificus	Longman's Beaked Whale	Mirissa, Kalpitiya & Trincomalee	Throughout the year	Beyond the 800m sea slope	Beaked whales are found in Deep waters, Their surface behaviour is unobtrusive, hence difficult to spot them out at sea.
Oceanic Dolphins	Orcinus orca	Killer Whale	Mirissa & Kalpitiya	January - April	Oceanic Species	In Sri Lanka we have transient killer whales, visiting our water to hunt other species of marine mammals. The best time is during Mar-Apr when there are large aggregations of Sperm whales.
			Trincomalee	May - August		
				Seen throughout the year		
	Pseudorca crassidens	False Killer Whale	Mirissa & Kalpitiya	January - April	Oceanic Species	
			Trincomalee	May - August		
				Seen throughout the year		
	Feresa attenuata	Pygmy Killer Whale	Mirissa & Kalpitiya	January - April	Oceanic Species	
			Trincomalee	May - August		
				Seen throughout the year		
	Peponocephala electra	Melon Headed Whale	Mirissa & Kalpitiya	January - April	Oceanic species	
			Trincomalee	May - August		
				Seen throughout the year		
	Globicephala macrorhynchus	Short finned pilot whale	Mirissa & Kalpitiya	January - April	Oceanic species	
			Trincomalee	May - August		
			Seen throughout the year			
Grampus griseus	Risso's dolphin	Mirissa & Kalpitiya	January - April	Oceanic species		
		Trincomalee	May - August			
			Seen throughout the year			
Steno bredanensis	Rough toothed dolphin	Mirissa & Kalpitiya	January - April	Oceanic species		
		Trincomalee	May - August			
			Seen throughout the year			
Sousa plumbea	Indian Ocean humpback dolphin	Puttalam Lagoon	August - September	In shallow water close to land		
		Mirissa & Kalpitiya	January - April	Oceanic species		
			Trincomalee			May - August
Tursiops truncatus	Common bottle nosed dolphin		Seen throughout the year			
		Mirissa & Kalpitiya	January - April	Oceanic species		
		Trincomalee	May - August			
Tursiops abuncus	Indo-Pacific bottle-nosed dolphin	Mirissa & Kalpitiya	January - April	Oceanic species		
		Trincomalee	May - August			
			Seen throughout the year			
Delphinus capensis tropicalis	Indo-Pacific common dolphin	Mirissa & Kalpitiya	January - April	Oceanic species		
		Trincomalee	May - August			
			Seen throughout the year			
Lagenodelphis hosei	Fraser's dolphin	Mirissa & Kalpitiya	January - April	Oceanic species		
		Trincomalee	May - August			
			Seen throughout the year			
Stenella longirostris	Spinner dolphin	Around the Island	Throughout the year	Very close to land	Sri Lanka is one of the best places to see spinner dolphins and to see super pod, exceeding 5000 individuals.	
Stenella attenuata	Pantropical spotted dolphin	Mirissa & Kalpitiya	January - April	Oceanic species		
		Trincomalee	May - August			
			Seen throughout the year			
Stenella coeruleoalba	Striped dolphin	Mirissa & Kalpitiya	January - April	Oceanic species		
		Trincomalee	May - August			
			Seen throughout the year			
Neophocaena phocaenoides	Indo-Pacific finless porpoise	Palk Bay	Throughout the year	Shallow waters		
Sirenia	Dugong dugon	Dugong	Gulf of Mannar & Palk Bay	Throughout the year	Shallow water & close to seagrass beds	Sri Lanka has a very small population of this endangered marine mammal, we share the same population with India.