



BEST PRACTICE

DWARF MINKE WHALE INTERACTIONS

**Environmentally responsible interaction with dwarf minke whales in the
Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area**

Passenger briefing

Passengers to be well briefed on the dwarf minke whale **Code of Practice**, including safe and sensitive procedures for swimming with whales

Vessel operations

When whales are spotted:

- at a distance of 100-300 metres away – motor at a slow constant speed
- less than 100 metres from the boat – cut vessel engines (when safe to do so)
- do not approach a cow with calf

Swimming with whales

Passengers to observe instructions from trained crew and observe the Code of Practice, including:

- Ensure that you are prepared for swimming with whales
- Enter and exit the water quietly
- Hold onto safety lines in the water (when provided)
- Never swim towards a whale
- Avoid rapid movements when in the water
- Do not touch or make physical contact with a whale
- Use natural light only for photography
- Fill in 2002 Minke Whale Questionnaire and Encounter Log Book

Monitoring

Crew to monitor behaviour of swimmers and whales at all times

Crew to actively manage interactions of swimmers and whales

Crew to fill in whale sighting sheets

No food scraps to be thrown overboard in the vicinity of whales