

This website is not intended for readers under 18 years of age.

None of the material in this website may be reproduced in any way, shape or form in any other written publication or web site without prior written permission from Lake Michigan Whale Watching.

Lake Michigan Whale Watching



This is the best guarded secret of the Great Lakes. Yes it is true!

White Sperm Whales, like Moby Dick in the book of Herman Melville, are abundant in the fresh waters of southern Lake Michigan. Observing this rare cetacean is an exciting spectacle, unique, made possible only by *Lake Michigan Whale Watching*. **Discover nature`s surprises with us ... Come for the Whales, Stay for the Dolphins!**

Southern Lake Michigan is known for its wonderful sailing and cool fresh water, but little has been known about the abundant whale and dolphin population until recently. As winter turns to spring and the cool waters of the lake are warmed by the sun, the fresh water sperm whales and dolphins begin their annual southbound 1300-mile journey from Hudson Bay. Although there are a number of locks at Sault St. Marie, these beautiful and intelligent creatures forge a faster route through nearby streams, and by mid-June, they have reached the breeding grounds of southern Lake Michigan that they know as their "summer home". Freed from the threat of the whalers, taking benefits of the clean waters and abundant food of coho salmon, lake trout and zebra mussels, the whales remain in the southernmost 60 miles of the lake through mid-September.



The clean, fresh waters of the lake especially provide the dolphins benefits over their siblings swimming in salt water. Studies have shown that because they have no "salt layer" to coat their slick skin, they are able to swim 40% faster than if they were in salt water. Also, with less buoyancy in the fresh water, it is believed that dolphins are able to reach depths that would be impossible in salt water, reaching food that is swimming along the lake bed.

The whales and dolphins have become part of the scenery and culture of the lake, and their connection to its history is as ancient as the Navajo Indians who settled the shore centuries ago. Although there are stories of the whales causing many of the shipwrecks in Lake Michigan in the late 1800s and early 1900s, these have proven to be fables; the freshwater whale is a gentle creature, and any negative reputation is undeserved. **Come see for yourself ...**





The gentle giants seem to be as curious about us as we are about them.

"Look but do not touch" is the motto at Lake Michigan Whale Watching.

The sperm whales love our boats as much as we love the whales ... note the slick coat of the whales in Lake Michigan ... no salt residue!

A historical note ... the Lake Michigan Sperm Whale has been protected since the early 1920's, due to a little known provision of the Volstead Act. This spelled an end to the carnage caused by the whalers along the southern shores of Lake Michigan, and ensured the protection of this fresh water mammal. You can see remnants of whaling villages all over the shores of Michigan, Indiana and Illinois ... many of the traditional whaling harbors are now the present day marinas of Michigan, Indiana and Illinois.



Whale! Whale in sight!
Thar she blows! The shout echoes
along the southern shore of Lake Michigan!

If the song of the whale fascinates you ... if you're impressed with the power of the sperm whales ... if you want to see dolphins playing ...

Accept our invitation! Sail with us, and Lake Michigan Whale Watching will take you on a



tour you'll never forget!

Come and join us!

Early in the morning, Hector climbs to the top of the sand dunes and takes his place in one of our small lookouts placed in high strategic points. He puts his binoculars on the support and turns on the VHF radio. A quick look at the horizon tells him where to start searching for Whales and Dolphins. "Today is a nice day to see a whale, the lake is calm, there is no fog" - says Hector, in a first contact through his VHF. With patience (LOTS of patience), he looks for a white water blow, he searches for any sign of a sperm whale.



Hector, the whale spotter



A lifetime experience as a whale spotter simplifies his movements. He wants to find the whales before the boats "TRANQUIL" and "F/X" leave the harbor. At the sight of a Whale or Dolphin, Hector immediately alerts "TRANQUIL" and "F/X" skippers, who have already informed the passengers about what they are going to see.

With this method in finding whales and dolphins, we can achieve better observations. The traditional method involved an elaborate pattern of blows of a conch shell, but our modern technology allows us to use VHF radio and Sprint PCS cell telephone service. In particular, Sprint PCS service is as good on shore as it is in the middle of Lake Michigan!



Once a whale or a school of dolphins has been spotted by Hector, he broadcasts his dispatch on VHF channel 105, and all heck breaks loose (so to speak). Sails are hoisted, dock lines are cut with a shark knife, anchors are abandoned, seacocks are opened, and the adventure begins! "TRANQUIL" and "F/X" race side by side under full sail to the spot, and circle the whales and dolphins (but not TOO close) as if to say playfully "You can't hide from us!" The dolphins know of the game and jump over the bows of the two sturdy vessels.

Our vessels, "TRANQUIL" and "F/X" are ready for the task. Complete with sextant, compass and rudder, our vessels are well equipped and waiting for the call from Hector for the journey to begin.



One of our able captains, awaiting the call from Hector, the Whale Spotter



Our "Hugo Underwater Camera" placed under the hulls of our sturdy vessels will capture all action.

Even if it rains a bit, or gets a little cool, all our whale watchers seem to have a great time on their explorations aboard our vessels.



Some happy whale watchers



Getting ready to swim with the dolphins

NEW for 2002!! - If you are an accomplished swimmer, why not participate in one of our "Swim with the Fresh Water Dolphins" sessions, which are offered semi-monthly.

This unique program, designed by renowned marine biologist George Bell, allows you to get an "in your snout" look at these beautiful and unique creatures. Don't miss your chance to be a part of a "day in the life of a freshwater dolphin".

Testimonials:

"Like nothing you have ever seen"
"Nature as you have never seen it before"
"Come for the Whales, Stay for the Dolphins!"
"the biggest blow-hole I have ever seen"

Getting to Lake Michigan Whale Watching:

We are located in Ernie Broglio Marina and Seaplane Lagoon, in beautiful Lower Shores, Michigan. To find us, take I-95 and exit at Exit 281, the first exit north of the Indiana-Michigan state line, then follow the "whale watching" signs to the Broglio marina ... you can't miss us. To arrive in style, fly one of our charter seaplanes, "The Admiral" or "Island Cynthia", to our private lagoon here in the Broglio marina. Your 20-minute flight from Meigs Airport in downtown Chicago will be spectacular, and a ride on one of these beauties is something you'll never forget! Contact us for details.



Also, ask us about our new sunset and moonlight cruises.

Lake Michigan Whale Watching
Ernie Broglio Marina and Seaplane Lagoon
Lower Shores, Michigan 69117
Tel or Fax - coming soon

For pricing and detailed information,
please E-Mail us: LakeMichiganWhales@yahoo.com

Hits: **07014**

UPDATE NOVEMBER 2002

Thank you to all those who have inquired to us here at Lake Michigan Whale Watching - we are overwhelmed with requests for information, and your feedback has been very valuable. We are currently trying to solve a couple of problems before we can get back underway with our Lake Michigan whale-watching trips and "swim with the dolphins" program (by renowned marine-biologist George Bell).

1. Hector the whale-spotter has gone back to Guatemala for a month-long vacation/siesta. This could not have come at a worse time for those of us here at LMWW. Without Hector, we have no way of spotting the whales from high atop the sand dunes. We are currently training his understudy, Ricardo, however, it is a very steep learning curve. He's almost ready, though the loss of Hector is a huge blow to our operation.
2. Tranquil, one of our sturdy vessels, had a ruptured seacock and flooded. Unfortunately, the bilge pump is from a salt-water vessel and can only pump salt-water, not fresh-water. We did not know this when we purchased Tranquil. This has now been repaired and she is almost ready for service.
3. The FCC has severely curtailed our flights on the Admiral and Island Cynthia from Chicago to the Ernie Broglio Marina and Seaplane Lagoon. We are negotiating for resumption of our landing rights as we speak.
4. We understand that the whales and dolphins have begun their fall journey back to their winter home in Hudson Bay. This is not really a problem; it happens each year as the waters of Lake Michigan get a little cool for them. However, we expect 2003 will be just as good as 2002 for whale watching in the beautiful waters of southern Lake Michigan.

When Hector returns from Guatamala and Tranquil is again ready, I am sure that our service will resume as previously offered. I think the whales miss us, I know the dolphins do! Thank you for your patience.

- The Staff at Lake Michigan Whale Watching

This website is not intended for readers under 18 years of age, and is for entertainment purposes only.

None of the material in this website may be reproduced in any way, shape or form in any other written publication or web site without prior written permission from Lake Michigan Whale Watching.