

Know Your Dolphins

(most commonly seen along the Iveragh coast)



Common Dolphin/ Deilf choiteann

- 1.5 to 2.7m long, slender and streamlined bodies, with slim beak
- Dark grey back with yellow/grey hourglass pattern on flanks
- Mostly appearing in groups
- Often seen bow riding
- Seen in Kenmare and Dingle Bay, occasionally observed from headlands (e.g. Bray Head, Cangelass Point)

Bottlenose Dolphin/ Deilf bholgshrónach

- 2.5 to 3.8m long, robust bodies with short, thick beak
- Uniform grey body with pale underside
- Appearing in groups or as single individuals
- Sometimes seen bow riding and leaping out of the water
- Seen in Kenmare and Dingle Bay (e.g. Portmagee, Caherdaniel, Valentia Island)



Risso's Dolphin/ Deilf liath

- Approx. 3.2m long, bulky bodies with bulbous head and no beak
- Uniform grey body which turns lighter/ white over lifetime due to scarring, fluke and flippers remain dark
- Often appearing in groups
- May avoid boats
- Seen in Kenmare and Dingle Bay (e.g. Hog's Head, Bray Head)

NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH: Harbour Porpoise/ Mhuc mhara

- 1.45 – 1.5m long, compact bodies with rounded head and small, triangular dorsal fin
- Uniform grey body with pale underside
- Shy towards boats and other species
- Usually very brief surfacing sequences
- Frequently seen in Ballinskellig's Bay



Know Your Whales

(most commonly seen along the Iveragh coast)



Minke Whale/ Droimeiteach beag

- Up to 8m long (average), slender and streamlined bodies, with pointed head
- Dark grey back with light belly and distinct white band around pectoral fins
- Often seen as single individuals, but travel occasionally in small groups
- Seen in Kenmare and Dingle Bay, observed from Bolus and Lamb's Head

Humpback Whale/ Míol mór dronnach

- 14-17m long
- black bodies with white pectoral fins/ flippers, that grow up to 1/3rd of their body length
- Appearing as single individuals or sometimes in small groups
- Tail-fluke before deep dives
- Observed from headlands (e.g. Bray Head)



Fin Whale/ Droimeiteach

- 21-25m long, streamlined body with pointed head
- Grey to dark grey backs with lighter belly, right jaws asymmetrically coloured (white lower and dark upper)
- Often appearing in groups
- Observed from headlands (e.g. Bray Head)

