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GRAY WHALE SEASON CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION
*Whales migrate through Dana Point year round,
But Gray Whales only appear now through April*

DANA POINT, Calif. –The migration season for the magnificent Gray Whales officially begins for Dana Wharf on Friday, Nov. 23 and continues through the end of April. Dana Wharf Whale Watching offers several daily excursions to view and learn about the massive creatures as they migrate south toward the warm waters of Mexico.

As the originator of whale watching in Orange County, Dana Wharf provides whale watchers unique experiences by offering year round excursions aboard comfortable boats with experienced, knowledgeable captains who narrate and inform on all sightings.

Dana Point is known as a landmark for whale sightings, and Dana Wharf Whale Watching provides an unforgettable experience to passengers for viewing Gray Whales during their natural migration. The “Grays” have been known to spy hop, breach, and fluke as they make their way toward warmer waters for the winter. Dana Wharf’s two-hour whale watching cruises provide the chance to see these beautiful creatures as well as large pods of dolphin, sea lions, birds and other exciting marine life. Unlike other marine mammals, Gray Whales are only here for a short few months.

Expert captains and certified naturalists narrate each excursion, detailing the whales’ movements through their natural migration path. Every trip is a new and different adventure, but all showcase the beauty of the Pacific Ocean world right here, off the coast of Dana Point.

Excursions depart at 10AM, 12 Noon and 2PM daily. Prices for adults are \$45, seniors 55 years and older \$35, \$25 for kids (ages 3–12), and children 2 and under are always free. Most trips are aboard the impeccable 95’ Dana Pride, featuring indoor seating and upper deck viewing areas, a full cash bar and galley snacks served with a smile. Two hour cruises to view marine life aboard the newest addition to our fleet, the Ocean Adventures Catamaran; a local’s favorite is also priced at above rates. Those looking for a deal can come on the famous half priced Tuesday where all tickets are half price!

Back by popular demand: Exclusive WYLAND ART LESSON IN THE WILD

Program: Returning in January, a groundbreaking partnership continues. Wyland, the renowned environmental artist has teamed up with Dana Wharf to offer Wyland Dolphin and Whale Adventures, “Art Lessons in the Wild.” Passengers learn how marine wildlife inspired Wyland to create some of the best-known paintings and sculptures of our lifetime. Before each 10am Whale Watching excursion on Saturdays and Sundays, children will get an art lesson from Wyland, via video feed. This cruise also includes pre boarding at 9am. Each child participating will be charged \$5.00 with proceeds going to the Wyland Foundation. All art materials are provided. All children’s art will be entered into a contest to win prizes including the grand prize – a private whale watching charter with famed marine artist Wyland as your guide! The mission of Wyland’s foundation is to

give children the tools they need to become more creative, positive, and solution-oriented through public art programs.

Dana Wharf and Wyland also have several other surprises for visitors during the contest months. Trips will sell out and advance reservations are required. For more on the foundation visit <http://www.wylandfoundation.org>

About Gray Whales and their Migration South

The Gray whale migration is one of the longest mammalian odysseys on the planet. These 45-foot gentle giants swim up to 14,000 miles round trip, leaving their feeding grounds in the Bering and Chukchi Seas and heading south for their mating and calving lagoons in Baja California, Mexico. In the safety of these calm lagoons, newborn calves acquire a critical layer of fat from mother's milk, so they can survive the long return journey northward, closely escorted by their mothers. During migration, gray whales of this eastern Pacific population can be seen swimming offshore (3-6 mph on average) with the naked eye or binoculars. But to get close enough for a whiff of their blow mist, you need a boat.

About Dana Wharf Whale Watching

Dana Wharf is celebrating over 40 years of Whale Watching and is the original, family-owned and operated whale watching landing in South Orange County.