

Parker Cottage's Guide To ... Whale Watching in the Cape

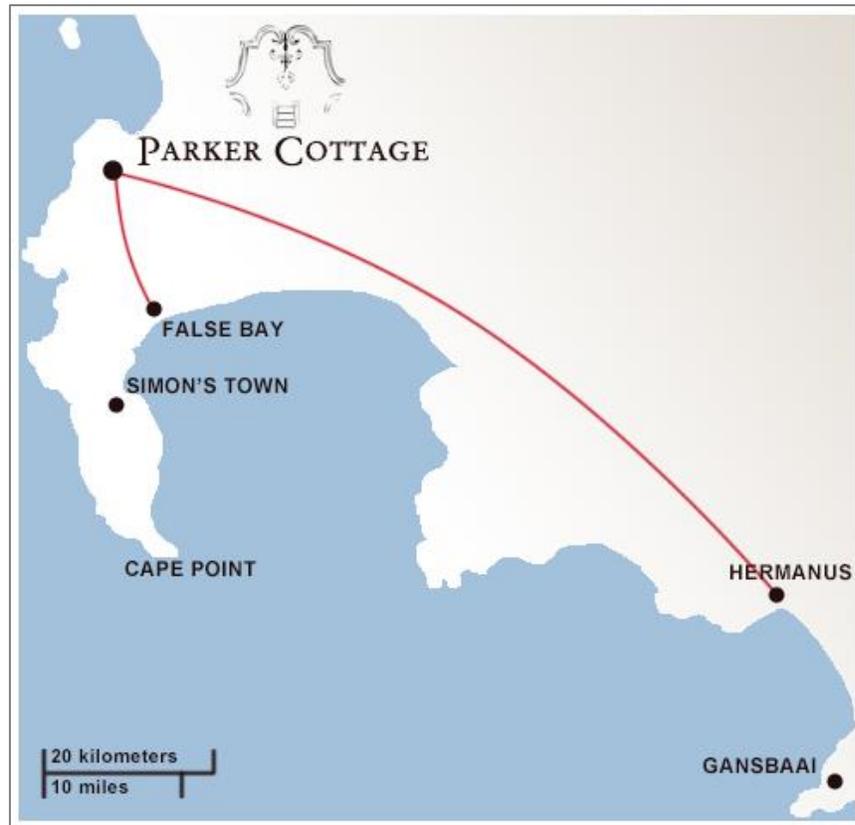


Whale watching is one of the main reasons why visitors come to South Africa in droves. It's possible to get (seemingly) very close to these majestic animals from the shore.

The Southern Right whale is the big attraction and a frequent visitor to our shores: the calving of these whales happens along the Overberg coast (near Hermanus) between June and September but there are still some whales around in the summer (until about mid December if you're lucky).

Parker Cottage

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Hermanus

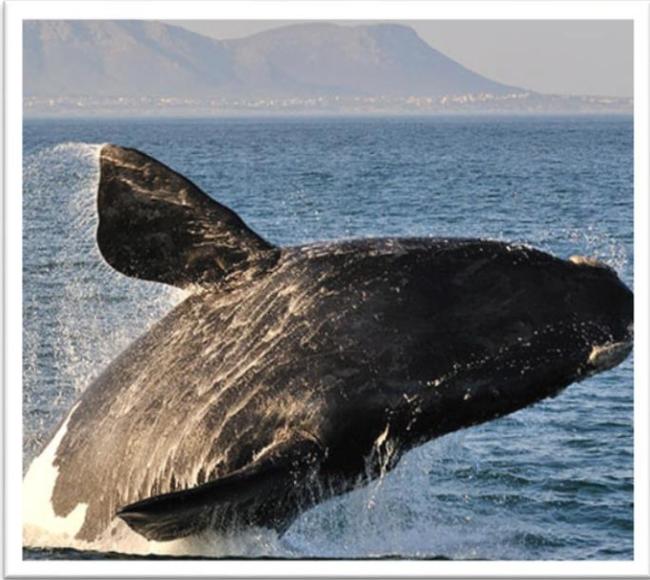
The most famous place to whale watch is Hermanus, but not because there are necessarily any more whales there than anywhere else on the Overberg coast but simply because the land based (i.e. from a cliff top) whale watching is exceptionally good. You're looking at again a two hour drive from Cape Town to Hermanus so that makes it a day trip at least.

You can also do boat based and kayak based whale watching in Hermanus too. Have a look this company:
www.percytours.com/kayaking-with-whales-in-hermanus



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False Bay



Alternatively, you can if you're lucky still see some whales in False Bay, which is closer to Cape Town from Simonstown.

The western half of False Bay – stretching from Strandfontein all the way to Cape Point is one of the finest boat based whale watching sites in South Africa. This area is sheltered from the open ocean, surrounded by stunning views & provides an ideal winter home for the Southern Right Whales. They visit each year between June & November to mate, calve, or simply to get away from the icy Antarctic winter. Interacting with

these gigantic & magnificent mammals alongside a boat is an experience that will stay with you for the rest of your life. Be ready to photograph one breaching or giving you a friendly wave with its tail!

Have a look at this site to see what you think of this option: www.boatcompany.co.za/i_whaleviewing

There's a really good site which gives you lots of information on all the types of whales you can see near Cape Town here: www.whaleroute.com