

"LIFE'S A BEACH"

Episode 02

First Draft 03/30/17

SERIES INTRO:

001

Blazing sun

002

Pristine white sand

003

Clear blue water

004

Words of leisure

005

A world of vacation spots

006

From Barbados

007

To the Barrier Reef

008

Whether you're into roaring waves with your family and friends

009

Or quiet shade by yourself

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These are the destinations of your dreams

011

The beaches of your life

EPISODE INTRO

012

From a diversity of life beneath the waves

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To the wild action above them

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This episode will explore the beaches of eastern Australia with its infamous barrier reef

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Filled with thousands of species of marine animals

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Among them being whales

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As we'll also look at the practice of whale watching around the world

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From migration routes to safety measures

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But not before finding out everything there is to know about windsurfing

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From recent origins to different styles and boards

021

Along with where to find the best waves and how to find the style that best suits you

022

All to give you a glimpse of what's in store for you in the beaches of your life

SEGMENT 1:

023

One of the most popular vacation spots of the Southern Hemisphere

024

Queensland, Australia is the second largest state of the country

025

It features a diverse climate ranging between tropical, subtropical and temperate

026

Also featuring a vast stretch of white sand beaches all along the north eastern coastline of the continent, spanning nearly 4000 miles

027

Around which most of the major cities and population centers of the state are centered

028

Home to 4 million people, most centered on the South East and the city of Brisbane with its surrounding area

029

The most popular location for tourists include Brisbane, Cairns, Port Douglas, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and the Great Barrier Reef in the Coral Sea with its surrounding islands

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The Great Barrier Reef being the world's largest coral reef system of nearly 3000 individual reefs over an area of over 130 000 square miles

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A huge natural phenomenon unlike any other

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The reef can reportedly even be seen from space with the naked eye

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It was formed over 20 000 years ago, soon becoming a home to the aboriginals of Queensland

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The area was first discovered by western civilization as French explorer Louis de Bougainville was first forced to turn back after nearly running aground on the reef before reaching the shore

035

Today the Great Barrier Reef and many of its surrounding islands and areas have been declared part of a protected marine park

036

It is a primary target for tourists coming from all over the world

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With a greater diversity of marine life than any other single location in the world, it is home to over 1600 species of fish and another 8000 species of other marine animals

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The reef alone attracting 2 million tourists every year on cruises, island hopping, diving and watersports all along the reef

039

Snorkeling as well as scuba diving being most popular, with hundreds of diving shops and diving schools along the coast and the adjacent islands

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Where you can be trained over the course of a day to learn how to dive as well as identify the most common types of reef fish, crustaceans and marine reptiles

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Including 6 of the 7 species of sea turtles found to pass through the area during their yearly migration

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The warm, clear blue waters continue north and south of the reef

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Also inviting surfers and wakeboarders along with jetskiers and waterskiers

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Equipment rentals and guides being found on nearly every major beach of the area

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With widespread tour boats existing all across the region occurring daily

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From day trips to longer cruises using anything from small motorboats to mega yachts

047

As well as regular helicopter tours to provide a bird's eye view of the coastline and reefs

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With significant licensing proceeds from tourism operations going to the research and maintenance of the reef

049

If you're into sportfishing, a rented yacht and a valid fishing license are available to be issued by local authorities at any time

050

With over 3000 fishing guides available throughout the Queensland coastal region to take you to the premier fishing spots just outside of the protected reef area

051

As many of the species of fish available to catch can't be found anywhere else on earth, Queensland has become one of the most popular places for sportfishing in the world

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If island hopping is your preferred activity, there are more than 600 islands in the Barrier Reef area alone

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Nearly all of which featuring pristine white sand beaches, clear blue skies year-round and docks for tour boats and dinghies everywhere

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Among the most popular islands to visit being Fraser Island, the largest sand island in the world

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Where you can rent all-terrain vehicles to go on a four-wheel drive exploration of the windswept beaches

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With the Seventy Five Mile Beach being the center of all tourist activity on the island

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Providing access to nearby shipwreck diving, bubbling rock pools and picture-perfect sandstone cliffs

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While deeper within the island you may find beautiful lakes and streams such as Lake McKenzie

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Being a so-called perched lake without any streams or flows feeding it, its water consisting only of pure rainwater with minimal marine life

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Making its sand pure white silica, unpolluted by fish or microorganisms, acting as a filter and keeping the water consistently pure

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Along with kayaking, jet skiing and wind surfing spots throughout the island

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A short ferry ride back to the mainland and you may find Hervey Bay, a world-renowned whale watching spot for humpback whales travelling north from July until November

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The nearby Whitsunday Islands, all 74 of them, further featuring some of the best island resorts in the world

064

As well as Whitehaven Beach, its powder fine sand and dazzling clear blue waters making it known worldwide as one of the most beautiful beaches in existence

065

Also featuring the incredible Heart Reef, named as such due to its unique shape, best seen from the air by helicopter or seaplane, available as regularly schedule tours or private rentals

066

Many tours combining a scenic flight over Heart Reef and Whitehaven Beach with other sights such as the Hill Inlet

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While back on the mainland, the Gold Coast offers some of the best surfing in Australia

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Including the world-renowned stretch of beach known as Surfer's Paradise

069

Here you can find surfing equipment rentals and schools everywhere along the length of the beach

070

While the shopping and dining districts are only minutes away

071

Brisbane being not far from it, with a thriving culture and arts scene

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Where you may go from the beach or poolside straight to a paddle steamer or ferry downriver

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While in the far north, you may explore the historic city of Cairns

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Where you can find not only pristine white sands but bustling marketplaces and quiet cafes

075

As well as several five-star resorts as Cairns also hosts an international airport of its own, accommodating tourists from all over the world

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Just two hours further north of Cairns, you can also find the Daintree Rainforest, the world's oldest tropical rainforest

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With 600 million year old ferns alongside luxury eco lodges as your over-night accommodation

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While if you want to get back to the beach, Port Douglas and Palm Cove are only a short drive away

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Also offering their own fine dining as well as mountain bike tours and water sports

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With sailing being a popular sport from Port Douglas down to the Low Isles of the Barrier Reef for the ultimate inner reef experience

SEGMENT 2:

081

Among the most popular water sports is windsurfing

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Combining both surfing and sailing, joining the laid back culture of the former with the stricter rule-based environment of the latter for competitive purposes

083

Though similar wind-powered designs of simple boards and boats had existed for centuries, particularly in Polynesian cultures

084

Windsurfing boards as we know them today were only first invented in 1963 by Newman Darby who began selling his so called sailboard by the Susquehanna River of Pennsylvania, United States

085

Though the first designs were square rigged and appeared more like a miniaturized traditional sail of a sailboat with limited maneuverability

086

It was soon augmented and improved upon by other manufacturers such as Jim Drake and Hoyle Schweitzer patenting their universal joint sail design

087

Coming in longboard design, longer than 10 feet with a retractable daggerboard underneath and optimized for lighter winds and course racing

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And shortboard design, being less than 10 feet and designed for planing, or the practice of raising the board above water by the sailor shifting his or her weight

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So that it glides over the waves rather than plowing through them

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Most modern boards are derived from the shortboard

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Being between 8 to 10 feet long with the sail rig being connected to the board by a free-rotating universal joint

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The board varying in size, shape and weight to accommodate differing styles with varying maneuverability and speed

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Made out of various materials, most commonly polystyrene foam with composite carbon fiber, Kevlar or fiberglass shells, set in a matrix of epoxy, plywood or thermoplastics

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The average board ranging in weight between 11 to 33 pounds, beginner boards being heavier with more fiberglass for added stability

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The sail rig itself then consisting of a mast, a 2 sided boom and a sail with a surface area of anywhere between 25 to 130 square feet

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The size of the sail largely depending on the board, the sailor's skill, body weight and the type of sailing being attempted

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Larger sizes being more common with experienced sailors, as they require more strength to control, enabling higher speeds

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The sail being most often made out of clear polyester monofilm, woven polyester also known as dacron, or mylar

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With reinforced areas of the sail made out of Kevlar at stress points where tearing or breaking may otherwise occur

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The shape of the sail upheld by 1 to 5 battens, or horizontal flexible strips of wood, plastic or composite materials throughout the sail

101

Windsurfing thus offers an experience far outside the norm for other sailing craft designs, including jumps, loops and spins that cannot be matched by any sailboat

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Even able to take on waves too big for traditional surfing

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All steering being accomplished by the sailor shifting his or her weight to tilt the sail

104

Experiencing a significant boom during the late 70s and early 80s

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First becoming recognized as an Olympic sport in 1984

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With the RS:X category of racing being the Olympic category for windsurfing

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Wherein all the racers participate with the same longboard sized board and standardized sail size of 102 square feet for men, 91 square feet for women

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Racing across a predetermined route to get to the finish line first

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Massive wind ranges making the racers reach speed of over 30 knots in some conditions

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Other competition formats also including Formula windsurfing, being highly similar to RS:X competitions

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But with lighter boards, massive fins and large sails to achieve higher speeds

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Slalom being another similar category with heavier boards, divided into two formats

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Regatta, being a traditional sailing race much like sailing

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And speed sailing, being strictly a competition of reaching maximum speed and comparing times across a given course

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For more leisurely formats, sailors are judged less on time and more on style

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Such as with wave sailing, where in the sailors surf the waves with jumps and tricks, getting points for both wave rides and jumps based on difficulty and style

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And freestyle, consisting of jumping tricks on flat water in which combinations of sail and board rotations are carried out with points rewarded for complicated maneuvers and tricks

118

Though windsurfing is today predominately undertaken as a non-competitive leisure sport known as freeride

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Sailing back and forth, maneuvering through leaning, jibing and tacking

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Jibing being shifts of direction by turning the sail itself

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Tacking being turning the bow of the board by the sailor shifting their weight

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The most popular spots for windsurfing today existing off the west coast of the United States, Hawaii, Australia's east coast and throughout the Indonesian islands

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The Hawaiian island of Maui often considered the windsurfing capital of the world with some of the biggest waves in the world, such as at Ho'okipa beach on the north side of the island

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Featuring up to 20 foot tall waves

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Being host to several international competitions and tournaments every year as a result

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While the fastest windsurfing conditions can be found in Boracay, Philippines

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Wind speeds reaching up to 30 miles an hour during high season between December until April, while the shallow lagoon reefs keep the choppy waves out

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The Boracay International Funboard Cup being one of the biggest slalom events in the world

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While beginners and intermediates may find their ideal windsurfing experience in Lac Bay beach on the eastern shore of Bonaire, a Dutch Caribbean Island just north of Venezuela

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With gentle enough breezes and knee-deep calm waters ideal for starting windsurfers

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If you're looking for a greater challenge, Lake Arenal of Costa Rica features the most challenging windsurfing conditions on freshwater

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Being 1300 feet above sea level and caught between two mountain ranges funneling hard winds and choppy waters ideal for high-speed sailing and jumping

133

While if you want a more varied experience Wellington, New Zealand is not only the windiest capital in the world, but has some of the best beaches for windsurfing right adjacent to it

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Making trips to and from the hotel and shops quick and easy

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While broader, family friendly affairs may already be found on the coast of North Carolina, along a 200 mile strip of barrier islands known as the Outer Banks

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Accommodating anyone from hardcore boardheads to beginners and kids

SEGMENT 3:

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Whale watching

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A common recreational activity near many popular beaches by the open ocean

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Whale watching attracts huge crowds every year

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Starting with the first organized whale watching in 1950

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When the Cabrillo National Monument of San Diego became the first declared public venue for observing migratory Gray Whales

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Attracting over 10 000 people already in its first year

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Later expanding to boat tours and observations of many other species of whales and dolphins alike

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The activity was soon championed by a wide variety of conservation organizations as a means for public education

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Definitively proving the value of living whales in the face of an already declining whaling industry

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Several areas since designated protected wildlife zones for the specific purpose of continued whale watching boosting local economies

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Today, as many as 13 million people engage in recreational whale watching every year

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Employing over 13000 workers as guides and tour boat operators worldwide

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With more and more comprehensive literature coming out every year detailing how to identify and approach the whales and where to find them

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Most whale watching conducted either from the shore or on small motorboats in groups of anywhere between 10 to 50 visitors, often led by one or more experienced guides

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Binoculars and life jackets widely available for rent along with the tour, along with wetsuits and other snorkeling and diving gear to swim alongside the whales in some areas

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The most popular sites for whale watching include Hermanus of South Africa, employing whale criers announcing sightings of southern right whales from the shore

153

While Port Elizabeth and Plettenberg Bay are well known for their extensive whale watching tours at sea, primarily of humpback whales, Bryde's whales and southern right whales

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In South America, the primary whale watching sites include Salvador of Brazil, as well as the National Marine Park of Abrolhos

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Where humpback whales may be observed during their breeding season June to September

156

The town of Imbituba becoming the whale capital of South America at large for the many southern right whale mother and calf pairs that appear off its coast

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In Patagonia of Argentina, one may also find the largest breeding population of southern right whales in the world, particularly centered around the towns of Puerto Piramides and Puerto Madryn

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While in the north, the east coast off of Long Island and New England becomes the whale watching central of the Northwest Atlantic from April until October

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With many sightings of humpbacks, fin whales, minke whales and the endangered North Atlantic right whale

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The town of Nantucket of Massachusetts having previously been the center of the US whaling industry at large

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With additional tours in Canadian waters off Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, themselves featuring over 22 different species of whales and dolphins

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The coast of Virginia also provides a brief migration corridor for the North Atlantic right whale from December until March, where pregnant females pass through on their way south to Florida every year

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25 species also found throughout the Caribbean waters seasonally, including sperm whales and beaked whales along with many species of dolphins

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In the northeast Atlantic whale watching activities is widespread throughout the northern and western coastlines of continental Europe

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With frequent sightings of gigantic blue whales from car ferries between the UK, France and Spain

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Similarly, humpback whales and fin whales may regularly be seen off the south coast of Ireland between July and February, while orcas and several species of dolphins may be sighted year-round

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Larger groups of orcas may also often be sighted along the coast of northern Norway as huge numbers of herring gathers in the fjords over the winter months, providing ample food supply

168

The fastest growing whale watching industry found on Iceland however, with many of its towns formerly dedicated to the whaling industry today focusing almost entirely on whale watching year-round

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While in Portugal, the primary sites for whale watching include Lagos, Portimao and Algarve, where visitors may observe bottlenose dolphins, pilot whales and orcas alike

170

Tarifa of Spain similarly being one of the most popular sites for whale watching activities, overlooking the strait of Gibraltar where many species of migratory dolphins and smaller whales pass through to and from the warmer waters of the Mediterranean

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Popular mid-Atlantic vacation spots such as Madeira and the Azores also feature significant whale watching tours of calving sperm whales

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The Canary Islands of Spain also popular for many different whale sightings of blue whale, Bryde's whale and various species of dolphin

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In the Pacific, the most popular areas for whale sightings include off the coast of Alaska during the summer as up to 10 000 North Pacific humpback whales begin or complete their migration to and from Hawaii

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With additional popular sites found along the coast of British Columbia and in Puget Sound of Washington state, where orcas may be sighted from the shoreline

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On the Oregon coast gray whales may be seen year-round, with significant tours during winter season

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Point Vicente of southern California likewise being a focal point for gray whale migration during December until May, with blue whales sighted between July and October

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Lagoons of Baja California Sur also being significant breeding sites for whales between February to March, celebrated in a number of local towns with widespread festivities

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The largest whale watching industries otherwise found in China, Taiwan and Japan

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Chinese whale watching primarily focused on Sanniang Bay in Guangxi, while in Japan, the greatest numbers of whale watchers gather around Okinawa, Zamami, Ogasawara and Mikura-Jima

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Dolphins and whale sharks also being the target of whale watching activities throughout the South China Sea, Indonesia and the Philippines

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While sperm whales and southern humpback whales may be abundant seasonally off the coast of Queensland's Sunshine Coast and Kaikoura of New Zealand

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While whale watching doesn't directly harm the animals, significant regulations exist in many locations as to the exact extent of whale watching tours and movements

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So as not to disrupt the migratory patterns and breeding cycles of the highly sensitive whales

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Including low speeds, minimized noise and avoidance of sudden turns and pursuit of the animals

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As well as strict adherence to maximum daily tour restrictions

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While some regions may be more or less stringent with regulations regarding swimming alongside the whales and dolphins, with particular caution taken with juvenile whales and dolphins

OUTRO:

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Whether you're looking for whales

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Or the best windsurfing spots

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Or just looking

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There's a whole world of beaches out there

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Waiting for you

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From Queensland, Australia

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To Costa Rica and South Africa

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From tournaments

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And private tour boats

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To white sand beaches

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And 20 foot waves

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Anything you want

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Anytime you want

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Life's a beach if you want it to be