

Understanding a little about humpback whale biology enriches the whale watching experience on Kaanapali Ocean Adventures seasonal tours. The whales that winter in Maui Nui waters are not just spectacular wildlife. They are fascinating animals with complex behavior patterns that Captain Dan's 45 years of observation have given him exceptional insight into. North Pacific humpback whales are the largest animals that winter in Hawaiian waters, reaching lengths of 45 to 50 feet and weights of 40 tons. The enormous pectoral fins, which can reach 15 feet in length, are proportionally the largest pectoral fins of any cetacean and give the species its scientific name *Megaptera novaeangliae*, meaning big-winged New Englander. Humpbacks migrate annually between summer feeding grounds in Alaska and the North Pacific and winter breeding and calving grounds in Hawaii. This migration, covering thousands of miles each way, is undertaken without feeding. The whales live off fat reserves accumulated during the Alaskan summer throughout their time in Hawaiian waters.

Kaanapali Ocean Adventures | 2435 Kaanapali Pkwy, Lahaina, HI 96761 | +1 808-633-3138



Kaanapali Ocean Adventures

Kaanapali Snorkel Tours

2435 Kaanapali Pkwy, Lahaina, HI 96761

+1 808-633-3138

Black Teal

Kaanapali Snorkel Tours

Male humpbacks sing in Hawaiian waters, producing the complex, repetitive vocalizations that have made humpback song one of the most studied phenomena in animal communication. The songs change across populations and years in patterns that researchers continue to investigate. Songs are audible underwater at long distances and can sometimes be heard from aboard the vessel. Humpback breaching, the dramatic full-body leap that is the most spectacular whale behavior, may serve multiple purposes including communication, parasite removal, and play. The frequency of breaching behavior varies by individual, age, and social context. The late December through [Kaanapali Snorkel Tours](#) early April window represents peak whale density in Maui Nui, with concentrations that have made these waters among the most productive for whale research anywhere in the world. Book your whale <https://anotepad.com/notes/cqpnmfyc> watch at +1 808-633-3138.