

Hovercraft:

- High-speed vessels, including hovercraft, can only operate outside setting areas, in a setting 1 (intensive) area, and a designated motorised water sports area.

Refer to p. 41 for standalone motorised guided tours using jetskis.

Non-motorised water sport such as stand-up paddle boarding and kayaking can be conducted as part of a vessel-based tourist program.

All equipment must remain within 3 nautical miles of the primary vessel.



Consider other Marine Parks users when storing non-motorised equipment within the **intertidal area** during your visit.

5.7 Whale watching and the Whale Protection Area



The Whitsundays is an important calving ground for humpback whales that migrate north from the Southern Ocean during winter (May to September).

Approach distances apply to all cetaceans across the Marine Parks under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019*.



To ensure the wellbeing and safety of the whales and their calves, the majority of the Whitsundays is a Whale Protection Area (refer Map 3, p. 10) and more stringent approach distances apply (refer Figure 3). **Whale watching** as part of a tourist program is prohibited inside the Whale Protection Area.

Outside the Whale Protection Area, a permit is required to conduct whale watching as part of a tourist program.

Figure 3 – Whale approach distances – Whitsunday Whale Protection Area

