



SWIM WITH THE WORLD-RENOWNED WHALES OF THE SILVER BANK WITH NECKER BELLE

What's it all about? No one knows quite why, but during the winter months the North Atlantic Humpback whale starts a long annual migration from north to south. The exact route they take can vary, but one area they're sure to visit is the Silver Bank, now famous as a breeding and calving zone for these magnificent mammals, attracting more humpback whales per year than anywhere else on earth – anywhere from 5,000 to 7,000 each season. As you might expect, the Silver Bank is now a protected sanctuary.

While they're performing elaborate courtship rituals humpback whales spend a lot of time on the surface, often as a group of males strutting their stuff as they try to impress the females. This behaviour often turns to aggression as the whales ram and flop over each other to get the best position – a truly stunning spectacle usually accompanied by whale song!

The experience: A visit to the Silver Bank doesn't just mean you get to watch from the deck of Necker Belle, you'll also have the opportunity to get into the water - known as a soft in-water encounter - to get even closer to these magnificent creatures. The contact is passive floating in snorkelling gear allowing the whales to develop an interest and approach as they feel comfortable.

Our expert: With over 20 years of experience with whales in the Silver Bank, expert Tom Conlin of Aquatic Adventures will be your guide on board and in the water.

Where is it? The Silver Bank is situated approximately 100km north of the town of Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic, with sailing times of about 6-7 hours. From the north the Silver Bank is 250km southeast of Providenciales, the location of the main international airport in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

How do I get there? Both Puerto Plata and Providenciales airports in the Dominican Republic and the Turks and Caicos Islands, respectively, have scheduled daily direct flights from a number of major US cities including New York and Miami.

What are the dates?

Necker Belle is available for 7-night charters including 2.5 days in the Silver Bank area before continuing on to your preferred destination. All dates below are for **charters in 2012**. Please note these are suggested dates only and we can be flexible.

CHARTER COMMENCES	SILVER BANK DATES	CHARTER ENDS
FEB 16	FEB 16 - 19	FEB 23
FEB 23	FEB 23 – 26	MAR 1
MAR 1	MAR 1 – 4	MAR 8
MAR 8	MAR 8 – 11	MAR 15
MAR 15	MAR 15 – 18	MAR 22
MAR 22	MAR 22 – 25	MAR 29



How much?

The weekly charter rate for exclusive hire of Necker Belle for a 7 day charter is US\$130,000 to include accommodation, a crew of seven plus this unique whale watching experience. This excludes the standard 25% advance provisioning allowance (APA).

What is there to do on board Necker Belle when you're not whale watching?

- Our on-board chef will whip up a series of culinary delights precisely to your tastes, or if you don't mind trying new things, we're happy to make the decisions for you!
- Wakeboard with a speed boat capable of 40 knots
- Relax in the clear waters of the Caribbean and choose from water-skiing, game fishing and scuba diving, or take it easy with some sun bathing on our forward beam trampoline
- Watch films on the aft deck with our open air cinema
- We'll create a tailor-made itinerary just for you, so you can sit back, relax and enjoy your cruise in paradise

Any extras?

As is standard with yacht charters, an advance provisioning allowance (APA) will apply and this is calculated to be approximately 25% of the weekly rate in addition to the charter cost to cover the operating expenses such as fuel, food, port fees, harbour dues, customs, water and electricity, personal laundry, all provisions, wines, beers, spirits, soft drinks and consumables for your party. You're welcome to view the APA tally onboard at any time and when your cruise comes to an end, the captain will work out if you owe us, or we owe you!

Terms and conditions

- *This offer is subject to availability and set arrival and departure dates will apply*
- *All our normal terms and conditions apply*

To book please contact:

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