



## WHALE WATCHING FIELD TRIP PACKET

June 29 – July 3, 2009

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*National Marine Educators Association Conference 2009  
Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, CA*

Dear NMEA Participant,

Thank you for registering for the Monterey Bay Whale Watching Cruise on Friday, July 3! The Monterey Bay is a fantastic location for marine mammal and wildlife viewing. Enclosed you will find information regarding where to meet and what to bring. Please review all information before attending the field trip. Transportation will be provided to and from Asilomar Conference Grounds. Please meet in front of Phoebe Hearst Social Hall at Asilomar Conference Grounds at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, July 3. If you have any questions, please contact the NMEA staff at [nmea09@mbayaq.org](mailto:nmea09@mbayaq.org) with the name of your field trip in the subject line. Thank you for your participation!

Sincerely,

Rachael VanderWalde  
Whale Watching Field Trip Coordinator

Email: [nmea09@mbayaq.org](mailto:nmea09@mbayaq.org)  
Fax: (831) 647-4526, Attention: NMEA Field Trips- Whale Watching

## WHALE WATCHING FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

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Take advantage of the unique opportunity to view the diverse inhabitants of the Monterey Bay during our 2.5 to 3 hour cruise aboard the 75-foot *Pacific Explorer*. During the summer months, the nutrient-rich water attracts a variety of magnificent marine mammals. Humpback, fin, minke and orca whales all feed here as well as the mighty blue. Large pods of porpoises and dolphins also frequent the Monterey Bay. Perhaps you'll be one of the lucky ones to spot an occasional leatherback sea turtle or sunfish. The cruise ends at 12:00 p.m. The bus will depart from in back of the Maritime Museum at 1:30 p.m. allowing time for shopping, snacks or sightseeing. This tour is open to people of all ages. The boat can accommodate only 100 passengers.

**Departure time:** 8:00 a.m.

At the Phoebe Hearst Social Hall, Asilomar Conference Grounds  
Please be on time! We need to leave promptly at 8:15 a.m. If you plan on taking your own vehicle to the event, please let us know in advance.

**Return time:** By 1:45 p.m.

Phoebe Hearst Social Hall, Asilomar Conference Grounds

**Vessel:**

Participants will board the 75-foot *Pacific Explorer* from the end of Fisherman's Wharf. This vessel has a full, walk-around lower deck with bench seats. The cabin is fully heated, has bench seats with tables and extra large windows, restrooms and a full service cash-only snack bar. The cruise will depart from the wharf by 8:45 a.m. and will return by noon. You will have some time on the wharf before the 1:30 p.m. departure of the bus to Asilomar.

**Clothing:**

Weather on the bay can be unpredictable. To fully enjoy the trip, we suggest the following: warm layers, long pants, windproof jacket, hat, sunglasses, flat closed-toed shoes and sunscreen. Please also bring a bag or backpack in which to carry your lunch.

**Food:**

Asilomar will provide a lunch-to-go and have water coolers at Phoebe Hearst Social Hall. We suggest bringing a filled water bottle so you have water readily accessible at all times. NMEA staff will distribute lunches to individual participants prior to departure. Please bring a bag or backpack in which to carry your lunch. Additional snacks and drinks may be purchased on board with cash.

**Medication:**

Bring along any necessary seasick medications. **If you have a tendency toward seasickness, please take preventive medication at least 30 minutes prior to boarding.**