

November 17, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dana Point, CA

Dana Point: Proposed Whale Heritage Site

Dana Point, the Dolphin & Whale Watching Capital of the World[®] <https://www.danapointwhalewatching.com/> is pleased to announce their candidacy as a Whale Heritage Site, as established by the World Cetacean Alliance (WCA).

A Whale Heritage Site is an outstanding location where cetaceans (whales, dolphins, or porpoises) are embraced through the cultural, economic, social, and political lives of associated communities, and where people and cetaceans coexist in an authentic and respectful way.

Donna Kalez and Gisele Anderson, Co-Directors, of the [Dana Point Whale Watching Company](#) began the application process earlier this year after having successfully trademarked Dana Point as the Dolphin & Whale Capital of the World in 2019.

Kalez explained, "To have Dana Point recognized by the World as a Whale Heritage Site is a dream and has been a goal of mine for some time. Dana Point has long been an incredible destination to watch and learn about whales and dolphins and now we want the world to know."

Anderson added, "Being the first Whale Heritage Site in North America would be an amazing accomplishment and serve to further bring Dana Point and the whales and dolphins that live and visit here the recognition they deserve as well send a message to the world that Dana Point is also a place that protects and responsibly watches cetaceans."

The criteria for acceptance is incredibly challenging, focusing on protection, sustainability, education, research, public access and awareness, as well as requiring a community effort that seeks to further the purpose of a Whale Heritage Site.

Kalez added, "We have reached out to some of the people who had been supportive to us as we pursued the trademarking process and invited them to be part of our steering committee that is comprised of community leaders, academia, government representatives and local non- profits.

Currently there are eight candidate destinations from around the world, Dana Point being one of them. The [World Cetacean Alliance](#) states that "Each site is unique, providing and contributing in different ways to the criteria for becoming certified. During this process, the sites have been receiving a wealth of tailored support from the WCA to aid them in achieving their goal of certification as a world class whale or dolphin watching destination! "

The International Committee that reviews each site's extensive application will be meeting later this month and decisions are expected to be reached by year end.

Whale Heritage Sites give tourists a transparent and easy way to select responsible whale and dolphin watching destinations, encouraging them to experience these incredible animals in their natural habitat, in an authentic and respectful way.

To learn more about the Whale Heritage Sites go to <https://whaleheritagesites.org/sites/> and more about the World Cetacean Alliance <https://worldcetaceanalliance.org/>.

For further information:

Dana Point Whale Watching

Donna Kalez: 949-9219

Gisele Anderson: 949-257-9535