HERVEY BAY

SWIM-WITH-WHALES

IMPACT STUDY

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH BY **PACIFIC WHALE FOUNDATION**

See whales with the scientists and participate in research to better understand the impacts of "swim-with" tourism on humpback whales during their winter migration.

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN

1. **Gain a better understanding of humpback whale behaviour during the winter breeding and calving season;**
2. **Learn about human activities that can change humpback whale behaviour;**
3. **Find out how the research in which you participate will help ensure that Hervey Bay's humpback whales are not negatively impacted by swim-with tourism.**

YOUR ROLE IN THIS IMPORTANT RESEARCH

You will be 1 of 9 passengers in the water. When conditions permit, you will enter the water in the vicinity of humpback whales. While in the water you will hold on to a "mermaid line" (a secure hand line extending from the vessel) while our onboard researcher records whale behaviour. A trained lifeguard will accompany passengers in the water at all times. Whale behaviour while swimmers are in the water will be compared with their behaviour before and after swimmers are present.

- Swimming with whales is contingent on whale and weather conditions;
- Our primary focus during the trip will be to obtain necessary research data;
- Vessels may not approach whales closer than 100 metres. We will wait until the whales approach us, and at all times follow the Fraser Coast Code of Practice for immersive interactions with whales;
- Wetsuits and snorkel gear are provided;
- Remember: zinc based sunscreen is reef safe.

Your contribution directly contributes to our nonprofit Research, Education and Conservation work — all the while offering the opportunity of a lifetime.