Welcome...

Welcome to Eden as we celebrate the migration south of the whales and the Port of Eden.

Eden is unique because it is one of the few places in the world today where we can see humpback feed on the rich krill found in the waters at Twofold Bay.
The whales linger, feed and play close to the continental shelf where two mighty sea currents meet, making whale watching from either our water based cruises or from one of our many land-based lookouts a truly memorable experience.
The Whale Festival, for visitors and locals alike, is an opportunity to celebrate our rich heritage, our history and the truly unique relationship with creatures from the sea at the Eden Killer Whale Museum.

Explore the marine life with research and education today at the Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre.

Our natural environment and historical sites sit under the stewardship of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the working port itself at Snug Cove with the local fishing fleet, customs, water police and great sea food and, of course, the people of Eden.
The community - its enterprise, innovation, resilience and stories - continue the traditions. This is what we are celebrating.

There is a wonderful saying in the Shire: “If you sleep in the shadow of the mountains you will always return.”

Some of us never left, some of us have come to stay and if you are a visitor you should know that you will always be welcomed back, to linger, feed and play.

It is not just the whales who know this, ask a local!
On behalf of the Festival Committee, our many friends and supporters welcome you to the Eden Whale Festival 2012. Gordon Beattie Chair, Eden Whale Festival.

Come to Eden this weekend to see the whale “traffic” pull into Eden’s natural lay-by – Twofold Bay – off Australia’s remarkable ‘Humpback Highway’. PHOTO: Ros Butt, Cat Balou Cruises.

I am pleased to announce that Eden IGA are proud sponsors of the Eden Whale Festival. Drop in today to check out our fresh local produce.

Join the ‘Humpback Highway’ at Eden this weekend

With a bumper whale watching season expected this year, visitors and locals alike are joining the ‘Humpback Highway’ in Eden this whale watching season with higher than average numbers of whale mothers and calves being sighted recently.

Ros Butt of Cat Balou Cruises says numbers continue to rise year on year.

“It’s our 23rd whale watching season and over those years we have noticed a definite population increase,” she said.

Mothers with their calves have been sighted consistently since the beginning of September, which Ms Butt explained was earlier than usual. The whales are on their southern migration after birthing in the warmer waters of the tropical Coral Sea, to where they migrated in the months of June and July.

“This season is currently at its peak. The Humpback’s southern migration should hang around until late November,” said Ms Butt.

“We’re seeing Humpbacks mainly. But we did see a number of Dwarf Minke and Southern Right whales earlier in September,” she said.

Cat Balou Cruises have sighted whales on all of their cruises so far this season.

To add to that, whales are also becoming more vocal in the water.

“We have heard some very clear singing through the hydrophone,” said Ms Butt.

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Want to find out more about killer whales (orcas) and humpback whales?

Come and hear Dr Danielle Clode, author of Killers in Eden: The true story of killer whales and their remarkable partnership with the whales of Twofold Bay.

WHERE: Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre, Snug Cove, Eden.
ENTRY: $5 per person to the centre.

Stay on for ANU doctorate student Natalie Schmidt’s presentation about her work with genetic markers and humpback whales.

WHERE: Saturday, November 3 at 4.30pm.

Travel back to Eden’s whaling past… and experience the history of Eden’s shore based whaling industry when whales were harpooned from a rowing boat. Take a guided tour through the old Davidson homestead and see the colonial kitchen in action. Time it right and you might enjoy a light lunch. Tours provided by National Parks and Wildlife Service rangers.

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Another positive as a result of the population increase is that more mothers and calves are likely to be seen from land. As the calves are still young, they need more rest and protection from predators on the long journey south to cooler waters.

This causes whales to take refuge in the calmer waters of sheltered bays and harbours, such as Twofold Bay.

There’s a good chance of seeing them from the shore,” said Ms Butt.

Come and hear Dr Danielle Clode, author of Killers in Eden: The true story of killer whales and their remarkable partnership with the whales of Twofold Bay.

WHERE: Sunday, November 4 at 4.30pm.

WHERE: Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre, Snug Cove, Eden.
ENTRY: $5 per person to the centre.

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Catch the Divers Lodge high speed inflatable boat (weather permitting) from Snug Cove to cut your travel time to 10 minutes each way. Be prepared to get wet feet to get on and off the boat.

Boat leaves at 1 and 3pm on Saturday and at 11am, 1 and 3 pm on Sunday, $20 per person.

Landlubbers can drive around Twofold Bay via the Princes Highway to Edrom Road and Boyd’s Road to Davidson Whaling Station for a whaling station tour.

Davidson Whaling Station closes at 4pm.

Watch whales play in Twofold Bay

On Saturday afternoon (noon to 3pm) head to the whale lookout at the top of Imlay Street to hear marine mammal expert Geoff Ross from the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Geoff can guide you on whale types and behaviour while you watch them play in Twofold Bay. Bring your binoculars or borrow a set to see them up close.

A long range spotting scope will also be set up to bring the action closer.

 Overseas tourists are encouraged to experience the whales as they journey south to cooler waters.

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For more free whale watching info in Eden online to the Magnet’s website to hear some whale song edenmagnet.com.au

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