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NEWS



This Year, Whale Trust Brings Whale Tales to YOU!

February 13-14, 2021 | whaletales.org

The premier whale research and education event, Whale Tales, is coming to you this February! Leading experts on whales from around the world will share their knowledge to educate, inform, and inspire.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maui, Hawaii (Whale Trust/The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua) January 21, 2021 – Join leading international scientists, photographers, and conservationists as they share their latest work at the 15th Annual Whale Tales on February 13th and 14th, 2021. Presented by Whale Trust, a Maui-based whale research and education organization, this year's event will be a virtual experience offering online presentations, check-ins from around the world, and a host of experiential and interactive opportunities for attendees of all ages. In partnership with The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua and Drury Design, *Whale Tales - A Virtual Experience* will bring the beauty of Maui and its humpback whales to you—no matter where you are.

For nearly two decades, the Whale Trust research team has dedicated itself to exploring and understanding whale song and natural behavior patterns in whales, and Whale Tales has been a vital part of that mission for 15 years. But that's not the only milestone we're celebrating in 2021. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark paper, *Songs of Humpback Whales*, by Roger Payne and Scott McVay as well as the release of Payne's compilation of recordings, "Songs of the Humpback Whale." These breakthroughs helped cement the humpbacks as a symbol of conservation efforts around the world, including the iconic *Save the Whales* campaigns. Fifty years later, humpback whale song still captivates all who listen and continues to drive researchers to unlock its mysteries. This year's Whale Tales is dedicated to celebrating that anniversary and the marine research and conservation efforts that followed.

Special guest Roger Payne will kick off the weekend, followed by a lineup of speakers from around the world—all of whom have dedicated their lives to understanding the communication and social behaviors of whales. Event speakers and topics include:

- Robin Baird, PhD, [Cascadia Research](#)
Dwarf Sperm Whales in Hawaiian Waters: Using Drones, Photo-ID, and Citizen Science to Study a Difficult-to-study Species
- Kenneth Balcomb, [Center for Whale Research](#)
Orca Survey and the Big Salmon Ranch
- Lars Bejder, PhD [University of Hawaii at Manoa - Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology](#)
The Energetic Cost of Humpback Whale Migration
- Moira Brown, PhD [Canadian Whale Institute](#)
Right Whales and Their Allies
- Rachel Cartwright, PhD, [The Keiki Kohola Project](#)
Weathering the Lean Years - How Maui's Moms and Calves Fared Through Recent Climate-based Disruptions in the North Pacific.
- Hannah Cubaynes, [British Antarctic Survey](#)
Whales from Space
- Jim Darling, PhD, [Whale Trust](#)
North Pacific Humpback Whale Song
- Ellen Garland, PhD, [University of St Andrews](#)
South Pacific Humpback Whale Song
- Beth Goodwin, [Jupiter Research Foundation](#)
Wave Glider Europa's Multi-year Open Ocean Survey Of Humpback Whales
- Ralph Lee Hopkins, [Ralph Lee Hopkins Photography](#) and [Lindblad Expeditions](#)
Whale Tales 2021 – A Look Back At Five Years Of Photo Expeditions
- Anke Kügler, [Marine Biology Graduate Program, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa](#)
- Marc Lammers, PhD, [Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary](#)
The Occurrence of Humpback Whales in the NWHI Revealed Through a Marine Drone
- Mike Korostelev, [Whale Watching Russia](#)
Whale's Photographer - Encounters that Can Change Your Life
- Ed Lyman, [Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary](#)
The Science Behind Large Whale Entanglement Response

- Flip Nicklin, [Whale Trust](#) and [National Geographic](#)
Whale Tales, A Chance to Tell Our Story
- Ralph Pace, [Ralph Pace Photography](#) and [Whale Trust](#)
Whales of Monterey
- Debbie Patton, [Captain Steve's Rafting](#)
Humpback Birth Video, Update
- Roger Payne, PhD, [Ocean Alliance](#)
- Brian Skerry, [Brian Skerry Photography](#) and [National Geographic](#)
Secrets of the Whales
- Kate Stafford, PhD, [University of Washington](#)
Listening to a Changing Arctic
- Andrew Stevenson, [Whales Bermuda](#)
What Are The Humpback Whales Doing in Bermuda?
- Jason Sturgis, [Open Ocean Productions](#) and [Whale Trust](#)
SD To HD. 4K To 8K. Advancing Camera Technology and How it has Helped Whale Research
- Hal Whitehead, PhD, [Dalhousie University](#)
The Cultural Lives of Sperm Whales
- Dave Wiley, PhD, [Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary](#)
Using Advanced Technologies to Explore the Underwater Behavior of Humpback Whales

Registration is required to attend. A minimum \$60 donation supports whale research through the Whale Tales Beneficiary Fund. Registration includes access to the weekend event and to all content for 30 days post-event. Special events, benefit whale watches, and virtual experiences to be announced. Visit whaletales.org to register, view a detailed schedule, and learn more about the event.

Support whale research and education through this unique global event! In-kind and financial sponsorships are available. Visit whaletales.org or contact Whale Trust (whaletales@whaletrust.org) for more information.

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ABOUT WHALE TALES

Whale Tales is hosted annually by Whale Trust, a Maui-based nonprofit organization dedicated to whale research and ocean education. The primary goal of Whale Tales is to offer the public insight and knowledge about whales and our marine environment. The event also raises money to support further research and conservation efforts. Over 14 years, the event has raised more than \$822,000 to support research and education organizations working to understand and protect whales in the North Pacific.

Whale Tales - A Virtual Experience is made possible thanks to the generous support of presenting sponsors Makana Aloha Foundation and George and Marie Weis. For a detailed schedule of events, presentations, registration, and tickets, visit whaletales.org or call 808-572-5700.

ABOUT WHALE TRUST

[Whale Trust](http://WhaleTrust.org) is a non-profit scientific research organization committed to conducting, supporting, and promoting independent scientific research and education programs on whales and their ocean environment. Our research programs contribute to the understanding of natural behavior patterns in whales by conducting fully integrated studies of population biology, genetics, ecology, and behavior. Our education programs make our research findings available to the public and to policymakers to inform meaningful management and conservation programs. We believe that whales, by nature, encourage collaboration — they swim across ocean basins and cross international boundaries. It will take all of us working together to answer key questions about whales and their ocean environment, and to care for the planet we share.

ABOUT RITZ-CARLTON, KAPALUA

The AAA Five-Diamond Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua showcases a stunning, destination resort surrounded by 22,000 acres of wide open space, miles of hiking trails, two natural marine sanctuaries and six golden sand beaches. Inspired retreats include 466 recently reimagined guestrooms, including 107 residential suites with well-appointed kitchens and fresh décor capturing Kapalua's rich heritage and natural aloha. The Ritz-Carlton Spa®, Kapalua beckons with treatment rooms framed by private garden showers, volcanic stone grottos, steam, sauna and whirlpool therapies, outdoor couple's hale (cabanas) and a fitness center and movement studio with spectacular ocean views. Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ambassadors of the Environment program offers all interest levels an array of outdoor activities from land to sea, led by trained naturalists. The iconic island resort also features six dining experiences, enhanced indoor/outdoor meeting space, an inviting children's pool and new, custom luxury cabanas. The

Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua is nestled on 54 acres within the exclusive Kapalua Resort, renowned for its two championship golf courses, award-winning restaurants and being home to signature, world-class annual events. Discover more by visiting the [resort's website](#) and social media channels including [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [SnapChat](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

ABOUT DRURY DESIGN

[Drury Design](#) is an integrated communications and event marketing agency that partners with our clients to create strategic solutions supporting and enhancing their mission and brands worldwide.

We are dedicated to creating and delivering superior quality work which allows us to build long-lasting relationships with our employees, business partners and clients.