



# Antigua to Southampton

## Sightings Record

Whales, Dolphins, Porpoises and other Marine Ocean Life

Robin Petch - [www.TheWhaleandDolphinMan.co.uk](http://www.TheWhaleandDolphinMan.co.uk)



Thank you for joining me on deck throughout this Aurora cruise and helping to spot and record whales, dolphins, porpoises and other marine life.

The detailed records of position, sea conditions and sightings add to the global record and knowledge of these magnificent creatures. I have the honour of serving as Chair of Sea Watch Foundation, the leading UK cetacean research charity which has been collecting sightings data since the 1970s to create Europe's biggest whale, dolphin and porpoise sightings database. This is used to inform EU and national governments, scientific and environmental

agencies and NGOs, as well as independent research scientists who have an interest in studying and protecting cetaceans and the marine environment.

- Monitoring the numbers and locations of whales and dolphins in order to gain valuable knowledge of the health of our marine environment, and insight into the effects of chemical pollution, noise disturbance, over-fishing, accidental capture in fishing gear and climate change
- Involving the public in scientific monitoring
- Raising awareness and understanding of marine mammals and the threats they face
- Educating, informing and advising for better environmental protection



**Please do consider making a donation, or reporting future sightings to**

[www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk](http://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk) or via my own website

[www.TheWhaleandDolphinMan.co.uk](http://www.TheWhaleandDolphinMan.co.uk)

**I hope to meet you again somewhere, sometime!**



## Sightings – Antigua to Southampton

- 19/10/16**    **Antigua**    Magnificent Frigatebirds flying around as we sailed
- 20/10/16**    **St Maarten**    No significant sightings
- 21/10/16**    **St Lucia**    Great sightings of Fraser's Dolphins on the ship's tour
- 22/10/16**    **Barbados**    No significant sightings
- 23/10/16**    **At Sea**    No significant sightings
- 24/10/16**    **At Sea**    Only Flying Fish seen
- 25/10/16**    **At Sea**
- 1204 The first Flying Fish recorded, sightings continued throughout the day
- 1445 Quite upright blow, c.2-3miles to starboard, unknown whale species
- 26/10/16**    **At Sea**    No sightings, declining sea conditions
- 27/10/16**    **At Sea**    No watching due to poor sea conditions
- 28/10/16**    **Sao Miguel**    Good encounter with Common Dolphins during the ship's tour but just a Cory's Shearwater on sailaway
- 29/10/16**    **At Sea**
- 1700 Dolphin reported by passenger
- 1710 Female Kestrel flying alongside and landed on aft rail!
- 1807 4+ Dolphins
- 30/10/16**    **At Sea**
- 1233 Whale surfaced c.1mile to port then again further away  
A flock of Starlings has also joined us on board!
- 31/10/16**    **At Sea**
- 1129 5+ Common Dolphins, starboard side
- 1240 30+ Common Dolphins, in small groups until 1310, heading west
- 1539 4-5 Common Dolphins photographed leaping in to the side
- 1550 4-5 Common Dolphins approaching starboard side

On the following page are photographs taken during the cruise to illustrate the sightings outlined above. Thanks you for your contributions, and company on deck and at my talks.

# Photographs – Antigua to Southampton on Aurora



Magnificent Frigatebird (f) (Antigua)



Fraser's Dolphin (St Lucia)



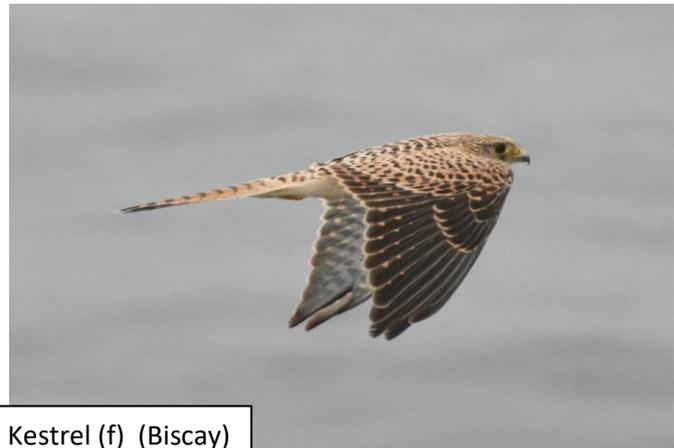
Fraser's Dolphin (St Lucia)



Common Dolphin (Azores)



Cory's Shearwater (Azores)



Kestrel (f) (Biscay)



Common Dolphin (Biscay)



Common Dolphin (Biscay)