



# Astoria Sightings Record

## Norwegian Fjords, October 2019

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



I hope you enjoyed joining me on deck throughout the cruise and helping to spot and record whales, dolphins, porpoises and other marine life. The fjords, and the North Sea, are home to a variety of marine life and the sightings (including those ashore) are all recorded on the following pages. Thank you for your support.

If you would like a 7x5 (or larger) print of any of the photographs included in the report, these are available to order from my website. Sales support my own work and also include a donation of at least 20% to Sea Watch Foundation.

The detailed records kept of position, sea conditions and sightings add to the global record and knowledge of these magnificent creatures. I had the honour of serving as Chair, I am now the Ambassador, of Sea Watch Foundation which is the leading UK cetacean research charity, 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



**To keep in touch with my activities, please request to be added to my free mailing list. Check out the latest news on the websites below.**

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

[www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk](http://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk)

## 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019      KINGSTON UPON HULL

The late hour of sailing precluded any sightings, other than the inevitable Herring Gulls around the lock.

## 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019      NORTH SEA

c.0830 1, possibly 2, dolphins seen to port by passengers at breakfast. Given the location, probably White-beaked Dolphins

c.0930 Something causing disturbance, c. 1½ miles to starboard, possibly a Minke Whale surfacing but we'll never know!

Later a Grey Seal was seen, only head visible, ½ mile off port bow. Seabird sightings included Gannets, Fulmars, Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls, a few Guillemots and a Puffin. Birds around the deck include 2 Robins and a Dunlin (*above*)



## 6<sup>th</sup> October 2019      STAVANGER

Lots of Herring Gulls (*below left*) on the lake and in the park near the Domskirke (Cathedral) as well as Moorhens (*below right*), Swans and Pigeons.



Hundreds of Comb Jellies in the harbour near the ship, many flashing colours of bioluminescence (*right*). A couple of Sea Eagles were spotted by two ladies on the Lysefjord Cruise. Sightings during the sail-away, up until 7pm, included Herring and Black-backed Gulls, Guillemots, Cormorants and Eider Ducks.



## 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019      FLAM

Around town – Coal Tits, Great Tits, Crows, Magpie, (Grey?) Wagtails, Common Gulls and a couple of Otters

**1716** Otter to port (initially thought to be a Harbour Seal)

**1801** 2 Harbour Porpoises, 200 yards ahead, passing left to right

**1810** Otter swimming to port



Astoria alongside in Flam (*left*)



**8<sup>th</sup> October 2019      OLDEN**

2 Harbour Porpoises seen, shortly before arrival (*above, right*)

Lots of Common Gulls, and a few Herring Gulls around the fjord

c.1830 2 Sea Eagles seen in the gloom during sail-away and lots more Gulls

**9<sup>th</sup> October 2019      ANDALSNES**

Common and Black-headed Gulls were seen around the fjord and a few Cormorants. An Eagle was seen over the hills on the far side of the fjord and two more during the evening as we sailed away. Jellyfish (or Sea Jellies as they are now known) and Starfish (Sea Stars) were seen in the marina and alongside. A large Rat was seen running along the pier and under the security office at the gate.

**10<sup>th</sup> October 2019      BERGEN**

A few Gulls around the harbour and Sparrows in Bryggen were the limit of today's sightings.

**11<sup>th</sup> October 2019      NORTH SEA**

Strong winds and rough seas prevented any sightings today.

**12<sup>th</sup> October 2019      KINGSTON UPON HULL**

Time to go home!

I hope you enjoy the report and the photographs. Copies of these, and many other, photographs in 7x5" format (from £12.50 for 2) or in 6x4" (from £7.50 for 2) are available on request from [robin@TheWhaleandDolphinMan.co.uk](mailto:robin@TheWhaleandDolphinMan.co.uk), every purchase supports my work and the Sea Watch Foundation. Please visit, and perhaps make a donation at, the websites below:

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

[www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk](http://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk)

**To keep in touch with my activities, please request to be added to my free mailing list.**

You can also sign up to make *free* donations to the charity of your choice, every time you shop! I'd love it to be Sea Watch Foundation but you may have another charity you'd like to support. It takes 5 minutes of your time and from that time on, the shopping site you are using will make a donation every time you buy!

Sign up at: [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk) and [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)