



# Sightings Record

## Mediterranean Odyssey

As the Chair of Trustees of the Sea Watch Foundation it is my great pleasure to share with you the sightings throughout this Viking Star cruise, from Barcelona to Venice, along with a few of the photographs I have taken, with thanks to the passengers who submitted reports.

Sea Watch Foundation is the leading UK cetacean research charity and 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.

### **08/10/17 Barcelona, Spain (or Catalonia?)**

Lots of Gulls around the harbour, Mainly Yellow-legged and Mediterranean. There were no sightings during sail-away, except more gulls.

### **09/10/17 Toulon, France**

AM No sightings as we sailed into port, except a few more gulls.  
1913 2+ Dolphins, possibly Striped, leaping in to starboard bow

### **10/10/17 Monte Carlo, Monaco, at anchor**

A few Cormorants and Yellow-legged Gulls in and around the harbour and during sail-in and sail-away

### **11/10/17 Livorno, Italy**

A whale was heard surfacing strongly and then seen surfacing again by Elton Reid, shortly after we left the outer breakwater. The species is uncertain but from his description it may have been a Minke Whale.

### **12/10/17 Civitavecchia, Italy**

Yellow-legged and Mediterranean Gulls in and around the harbour

### **13/10/17 Naples, Italy**

0845 Feeding frenzy of Tuna and Gulls with lots of smaller fish, 200yds off port bow  
0918 8+ Dolphins, probably Bottlenose, in to starboard bow, very brief sighting  
Lots of Yellow-legged and Mediterranean Gulls as well as a couple of Shearwaters

2050-2105 Hundreds, maybe 1000+, mainly Yellow-legged Gulls all around the ship and in the wake, riding air currents and picking small silver fish from the surface. An awesome sight and sound!

### **14/10/17 At Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea, Strait of Messina, Ionian Sea**

- 0842 6+ Striped Dolphins, in to port bow and alongside. Mum and calf spotted in surf!  
0844 Splashing seen twice, 2 miles to port. Possibly Dolphins or alternatively large fish such as Tuna  
0847 Airborne Striped Dolphin close off the starboard bow  
0856 Striped Dolphin leaping in to starboard bow  
0859 2 Striped Dolphins leaping in to port bow  
0904 2 Striped Dolphins to port, side leaping in the waves of the bow wake  
1119 12+ Striped Dolphins leaping in to port bow, then in the port bow wake  
1213 Dolphins 2-3miles to port, species unidentified, apparently feeding  
1354 Loggerhead Turtle, 3-4ft long, photographed close to port side  
1408 8+Dolphins, species unidentified, feeding 1½ miles to port  
1413 Splashes to starboard, possibly Dolphins, maybe large fish such as Tuna  
1414 Loggerhead Turtle to port, maybe 3ft long  
1430 Small Loggerhead Turtle to port, maybe 2-3ft long  
1435 Very small Loggerhead Turtle, 1-2ft long, photographed by Kris to starboard  
1443 Dolphins, species unidentified, 2 miles to port  
1620 Dolphins spotted leaping off to port by a passenger  
A Robin and a Chaffinch have also been spotted around the ship!

### **15/10/17 Corfu, Greece**

Only a few Gulls and Cormorants as we sailed away

### **16/10/17 Dubrovnik, Croatia**

Only a few Gulls during sail-in and sail-away

### **17/10/17 Split, Croatia**

- Rays spotted by a passenger, along the shore aft  
1901 3 Bottlenose Dolphins, then 2 more, 1 mile to starboard  
1902 5+ Bottlenose Dolphins, apparently feeding, 1 mile off starboard bow  
1904 6 Bottlenose Dolphins, surging to starboard bow, then surfing in the starboard bow wake, aft



On the following page is a selection of photographs taken during the cruise to illustrate some of the encounters above. It is my intention ultimately to create a gallery of photographs on my website for sale but until then, I would be happy to discuss any interest by email.

Please consider making a donation to [www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk](http://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk) on their website or via mine at [www.TheWhaleandDolphinMan.co.uk](http://www.TheWhaleandDolphinMan.co.uk)

I hope we meet again on a future cruise, Best Wishes, *Robin*

# Photographs – Viking Star, Barcelona to Venice

Yellow-legged Gull (Naples)



Hundreds of Yellow-legged Gulls (Naples)



Striped Dolphin (Tyrrhenian Sea, Kris)



Striped Dolphin (Tyrrhenian Sea, Kris)



Robin (Strait of Messina, Kris)



Loggerhead Turtle (Ionian Sea)



Young Loggerhead Turtle (Ionian Sea, Kris)



Striped Dolphin (Ionian Sea, Kris)

