



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

Norway on Boudicca

Sightings Record

_Robin Petch - www.TheWhaleandDolphinMan.co.uk



Thank you for joining me on Deck 7 throughout the cruise and helping to spot and record whales, dolphins, porpoises and other marine life.

As the Chair of Trustees for the Sea Watch Foundation it is my great pleasure to share with you the sightings throughout this Boudicca cruise, from Greenock to Norway and back, along with a few of the photographs Kris and I have taken.

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.

31/05/17 Leaving Greenock

- 1829 1 Harbour Porpoise, to starboard
- 1832 2 Harbour Porpoises, to starboard
- 1842 4 Harbour Porpoises, travelling quickly to port
- 1849 3 Harbour Porpoises, to starboard, photographed by Kris
- 1857 2 Harbour Porpoises, to starboard
- 1919 2 Harbour Porpoises, swimming quickly away from port bow
- 1932 1 Harbour Porpoise, to starboard
- 1945 3 Harbour Porpoises, close to starboard side



Also numerous seabirds including Herring Gulls, Lesser and Greater Black-backed Gulls, Fulmars, Cormorants and Guillemots and quite a few Jellyfish

01/06/17 At Sea, NW Scotland (a grey day, choppy seas but...)

- c.0715 30+ small dolphins to starboard (seen by Bill McLoughlin)
- c.0800 30-40 Common Dolphins to port and crossing the bow (seen by Graham Christie)
- 1124 20+ Common Dolphins, some leaping, c.1 mile to port (Kris)
- 1140 12+ Common Dolphins, crossing ahead, port to starboard (Kris)
- 1635 2 Seals, close to starboard bow
- 1744 Large fin, surging across the bow from starboard to port, probably Orca

- 2130 Whale, probably a Minke, 150m to starboard (spotted by Heather Payton)
Also lots of birds again, Gannets, Fulmars, Kittiwakes, Guillemots, Razorbills, Great Skuas, Puffins and a Bridled Guillemot spotted by a passenger. Not a bad day at all!

02/06/17 At Sea, North Sea

- 0721 2 dolphins to starboard (passenger sighting)
Birds seen today included a flock of Oyster Catchers flying around the ship and a lone Swallow as well as the usual Gannets, Fulmars, Kittiwakes, Guillemots, Razorbills and a Great Skua attacking Gannets to steal their food.

03/06/17 Olden and Nordfjord

- 1727 2 Harbour Porpoises, surging
1845 1 Harbour Porpoise surfacing a few hundred yards to port (Kris)
2013 1 Harbour Porpoise, surging strongly to starboard side (Kris)
2113 3 Harbour Porpoises to port (Kris)
2116 2 Harbour Porpoises to port (Kris)
Another highlight today was a Sea Eagle circling high to port and a few Common Gulls were also seen.

04/06/17 Flam, Naeroyfjord, Sognefjord

- 1731 2 Harbour Porpoises, surging strongly close inshore, starboard aft
1745 3 Harbour Porpoises, with pale and pinkish bodies, about half way to the shore, swimming quickly away to port aft. The colouration is possibly a genetic issue or some kind of skin damage due to water quality.
1922 2+ Harbour Porpoises in the distance to starboard, near the entrance to Naeroyfjord, one possibly with pale, pinkish, skin
1937 2+ Harbour Porpoises seen through the windows of the Bookmark Café while I was writing this report! Port side.

05/06/17 Leaving Bergen

- We had no significant sightings, just a few Black-backed Gulls and a splash in the distance but observant passengers had a bit more luck...
- 1715 3 Harbour Porpoises (seen by Cliff)
1858 3+ large black animals, c.8-10m long with large dorsal fins, off port bow (seen from Deck 9 by Alan #4071) Possibly Orca?
1839 Probable Minke Whale c.1mile off starboard bow
We also frightened a Puffin which flew from near the port bow and Fulmars, Gannets, Greater Black-backed Gulls and a Storm Petrel were also seen.

06/06/17 Kirkwall, Orkney Islands

- 1030 30+ Eider Ducks in v-formation flew across the bow just ahead, 1m from the surface. Also 2 Gannets and 2 Guillemots (seen by Graham Christie)
1100 Petrels, female Eider and Black Guillemots (seen by Jane 7010)
1430 Seal just off port bow, Black Guillemot in lagoon behind cruise berth and several Fulmars, Black-backed Gulls, Herring Gulls and a Great Skua (seen by Graham Christie)
We saw Gannets, Fulmars, Greater and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Common Guillemots, Oyster Catchers, Eider Ducks, Terns and ashore, Redshank and Lapwings today.

07/06/17 At Sea, Hebrides

- 0745 Minke Whale, port side midships as well as 6 Gannets, 10 Puffins and many Guillemots (seen by Graham Christie)
- 1611 Minke Whale, 300m to starboard (Kris)
- 1615 2+ Minke Whales, one 50m off starboard bow, one (or possibly 2) initially close to port, seen repeatedly with many Gannets and other seabirds
- 1622 Minke Whale to port
- 1629 Minke Whale, 75m off starboard bow, moving away and surfacing 4 more times before a deep dive
- 1632 3+ dolphins reported by passengers, starboard aft
- 1645 Seal off port bow (seen by Graham Christie)
- 1705 15+ Dolphins (possibly Common), some leaping, first spotted by passengers 2 miles ahead then passed down the starboard side at c.1 mile distance
- 1832 4-5 Harbour Porpoise near port bow (seen from Deck 9 forward by Peter #4107)

Below, and on the following page are a selection of photographs taken during the cruise to illustrate some of the encounters above. I intend ultimately to create a gallery of photographs, and a DVD, on my website for sale to support my work and that of the charity so do keep checking. Please consider making a donation to www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk on their website or via mine at www.TheWhaleandDolphinMan.co.uk

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

Photographs – Boudicca to Norway

Jellyfish – Firth of Clyde, 31/05/17



Common Dolphin (Kris) – Firth of Clyde, 01/06/17



Great Skua aka "Bonxie" (Kris) – North Sea, 02/06/17



Northern Fulmar (Kris) – North Sea, 02/06/17

Northern Gannet – North Sea, 02/06/17



Oyster Catcher – North Sea, 02/06/17



Common Gull – Nordfjord, 03/06/17



Sea Eagle – Nordfjord, 03/06/17



Harbour Porpoise – Aurlandsfjord, 04/9/17



Harbour Porpoises – Naeroyfjord, 04/9/17



Redshank – Orkney, 06/06/17



Minke Whale – Hebrides, 07/06/17

