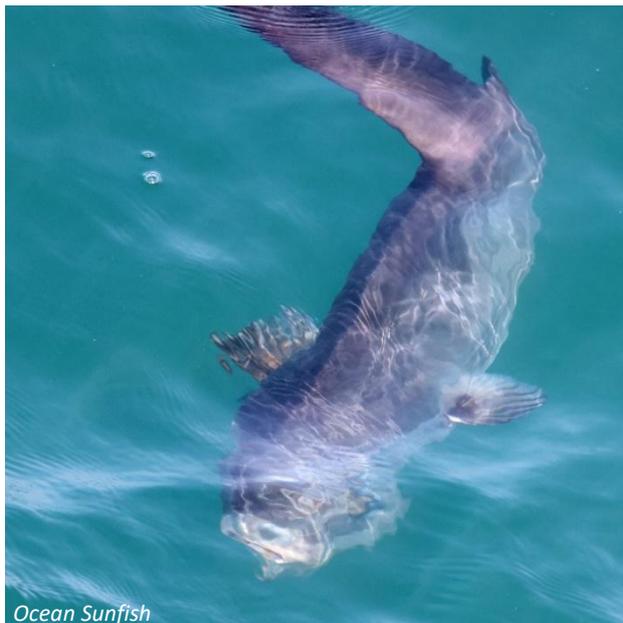


Lyme Bay 2024 Highlights

The weather this year was unpredictable and, as a result, we were only able to operate two of our six sailings from Brixham – one in July and one in August. Despite this, we were still treated to a fantastic display of marine life on both sailings. With around nine hours at sea on each trip, and cruising at an average speed of 8-10 knots, we covered large parts of Lyme Bay aboard our charter boat Spot On! in the capable hands of our skipper Ross Parham and our expert Naturetrek guide, Tom Breerton.



Ocean Sunfish

One of the many highlights of our first day trip in July was impressive views of Ocean Sunfish right by the boat.

We were also lucky enough to see 135 Balearic Shearwater, Cory's, Sooty and 10 Manx Shearwater, 63 Sandwich Tern, 150 Gannet, 20 Kittiwake, 10 Razorbill, 2 Bottlenose Dolphin, 5 Harbour Porpoise, 5 Grey Seal, and a Sand Martin.

A pod of 160 Common Dolphin accompanied the boat for a prolonged period of time and delighted our group with their playful nature.



Common Dolphin

We experienced more challenging viewing conditions on our day trip in August, but our group were still provided with a great selection of wildlife. Arguably the most exciting sighting was a small shoal of 5+ Bluefin Tuna. After being relatively absent from UK waters for decades due to overfishing, it is encouraging that these beautiful fish are being seen more regularly.

It was also a great day for seabirds with an estimated 850 Kittiwake, 35 Great, 4 Balearic & 150 Manx Shearwaters, 2-3 Pomarine, 3+ Arctic Skua, and 10 Storm-petrels. The day was finished off nicely with 100 Common Dolphin, 5 Harbour Porpoise, and 4 Grey Seals.



Our Lyme Bay cruises have not only been a great experience for those who joined the trips but have also generated valuable survey data for the charity Marinelife. This dedicated band of marine biologists have been working with statutory conservation agencies to evaluate the importance of the Bay for priority species such as the Balearic Shearwater, Bottlenose Dolphin and White-beaked Dolphin. For the latter species, Marinelife has proposed the creation of a marine nature reserve (Marine Conservation Zone) to operate in partnership with the Wildlife Trusts. The data obtained from Naturetrek trips has formed a key body of supporting evidence for this proposal.

Our 2025 sailing dates are now available to book so, to ensure you do not miss any of the action, please check our website (Tour Code GBR09) or contact Andy Tucker on 01962 733051 or email andy@naturetrek.co.uk

Please note: If we are unable to operate a sailing due to bad weather, we will give you as much notice as possible and you will be offered a full refund, or the option to transfer your booking to a future date.