

Whale gets close-up of Buenos Aires, delighting onlookers

August 4 2015



A stranded whale is seen at Puerto Madero harbour in Buenos Aires on August 3, 2015

A disoriented whale stunned onlookers and delighted tourists at Buenos Aires' bustling waterfront Monday, swimming alongside boats and periodically surfacing to the perplexed crowds.

The small whale, whose species was not immediately confirmed, turned up well off its healthy course—near the docks in glitzy Puerto Madero,

the capital's upscale neighborhood.

Appearing somewhat distressed, the whale bobbed around a group of yachts docked at the popular residential and nightlife haunt.

Marine mammal researcher Enrique Crespo said the whale may have lost its way while migrating.

If it is a young adult, it could survive, but if it is a baby separated from its mother the prognosis is grimmer, he said.

Whale Conservation Institute chief Diego Taboada stressed "it is totally outside its habitat, and it has to be put back on course."

"It has serious problems with its vital signs," he warned, noting that contact with [fresh water](#) would likely contribute to infection.

Navy officials were trying to help the animal get out of the fresh water and back to salt water.

Southern right [whales](#) migrate toward cold waters of the Mar Argentino area every year, about 1,400 kilometers (870 miles) south of Buenos Aires.

Spotting them is a big tourist attraction between May and December but they are not often spied in fresh water.



A stranded right whale is seen at Puerto Madero harbour in Buenos Aires on August 3, 2015

Buenos Aires lies where the fresh water of the Rio de la Plata empties into the South Atlantic Ocean.

© 2015 AFP

Citation: Whale gets close-up of Buenos Aires, delighting onlookers (2015, August 4) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-08-whale-close-up-buenos-aires-onlookers.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.