

IAATO Wildlife Distances Chart

These are minimum suggested approach distances on land, sea and ice. They assume animals are showing no signs of disturbance from your presence. Monitor wildlife behaviour at all times and maintain a greater distance if any signs of disturbance occur. Some animals, e.g. birds on nests, may have a stress response that is not obvious. Maintain appropriate distances at all times. Operator permits/authorization may require a further distance be kept.

Species/ Life stage	MINIMUM Distance (m/ft) to be kept
BIRDS	
Nesting seabirds	5m/15ft
Nesting Southern Giant petrels	25m/75ft
Nesting albatrosses	10m/30ft
Displaying albatrosses	25m/75ft
Penguins in molt (individual & groups)	5m/15ft
Concentrations of birds on water	Ships & Yachts 100m/300ft Small boat & human powered watercraft 30m/90ft
Concentrations of bird on ice	Ships & Yachts 100m/300ft Small boat & human powered watercraft 5m/15ft
Emperor Penguin	5m/15ft
Emperor Penguin (commuting)	15m/45ft
SEALS	
Seals	5m/15ft
Jousting bull elephant seals on land	25m/75ft
Fur seals and sea lions on land *Extreme caution required around breeding animals.	15m/45ft
Leopard seals on land/ice/water	5-15m/15-45ft
Leopard seal mother/pups	25m/75ft
Juveniles, including pups and elephant seal 'weaners'	5m/15ft
WHALES	
Whales	100m/300ft
Mother/Calf pairs	200m/600ft
Feeding baleen whales	200m/600ft
Socializing/feeding whales	400m/1300ft

*For more species specific information, please review the operational procedures for wildlife viewing in the Field Operations Manual.