

Whale Shark

Code of Conduct



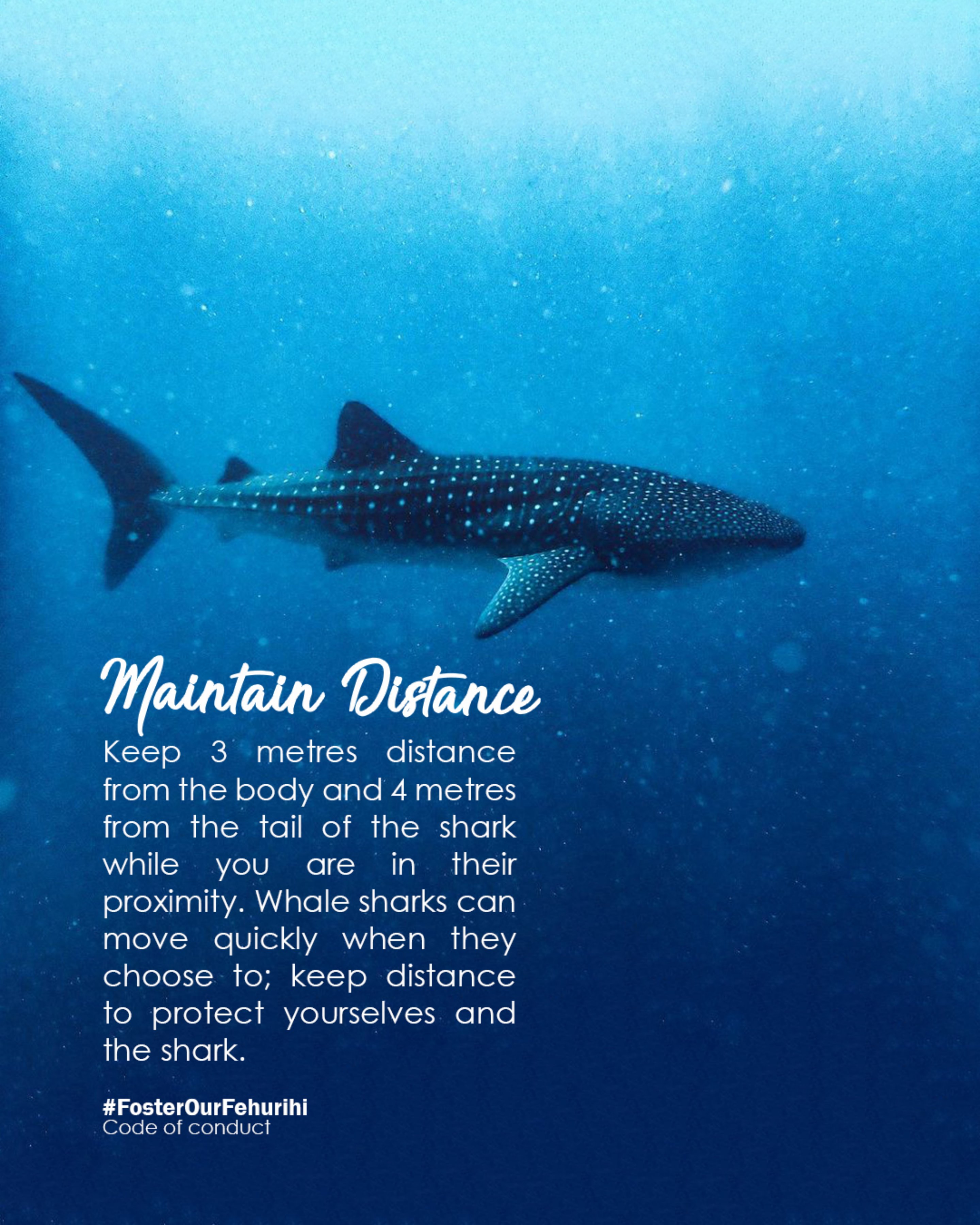
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A large whale shark is seen from above, swimming in clear, turquoise water. The shark's dark, spotted skin contrasts with the bright blue water. It is positioned on the left side of the frame, moving towards the bottom left.

Do Not Swim on top of the Whale Shark

Allow space for the shark to rise to the surface to continue its thermoregulation process. If you need to cross to the other side of a shark which is cruising at the surface, swim around and behind the shark's tail keeping distance. If the shark is cruising at a depth of 5 metres or more, you may safely swim above the shark to cross to the other side.

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Maintain Distance

Keep 3 metres distance from the body and 4 metres from the tail of the shark while you are in their proximity. Whale sharks can move quickly when they choose to; keep distance to protect yourselves and the shark.

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No Flash Photography

Whale sharks do not respond well to bright and unexpected flashes of light.

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Reduce Noise

Do not jump from a standing position; instead, opt for a seated position when exiting the vessel to the encounter. Do not shout and attempt to keep your fins under the water, also please reduce excessive splashing. Whale sharks have the world's biggest ear drum so we must be as quiet as possible during encounters.

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Do not obstruct

Obstructing the path of a whale shark will cause them distress and they may leave. If the whale shark should approach you on its own accord, move out of the way quickly.

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Do not Touch

Whale sharks are not tactile animals and will leave the encounter early if you touch them, therefore disrupting their natural behaviours.

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