

AVOIDING WHALE MEAT IN JAPAN

With millions of people expected to visit Japan for the Rugby World Cup, we are calling on rugby teams and fans to avoid eating whale meat during their visit.

As you may be aware, the Japanese government left the International Whaling Commission and resumed the commercial hunting of whales in Japanese waters this summer, including killing sei whales—the third largest animal on the planet and an endangered species.

Despite consumption of whale meat falling by 99% in the last 50 years, the continued hunting of whales means you may see meat and blubber on sale in restaurants and shops, or be offered samples at events. You may even see health supplements, called balenine, made from whales.

A variety of whale meat dishes may be offered in restaurants around Japan, including raw red meat served as sashimi or carpaccio, whale bacon, canned whale meat, whale burgers and even whale-flavored ice-cream. The Japanese characters are クジラ or くじら or 鯨 but some whale products may be marketed in English to tourists.

Hunting these huge, majestic and in some case, endangered animals, is cruel, unnecessary and politically damaging to Japan's global reputation.

- Don't eat whale meat or be tempted to try anything containing whale and avoid restaurants and shops where whale products are served while you are visiting Japan.
- Don't bring any whale products home. Importing any whale products (in checked or carry-on baggage) into Britain and the European Union is illegal and can result in prosecution.
- If you have the opportunity, take a whale watching trip to see these amazing animals in the wild.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

