



Oscar-winning documentary highlights Dominica's efforts in preservation and conservation of the natural environment

The image of Dominica as The Nature Island is being further reinforced thanks to a new documentary, which won the Oscar in the category for Best Feature Documentary earlier this month.

The Cove focuses on the annual killing of dolphins, following an elite team of activists, filmmakers and freedivers as they embark on a covert mission to penetrate a remote and hidden cove in Taiji, Japan, shining a light on a dark and deadly secret.

Dominica is presented as a small island with special interest in protecting the world's oceans and all species within, highlighting its stance with respect to the conservation of whales and dolphins.

Dominica has established three marine reserves to preserve and protect the island's marine environment along the western coast, while it is also considered the whale-watching capital of the Caribbean: its temperate seas and underwater contours provide the ideal environment for whales and dolphins, with 22 species identified in the island's waters.

The most commonly sighted are sperm whales (Dominica is the only country in the world where they reside all year round), while other often sighted whale species include the orca, pygmy sperm whale, pygmy killer whale, false killer whale, pilot whale and, in winter, migrating humpback whales. Spinner dolphins also stay in Dominican waters year-round, and delight in performing near tour boats.

The Caribbean nation has received numerous accolades and distinctions for its eco-friendly credentials: among others, it was the first country in the world to be benchmarked by Green Globe (the worldwide certification programme for the travel and tourism industry), while for the last two years running it was the only country (along with Costa Rica) to be nominated in the World's Leading Green Destination category of the World Travel Awards.

In the UK *The Cove* is available on DVD by Vertigo Films.

For general tourism information on Dominica, please call 0800 012 1467 or visit www.DiscoverDominica.com. In addition, you can explore Discover Dominica's social networking outlets on:

YouTube | www.youtube.com/discoverdominica
Twitter | www.twitter.com/Nature_Island
Facebook | www.facebook.com/discoverdominica

-Ends-

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