

AUSTRALIAN AQUATIC LIFE

Check out some of the aquatic life you will find swimming around Australian oceans. Some you may have heard of and some are very unusual!

INDO-PACIFIC HUMPBACK DOLPHIN:

The Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin gets its name from its long dorsal fin and humped back appearance. They also differ from other dolphins as they have a mounded forehead and a long beak! The male and female dolphins grow up to 2.6m & 2.7m, weigh up to 260 kg's, and live for around 40 years in the wild. Did you know there is a Chinese variety that turns pink as they age?



DUGONG:

The Dugong is a large marine mammal that can live up to 70 years, in the waters of at least 37 countries throughout the Indo-Pacific! However, the majority of dugongs live in the waters between Shark Bay and Moreton Bay in northern Australia. Unlike other marine mammals, the Dugong is the only mammal that sticks to a strict herbivorous diet, depending on seagrasses for sustenance. It has a fusiform body with no dorsal fin or hind limbs, but paddle-like forelimbs used to move around.



LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLE:

The Leatherback Sea Turtle (a.k.a Lute Turtle), is the largest of all living sea turtles and can be easily be differentiated from other modern sea turtles, by its lack of outer bony shell. Instead of a shell, its carapace is covered by skin and oily flesh. These turtles feed almost exclusively on jellyfish, but if they cannot find them, they can eat other soft bodied organisms.



WHITE-BELLIED SEA EAGLE:

White-bellied Sea-Eagles are a common sight along the coastlines of Australia. They find a partner and inhabit particular territories throughout the year. Their diet consists of aquatic animals, such as fish, turtles and sea snakes, but they can also eat small birds and mammals as well. They are the second largest raptor found in Australia (the largest is the Wedge-tailed Eagle), and can weigh up to 5kg's.

CLOWNFISH:

If you've ever seen the movie Finding Nemo, then you would have seen a Clownfish! They are found in saltwater environments, and are also called Anemone Fish. They are usually a very bright, orange colour, and have three white stripes (on the head, middle and tail). They are unique in that they are the only fish that can live in a Sea Anemone and not get stung by its tentacles. Their life span is 6-10 years, and they are a very aggressive fish, protecting their territory a little too well.

