

# DOLPHINS

## ALL ABOUT DOLPHINS

Dolphins are warm blooded, air breathing marine mammals which give birth to live young. 'Cetacean' is the scientific name (of the Order Cetacea) which refers to whales, dolphins and porpoises.

Australia's extensive coastline provides a wide range of aquatic habitats. As such we have at least 45 species of whales, dolphins and porpoises in Australian waters including 10 large whales, 20 smaller whales, 14 dolphins and one porpoise.



## FAQ'S



### Can dolphins see above the water?

They sure can! Bottlenose dolphins have excellent vision both above and below the water. When dolphins look at objects under the water, they produce an oily substance that covers their eyes to protect them. Dolphins can also see very well at night, just like cats and dogs.

### Can dolphins see colours?

Yes and no. Studies show that dolphins can see in shades of grey, as well as the blue-green spectrum.

### How many teeth do dolphins have?

There are dolphins with 8 teeth and there are some with 250. Bottlenose dolphins have 72-104 teeth. They only get one set of teeth for life. Dolphins do not use their teeth to chew their food like you and I do. They use their teeth to catch their food and then they swallow it whole.

### Do dolphins drink water?

Dolphins do not drink water like we do because most of the water they swim in is saltwater. Instead, dolphins get all of the water they need from the fish they eat. They may choose to eat different types of fish depending on the amount of calories and water they need.



### Are dolphins fish?

No. Dolphins are mammals just like you and I. Dolphins breathe air, give birth to live young, nurse their babies with milk, have hair at some point in their life, and have a constant body temperature (are warm blooded).



## DID YOU KNOW?

Dolphins can swim up to 260 metres below the surface of the ocean.

The Killer Whale (also known as Orca) is actually a type of dolphin.

Compared to other animals, dolphins are believed to be very intelligent.

Dolphins can stay up to 15 minutes under water, but they cannot breath under the water.

Dolphins live in schools or pods of up to 12 individuals.

Dolphins communicate with each other by clicking, whistling and other sounds.