



The African Telatelist

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BOTTLE NOSE DOLPHINS – (Warwick Stobrawe)



There are 33 different types of marine dolphins, 4 types of river dolphins and 6 types of porpoises. Dolphins are found living in bodies of water around the world. They are found in all of the oceans, and they are a common attraction for people to come see. Dolphins are known as being gentle creatures and there is a type of mystic curiosity surrounding them too.

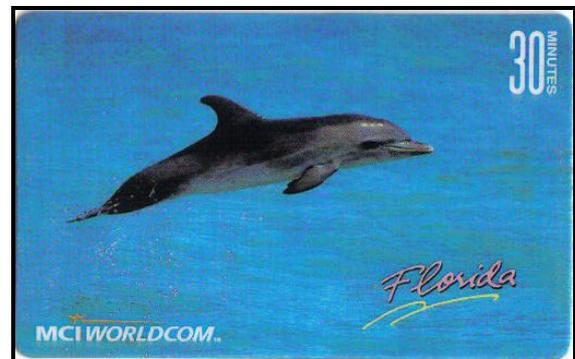
Most of them live in saltwater but they can also live in freshwater locations. Only a handful of the species though are known to thrive in freshwater regions. They tend to stick to the shallow areas of the water found along the continental shelves. The types of dolphins you will find depend on the species though in terms of the location.

Dolphins tend to like areas that have warmer temperatures too. However, sometimes they are found in colder water due to the need for food. It is very interesting to see some places where they live. Studies show that the habitat of the dolphin is quite diversified due to environmental factors and food accessibility.



They are very smart creatures and have the intelligence to modify their habitat when possible for survival.

For example, the Bottlenose Dolphin is found in all of the oceans. They tend to live around the coastline areas. Migration is a big part of life for all dolphins. They have to move where there is food so the amount of migrating they will do can vary. Some of them have been observed in a very small area all the time due to plenty of food being found there. The migration can be for a short period of time or until food resources have started to be replenished.



This is also why some locations where there used to be dolphins either have very few or they haven't been seen for a while. They aren't going to be returning to locations where the habitat is too polluted or there isn't enough food for them to survive. Even changes to the water temperatures can be reasons for them no longer to return to locations they once called home.

The habits of various species of dolphins can also vary by location. For example, some of them have set migrational patterns that they will follow year after year. Others route changes that will occur based on food supply and even the temperature of the water. They are to successfully migrate hundreds of miles annually. It is believed that global warming plays a vital role in the migration for dolphins as it affects their supply of food.

Some of the dolphins out there are found in much smaller habitat locations. For example, the Yangtze River Dolphin is primarily found in freshwater around the Yangtze River in China. Hector's Dolphins are found around the coastal areas of New Zealand. They tend to be scattered

here around the South Island.

Spinner Dolphins do have a wider diversity as they are found in the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans. They tend to live in the warmer water areas around islands. However, they have been known to be in the deeper water too when they need to find more food.

The dolphin can be very vulnerable to problems in their environment. For example pollution due to the sensitivity of their skin. Loss of habitat is also a problem due to the fact that so many humans have now taken to enjoying a variety of water related activities in these same locations. This is why there are so many great conservation programs in place to help protect them.

Dolphins do live well in captivity, but the focus of most of these conservation strategies involves returning the dolphins to habitats in the wild. They also involve re-introducing them to locations that were once inhabited by dolphins but aren't now. Before this could be done successfully though careful observations about the environment will have to be done.



Some of the dolphins living in captivity were once in the wild, but won't be able to survive there any longer due to injuries. By placing them in captivity they are able to have a good quality of life that would be impossible for them to create in the wild.

Dolphins live in groups known as pods, and it is very unusual that you will see only one or two of them. This could be due to sub groups for hunting. The size of the pods varies but usually ranges from 6 to more than 20 members. They are very protective of each other and form very strong bonds. However, there can be some aggressive behaviors within those pods. There have been observations of some pod members picking on weaker members.

Part of the benefit of living in the pods though is to keep away dangerous predators such as sharks. The young are usually at the center of the pod so that they can be protected in their habitat by the larger dolphins on the outer rim.

Top Facts about Dolphins.

There is no doubt that dolphins are one of the most interesting forms of aquatic life out there. They are easy to recognize and you likely already know they are very smart. Yet there are plenty of great facts about them that you may not know. That will all change though when you get done reading this!

- The dolphin is the only mammal that gives birth with the tail first instead of the head.
- Dolphins don't smell very well.
- Young dolphins will remain with their mother for a period of 2 or 3 years.
- There are two stomachs for dolphins just like for cows. The first one stores the food for them and the second one is where digestion takes place.
- A dolphin may be able to dive up to 1,000 feet.
- The dorsal fin on every dolphin is very unique and it can be used to identify them from each other.
- Dolphins can swim at a speed of up to 25 miles per hour for a long time. This is about 3 times faster than the fastest humans in the world.
- The average lifespan of a dolphin is 17 years. However, some of them that have been observed in the wild lived about 50 years.
- Most species of dolphins live in saltwater but some of them thrive in freshwater.
- A dolphin needs to get air at different intervals. Some need air every 20 seconds but others only need it every 30 minutes.
- A group of dolphins is called a pod.
- The bonds of dolphins in a pod are very intense. They have been observed carrying for the sick, the elderly, and those that have been injured with great care.
- Even though they are usually very mild tempered, dolphins can be aggressive.
- They are able to see well in the water due to the retina gathering light in a unique way.
- The brain of a dolphin is #2 in terms of size compared to its body size. It is only behind the human.
- It is possible for a mature dolphin to eat up to 30 pounds of fish daily.
- There are about 100 teeth in the mouth of a dolphin. They use the teeth to grab their prey but they don't chew it. All food is swallowed whole.
- Up to 20 feet in the air is the distance that a dolphin can leap.
- The Killer Whale is the largest member of the dolphin family. They can be up to 30 feet in length.

- The skin of the dolphin is very delicate and it can easily be damaged by contact with other surfaces.
- The Boto is the largest of the dolphins that can live in freshwater. They can be up to 10 feet long.
- Dolphins often use a hunting tactic of circling the fish in a school so that they make a tight ball. Then they will take turns going through the center of the ball to feed as they do so.
- Only one side of the dolphin's brain sleeps at a time. This allows them to be able to breathe and to be able to watch for threats even while they are resting.
- Dolphins enjoy socializing and playing. They play with seaweed or with other members of the pod. Sometimes, they will tease other living creatures in the water.
- Global warming continues to be a problem for dolphins as it has reduced their food supply significantly.
- Dolphins can be migrational for food and to get to bodies of water that are the right temperatures for them. Not all pods of dolphins will migrate though if their needs are being met right where they are.
- Dolphins are known to engage in a variety of different feeding methods in order to be successful.
- Most of them involved cooperation and being in sync with other pod members. It is very rarely that they will try to get food on their own.
- The smallest dolphins are about 4 feet long with the longest being 30 feet long. They can weigh from 90 pounds to more than 11 tons.
- The fluke is the name for the tail on a dolphin.
- Echolocation is a big part of overall communication for dolphins. It occurs through the melon in the head.
- All dolphins have a blowhole at the top where they take in air when they come to the surface.
- Almost all dolphins have no hair other than a few that they have at birth. Only the Boto River Dolphin has a small amount of hair that they will keep as an adult.
- They have a fast healing process for their bodies even when they have deep wounds such as those that are the result of shark bites. Experts haven't been able to determine how this is possible for dolphins when other mammals would haemorrhage.

2. Bottlenose Dolphins can swim up to 260 m. below the surface of the ocean. However they need quick access to air in the surface, therefore bottlenose dolphins usually are shallow divers and close to the surface.

3. Bottlenose Dolphins can stay up to 15 minutes under water.

However bottlenose dolphins usually stay only a few minutes diving.

4. Bottlenose Dolphins use a technique called echolocation to find food and navigate.

This technique is performed by sending ultrasounds through the water which is bounced back to the dolphin and then is detected by the dolphin in an organ called melon which decodes the message very much like a sonar.

5. Bottlenose Dolphins are social beings. Bottlenose dolphins cooperate among each other to get food. To do this, they work in teams to optimize the effort of hunting.

They also cooperate for calf raising, when usually one dolphin helps the mother to take care of the calves, very much like a midwife

6. The bottlenose dolphin can grow up to 2.8 meters.

7. Bottlenose Dolphins are warm-blooded. Their internal temperature is around 36 degrees. To keep this temperature they are surrounded by a thick layer of fat called "blubber" just below the skin. This fat, allow dolphins to resist cold temperatures and regulate their body temperature.

8. The average bottlenose dolphin brain weighs 1500-1600 grams. If this is compared with the average human brain which weighs between 1200-1300 grs. bottlenose dolphin brain is larger, however this is not a conclusive evidence of dolphin intelligence as many other factors might be the cause of intelligence according to scientists, however this brain capacity is a clear indication that dolphins have at least the potential of higher intelligence.

9. Bottlenose Dolphins are great communicators.

They can make a unique signature whistle that may help individual dolphins recognize each other or perform any other kind of communication still unknown. Dolphins even make noises so loud that can stunt fish.

10. Bottlenose dolphins can swim 5 to 12 kilometers per hour. Although they can reach up to 32 km/h.

Bottlenose Dolphin Facts

1. Bottlenose Dolphins are mammals. Bottlenose dolphins nurse their calves with milk from mammary glands of the mothers.