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| --- | --- |
| Classification of  Cetacea | * Kingdom: [Animalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animalia" \o "Animalia) * Phylum: [Chordata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chordata" \o "Chordata) * Class: [Mammalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mammalia) * Order: [Cetartiodactyla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetartiodactyla" \o "Cetartiodactyla) * Clade: [Cetancodontamorpha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetancodontamorpha" \o ") * Suborder: [Whippomorpha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whippomorpha" \o "Whippomorpha) * Infraorder: [Cetacea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetacea" \o "Cetacea) |
| Families considered whales | * Parvorder [Mysticeti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mysticeti" \o "Mysticeti)   + Family [Balaenidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balaenidae" \o "Balaenidae)   + Family [Balaenopteridae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balaenopteridae" \o "Balaenopteridae)   + Family [Eschrichtiidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eschrichtiidae" \o "Eschrichtiidae)   + Family [Cetotheriidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetotheriidae" \o "Cetotheriidae) * Parvorder [Odontoceti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odontoceti" \o "Odontoceti)(excluding [dolphins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolphins) and [porpoises](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porpoises))   + Family [Monodontidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monodontidae" \o "Monodontidae)   + Family [Physeteridae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physeteridae" \o "Physeteridae)   + Family [Kogiidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kogiidae" \o "Kogiidae)   + Family [Ziphiida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ziphiidae" \o "Ziphiidae) |

Aquatic and semiaquatic mammals are well adapted to life in the water with physical characteristics such as flippers, webbed feet, paddle like tails and streamlined bodies. Whales, dolphins, porpoises, manatee and dugong are completely aquatic; seals, sea lions, walrus, hippopotamus, platypus, otters, beavers and nutria are semiaquatic, spending part of their lives on land.

Blue Whales Blue whales are the biggest animals that have ever lived on this planet, even larger than dinosaurs.  The biggest blue whale ever to be found was around 110 feet long and weighed almost 200 tons.  Their tongues alone can weigh the size of an elephant, and their hearts can weigh the same as a car.

### Diet & Feeding

A Blue whale can reach an unbelievable size just by living on a diet that is made up of a tiny creature that looks like a shrimp called krill. One adult Blue whale can eat approximately 4 tons of krill on a daily basis during certain months of the year.



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| --- | --- |
| Kingdom: | [Animalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal) |
| Phylum: | [Chordata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chordate) |
| Class: | [Mammalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mammal) |
| Order: | [Artiodactyla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Even-toed_ungulate) |
| Infraorder: | [Cetacea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetacea) |
| Family: | [Balaenopteridae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rorqual) |
| Genus: | [Balaenoptera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balaenoptera) |
| Species: | B. musculus |

The blue whale has a long tapering body that appears stretched in comparison with the stockier build of other whales.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_whale#cite_note-des-27) The head is flat, U-shaped and has a prominent ridge running from the [blowhole](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blowhole_(anatomy)) to the top of the upper lip.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_whale#cite_note-des-27) The front part of the mouth is thick with [baleen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baleen) plates; around 300 plates, each around one metre (3.3 feet) long,[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_whale" \l "cite_note-des-27) hang from the upper jaw, running 0.5 m (20 in) back into the mouth. Between 70 and 118 grooves (called ventral pleats) run along the throat parallel to the body length. These pleats assist with evacuating water from the mouth after lunge feeding (see [feeding](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_whale#Feeding) below).

The [dorsal fin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorsal_fin) is small;[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_whale" \l "cite_note-des-27) its height averages about 28 centimetres (11 in), and usually ranges between 20 and 40 cm (7.9 and 15.7 in), though it can be as small as 8 cm (3.1 in) or as large as 70 cm (28 in).[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_whale#cite_note-MacWheel1929-28) It is visible only briefly during the dive sequence. Located around three-quarters of the way along the length of the body, it varies in shape from one individual to another; some only have a barely perceptible lump, but others may have prominent and falcate (sickle-shaped) dorsals. When surfacing to breathe, the blue whale raises its shoulder and blowhole out of the water to a greater extent than other large whales, such as the fin or sei whales. Observers can use this trait to differentiate between species at sea. Some blue whales in the North Atlantic and North Pacific raise their tail fluke when diving. When breathing, the whale emits a vertical single-column spout, typically 9 metres (30 ft) high, but reaching up to 12 metres (39 ft). Its [lung](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lung) capacity is 5,000 litres (1,300 US gal). Blue whales have twin blowholes shielded by a large splashguard.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_whale#cite_note-des-27)

The flippers are 3–4 metres (9.8–13.1 ft) long. The upper sides are grey with a thin white border; the lower sides are white. The head and tail fluke are generally uniformly grey. The whale's upper parts, and sometimes the flippers, are usually mottled. The degree of mottling varies substantially from individual to individual. Some may have a uniform slate-grey color, but others demonstrate a considerable variation of dark blues, greys and blacks, all tightly mottled.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_whale#cite_note-factsheet-5)

Mating starts in late autumn and continues to the end of winter.[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_whale#cite_note-Art-63) Little is known about mating behaviour or breeding grounds. In the fall, males will follow females for prolonged periods of time. Occasionally, a second male will attempt to displace the first, and the whales will race each other at high speed, ranging from 17 miles per hour (27 km/h) to 20 miles per hour (32 km/h) in New Zealand. This often causes the racing whales to breach, which is rare in blue whales. This racing behavior may even escalate to physical violence between the males. Scientists have observed this behavior in multiple parts of the world, including the Gulf of St. Lawrence in Canada and the South Taranaki Bight in New Zealand.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_whale#cite_note-Bortolotti-8)[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_whale#cite_note-64)

Females typically give birth once every two to three years at the start of the winter after a [gestation period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gestation_period) of 10 to 12 months.[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_whale#cite_note-Art-63)

## Bow Head Whale

## Related image

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| --- | --- |
| Kingdom: | [Animalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal) |
| Phylum: | [Chordata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chordate) |
| Class: | [Mammalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mammal) |
| Order: | [Artiodactyla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Even-toed_ungulate) |
| Infraorder: | [Cetacea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetacea) |
| Family: | [Balaenidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balaenidae) |
| Genus: | [Balaena](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balaena) [Linnaeus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Linnaeus), [1758](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/10th_edition_of_Systema_Naturae) |
| Species: | B. mysticetus |

The bowhead whale (Balaena mysticetus) is a species of the family [Balaenidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balaenidae" \o "Balaenidae), in [parvorder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parvorder" \o "Parvorder) [Mysticeti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mysticeti" \o "Mysticeti), and [genus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genus) [Balaena](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balaena" \o "Balaena), which once included the [right whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Right_whale).

A stocky dark-coloured whale without a [dorsal fin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorsal_fin), it can grow 14 to 18 m (46 to 59 ft) in length. This thick-bodied species can weigh from 75 to 100 tonnes (74 to 98 long tons; 83 to 110 short tons).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bowhead_whale#cite_note-Rugh2008-4) They live entirely in fertile [Arctic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arctic_Ocean) and sub-Arctic waters, unlike other whales that migrate to low latitude waters to feed or reproduce. The bowhead was also known as the Greenland right whale or Arctic whale. American whalemen called them the steeple-top, polar whale. The bowhead whale has a large, robust, dark-coloured body and a white chin/lower jaw. The whale has a massive triangular [skull](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skull), which it uses to break through the [Arctic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arctic) ice to breathe. [Inuit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inuit) hunters have reported bowheads surfacing through 60 cm (24 in) of ice.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bowhead_whale#cite_note-BehWur-14) The bowhead also has a strongly bowed lower jaw and a narrow upper jaw. Its [baleen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baleen) is the longest of that of any whale, at 3 m (9.8 ft), and is used to strain tiny prey from the water. The bowhead whale has paired blowholes, at the highest point of the head, which can spout a blow 6.1 m (20 ft) high. The whale's [blubber](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blubber) is the thickest of that of any animal, with a maximum of 43–50 cm (17–20 in).[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bowhead_whale#cite_note-FFELow-15) Unlike most cetaceans, the bowhead does not have a [dorsal fin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorsal_fin).[[16](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bowhead_whale#cite_note-AnaPhyHald-16)

A Bowhead whale is a baleen whale and comes from the Arctic in freezing temperatures.  It is a healthy sized whale and has a large head with a bow-shape, which is almost 40% of the length of its entire body. It has a curved mouth that is approximately 10 feet wide and 20 feet deep. A Bowhead has tiny eyes and large lips. It does not have any teeth but has baleen plates instead.  Bowheads live in shells/pods, have plenty of blubber, which is a 20 inch subcutaneous layer, and they have two blowholes in total. Bowhead whales are [filter feeders](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filter_feeders), feeding by swimming forward with mouth wide open.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bowhead_whale#cite_note-BehWur-14) The whale has hundreds of overlapping [baleen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baleen) plates consisting of [keratin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keratin) hanging from each side of the upper jaw.

Reproduction can begin when a whale is 10 to 15 years old. The [gestation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gestation" \o "Gestation)period is 13–14 months with females producing a calf once every three to four years. Bowhead whales are considered to be the [longest-living mammals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Longest-living_animals), living for over 200 years

## Fin Whale (Balaenoptera physalus)





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| --- | --- |
| Family: | [Balaenopteridae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rorqual) |
| Genus: | [Balaenoptera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balaenoptera) |
| Species: | B. physalus |
| [Binomial name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binomial_nomenclature) | |
| Balaenoptera physalus | |

The fin whale (Balaenoptera physalus), also known as finback whale or common rorqual and formerly known as herring whale or razorback whale, is a marine mammal belonging to the [parvorder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_(biology)" \l "Zoology" \o "Order (biology)) of [baleen whales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baleen_whale). It is the second-largest species on Earth after the [blue whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_whale).[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fin_whale#cite_note-marinebio-7) The largest reportedly grow to 27.3 m (89.6 ft) long[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fin_whale#cite_note-MacWheel1929-8) with a maximum confirmed length of 25.9 m (85 ft),[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fin_whale#cite_note-Mac1943-9) a maximum recorded weight of nearly 74 tonnes (73 long tons; 82 short tons),[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fin_whale#cite_note-Lockyer1976-10) and a maximum estimated weight of around 114 tonnes (112 long tons; 126 short tons). [American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) [naturalist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naturalist) [Roy Chapman Andrews](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roy_Chapman_Andrews) called the fin whale "the greyhound of the sea ... for its beautiful, slender body is built like a racing yacht and the animal can surpass the speed of the fastest ocean steamship."[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fin_whale#cite_note-11)

The fin whale's body is long and slender, coloured brownish-grey with a paler underside. The fin whale is a large baleen whale that belongs to the [Cetacean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetacea) order, which includes all species of whale, dolphin, and porpoise. At least two recognized subspecies exist, in the North Atlantic and the [Southern Hemisphere](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Hemisphere). It is found in all the major oceans, from [polar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polar_region) to [tropical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropics) waters. It is absent only from waters close to the [ice pack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ice_packs) at the poles and relatively small areas of water away from the open ocean. The highest population density occurs in [temperate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temperateness) and cool waters.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fin_whale#cite_note-nmfs1-12)

Its food consists of small [schooling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoaling_and_schooling) fish, [squid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Squid), and [crustaceans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crustacean) including [copepods](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copepod) and [krill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krill). he fin whale is usually distinguished by its tall spout, long back, prominent [dorsal fin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorsal_fin), and asymmetrical colouration.

The animal's large size aids in identification, and it is usually only confused with the [blue whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_whale), the [sei whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sei_whale" \o "Sei whale), or, in warmer waters, [Bryde's whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bryde%27s_whale" \o "Bryde's whale).

### Size[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Fin_whale&action=edit&section=4" \o "Edit section: Size)]

In the [Northern Hemisphere](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Hemisphere), the average size of adult males and females is about 18.5 and 20 metres (61 and 66 ft), respectively, averaging 38.5 and 50.5 tonnes (42.5 and 55.5 tons),[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fin_whale#cite_note-Lockyer1976-10) while in the Southern Hemisphere, it is 20.5 and 22 m (67 and 72 ft),[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fin_whale#cite_note-evans1987-33) weighing 52.5 and 63 tonnes (58 and 69.5 tons).[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fin_whale#cite_note-Lockyer1976-10)occurs in temperate, low-latitude seas during the winter, followed by an 11- to 12-month [gestation period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gestation_period). A newborn [weans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weaning) from its mother at 6 or 7 months of age when it is 11 to 12 m (36 to 39 ft) in length, and the [calf](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/calf) accompanies the mother to the summer feeding ground

A Fin whale is an enormous baleen whale and is classified as the second biggest creature on this planet. Occasionally it is known as the "greyhound of the sea" because it swims at an accelerated speed; it can usually swim up to 23 mph in remarkably short bursts.

## Life history[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Fin_whale&action=edit&section=7" \o "Edit section: Life history)]

[Mating](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mating) occurs in temperate, low-latitude seas during the winter, followed by an 11- to 12-month [gestation period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gestation_period). A newborn [weans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weaning) from its mother at 6 or 7 months of age when it is 11 to 12 m (36 to 39 ft) in length, and the [calf](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/calf) accompanies the mother to the summer feeding ground. Females reproduce every 2 or 3 years, with as many as six [fetuses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fetus) being reported, but single births are far more common. Females reach sexual maturity between 6 and 12 years of age at lengths of 17.7–19 m (58–62 ft) in the Northern Hemisphere and 20 m (66 ft) in the Southern Hemisphere.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fin_whale#cite_note-evans1987-33) Calves remain with their mothers for about one year.[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fin_whale#cite_note-clapham-48)

Full physical [maturity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_maturity) is attained between 25 and 30 years. Fin whales have a maximum life span of at least 94 years of age,[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fin_whale#cite_note-martin-49) although specimens have been found aged at an estimated 135–140 years.[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fin_whale#cite_note-dr-50)

The fin whale is one of the fastest [cetaceans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetacea) and can sustain speeds between 37 km/h (23 mph)[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fin_whale#cite_note-ADW-45) and 41 km/h (25 mph) and bursts up to 46 km/h (29 mph) have been recorded, earning the fin whale the nickname "the [greyhound](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greyhound) of the sea".[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fin_whale#cite_note-51)

## Gray Whale

## https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/24/Graywhale_MMC.jpg/220px-Graywhale_MMC.jpg

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| amily: | [Eschrichtiidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eschrichtiidae) |
| Genus: | [Eschrichtius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eschrichtius) [Gray](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Edward_Gray), 1864 |
| Species: | E. robustus |
| [Binomial name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binomial_nomenclature) | |
| Eschrichtius robustus | |

## The gray whale (Eschrichtius robustus),[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gray_whale#cite_note-msw3-1) also known as the grey whale,[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gray_whale#cite_note-BrM-4) gray back whale, Pacific gray whale, or California gray whale[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gray_whale#cite_note-Walker-5) is a [baleen whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baleen_whale) that migrates between feeding and breeding grounds yearly. It reaches a length of 14.9 meters (49 ft), a weight of 36 tonnes (40 short tons), and lives between 55 and 70 years.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gray_whale#cite_note-6) The common name of the whale comes from the gray patches and white mottling on its dark skin.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gray_whale#cite_note-7) Gray whales were once called devil fish because of their fighting behavior when hunted.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gray_whale#cite_note-8) The gray whale is the sole living species in the [genus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genus) Eschrichtius, which in turn is the sole living genus in the [family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Family_(biology)) [Eschrichtiidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eschrichtiidae" \o "Eschrichtiidae). This mammal descended from filter-feeding whales that appeared at the beginning of the [Oligocene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oligocene), over 30 million years ago. The gray whale has a dark slate-gray color and is covered by characteristic gray-white patterns, scars left by [parasites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parasite) which drop off in its cold feeding grounds. Individual whales are typically identified using photographs of their dorsal surface and matching the scars and patches associated with parasites that have fallen off the whale or are still attached. They have two blowholes on top of their head, which can create a distinctive heart-shaped blow[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gray_whale" \l "cite_note-27) at the surface in calm wind conditions.

## Breeding behavior is complex and often involves three or more animals. Both male and female whales reach puberty at approximately eight years of age.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gray_whale#cite_note-The_Grey_Whale-60) Females show highly synchronized reproduction, undergoing oestrus in late November to early December.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gray_whale#cite_note-Gray-Whale-61) During the breeding season, it is common for females to have several mates.[[62]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gray_whale#cite_note-Swartz-Rugh-Taylor-62) This single ovulation event is believed to coincide with the species’ annual migration patterns, when births can occur in warmer waters.[[62]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gray_whale#cite_note-Swartz-Rugh-Taylor-62) Most females show biennial reproduction, although annual births have been reported.

## The whale feeds mainly on [benthic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benthos) [crustaceans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crustacean), which it eats by turning on its side and scooping up sediments from the sea floor. This unique feeding selection makes gray whales one of the most strongly reliant on coastal waters among baleen whales. It is classified as a [baleen whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baleen_whale) and has [baleen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baleen), or whalebone, which acts like a sieve, to capture small sea animals, including [amphipods](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amphipoda) taken in along with sand, water and other material.

A Gray Whale is classified as a baleen whale and has a thick layer of blubber that is around 10 inches dense. It tends to migrate from cooler waters to tropical locations every year in social groups. A Gray whale is an incredibly agile swimmer. It is capable of diving for around thirty minutes and can go as deep as 500 feet.  A Gray whale makes clicks, grunts as well as screeching sounds that are used to converse  with all other Gray whales.

Humpback Whales:

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| --- | --- |
| Family: | [Balaenopteridae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rorqual) |
| Genus: | *Megaptera* [Gray](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Edward_Gray), 1846 |
| Species: | ***M. novaeangliae*** |
| [**Binomial name**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binomial_nomenclature) | |
| ***Megaptera novaeangliae*** | |

The humpback whale (Megaptera novaeangliae) is a species of [baleen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baleen_whale) [whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whale). One of the larger [rorqual](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rorqual" \o "Rorqual) species, adults range in length from 12–16 m (39–52 ft) and weigh around 25–30 metric tons (28–33 short tons). The humpback has a distinctive body shape, with long [pectoral fins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pectoral_fins) and a knobbly head. It is known for [breaching](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whale_surfacing_behaviour) and other distinctive [surface behaviors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetacean_surfacing_behaviour), making it popular with [whale watchers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whale_watching). Males produce a complex [song](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whale_sound) lasting 10 to 20 minutes, which they repeat for hours at a time. Its purpose is not clear, though it may have a role in mating.

Found in [oceans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ocean) and [seas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea) around the world, humpback whales typically [migrate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_migration) up to 25,000 km (16,000 mi) each year. They feed in [polar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polar_region) waters, and migrate to [tropical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropics) or [subtropical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subtropical) waters to breed and give birth, [fasting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fasting) and living off their [fat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blubber) reserves. Their diet consists mostly of [krill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krill) and small [fish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fish). Humpbacks have a diverse repertoire of feeding methods, including the [bubble net](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bubble_net_feeding) technique.

### Breathing[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Humpback_whale&action=edit&section=11" \o "Edit section: Breathing)]

Whales are air-breathing mammals who must surface to get the air they need. The stubby [dorsal fin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorsal_fin) is visible soon after the [blow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blowhole_(biology)) (exhalation) when the whale surfaces, but disappears by the time the flukes emerge. Humpbacks have a 3 m (9.8 ft), heart-shaped to bushy blow through the blowholes.



They do not generally sleep at the surface, but they must continue to breathe. Possibly only half of their brain sleeps at one time, with one half managing the surface-blow-dive process without awakening the other half.

### Courtship and reproduction[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Humpback_whale&action=edit&section=8" \o "Edit section: Courtship and reproduction)]

See also: [Whale reproduction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whale_reproduction) and [Whale surfacing behavior](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whale_surfacing_behavior)

[Courtship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Courtship) rituals take place during the winter months, following migration toward the [equator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equator) from summer feeding grounds closer to the [poles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_pole). Competition is usually fierce. Unrelated males, dubbed escorts, frequently trail females, as well as cow-calf pairs. Males gather into "competitive groups" around a female and fight for the right to mate with her.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humpback_whale#cite_note-Perrin-25) Group size ebbs and flows as unsuccessful males retreat and others arrive. Behaviors include breaching, [spyhopping](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spyhopping" \o "Spyhopping), [lob-tailing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetacean_surfacing_behaviour), [tail-slapping](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetacean_surfacing_behaviour), [pectoral fin-slapping](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetacean_surfacing_behaviour), [peduncle throws](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetacean_surfacing_behaviour), charging and parrying.

A Humpback whale is classified as a baleen whale as well as a Rorqual whale and sings delightful songs. It can perform complicated and collaborative feeding strategies. A Humpback whale has a gigantic head with some rough swellings; each has a bristle. A Humpback is an acrobat in the deep sea, and it breaches and slaps the water. Humpbacks live in a social group and have two blowholes. Their name illustrates the action that they make when they curve their backs outside of the ocean in order to get ready to make a dive.

## Killer Whales:

## Two killer whales jump above the sea surface, showing their black, white and grey colouration. The closer whale is upright and viewed from the side, while the other whale is arching backward to display its underside.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Family: | [Delphinidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceanic_dolphin) |
| Genus: | *Orcinus* [Fitzinger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopold_Fitzinger), 1860[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-4) |
| Species: | ***O. orca*** |
| [**Binomial name**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binomial_nomenclature) | |
| ***Orcinus orca***  ([Linnaeus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Linnaeus), [1758](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/10th_edition_of_Systema_Naturae) | |

## The killer whale or orca (Orcinus orca) is a [toothed whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toothed_whale) belonging to the [oceanic dolphin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceanic_dolphin) family, of which it is the largest member. Killer whales have a diverse diet, although individual populations often specialize in particular types of prey. Some feed exclusively on fish, while others hunt [marine mammals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_mammal) such as [seals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinniped) and dolphins. They have been known to attack [baleen whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baleen_whale) calves, and even adult whales. Killer whales are [apex predators](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apex_predator), as no animal preys on them. A [cosmopolitan species](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cosmopolitan_species), they can be found in each of the world's oceans in a variety of marine environments, from [Arctic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arctic_Ocean) and [Antarctic regions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Ocean) to tropical seas, absent only from the [Baltic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltic_sea) and [Black](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Sea) seas, and some areas of the Arctic Ocean.

## A typical killer whale distinctively bears a black back, white chest and sides, and a white patch above and behind the eye. Calves are born with a yellowish or orange tint, which fades to white. It has a heavy and robust body[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale" \l "cite_note-50) with a large dorsal fin up to 1.8 m (5.9 ft) tall.[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-Orca-51) Behind the fin, it has a dark grey "saddle patch" across the back. Antarctic killer whales may have pale gray to nearly white backs. Adult killer whales are very distinctive, seldom confused with any other sea creature.[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-FOOTNOTECarwardine200120-52) When seen from a distance, juveniles can be confused with other [cetacean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetacean) species, such as the [false killer whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/False_killer_whale) or [Risso's dolphin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Risso%27s_dolphin" \o "Risso's dolphin).

## Killer whales are the largest extant members of the dolphin family. Males typically range from 6 to 8 metres (20 to 26 ft) long and weigh in excess of 6 tonnes (5.9 long tons; 6.6 short tons). Females are smaller, generally ranging from 5 to 7 m (16 to 23 ft) and weighing about 3 to 4 tonnes (3.0 to 3.9 long tons; 3.3 to 4.4 short tons).[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-FOOTNOTEBaird2002-55) The largest male killer whale on record was 9.8 m (32 ft), weighing 10 tonnes (9.8 long tons; 11 short tons), while the largest female was 8.5 m (28 ft), weighing 7.5 tonnes (7.4 long tons; 8.3 short tons).[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-Orca-51) Calves at birth weigh about 180 kg (400 lb) and are about 2.4 m (7.9 ft) long.[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-56)[[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-57)

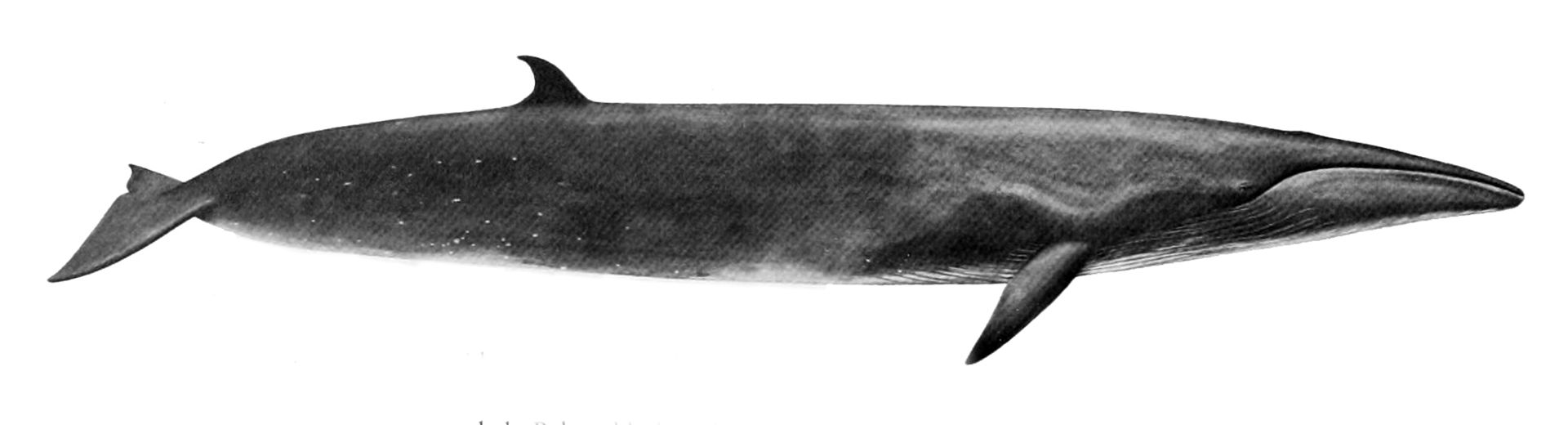
## Female killer whales begin to mature at around the age of 10 and reach peak fertility around 20,[[72]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale" \l "cite_note-Reproduction-72) experiencing periods of [polyestrous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polyestrous) cycling separated by non-cycling periods of three to 16 months. Females can often breed until age 40, followed by a rapid decrease in fertility.[[72]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-Reproduction-72) As such, orcas are among the few [animals that undergo menopause](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Menopause#Other_animals) and live for decades after they have finished breeding.[[73]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-73)[[74]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-74) The lifespans of wild females average 50 years. Some are claimed to have lived substantially longer: [Granny (J2)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granny_(orca)) was estimated by some researchers to have been as 105 years old at the time of her death, though a biopsy sample indicated her age as 65 to 80 years.[[75]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-FOOTNOTECarwardine200126-75)[[76]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-King-76)[[77]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-Orcazine-77)

## Killer whales hunt varied prey including fish, [cephalopods](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cephalopod), mammals, [sea birds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_bird), and [sea turtles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_turtles).[[107]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-FOOTNOTENMFS200517-107) Different populations or ecotypes may specialize, and some can have a dramatic impact on prey species.[[108]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-108) However, whales in tropical areas appear to have more generalized diets due to lower food productivity.[[94]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-Wier-94)[[93]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-Baird2006-93)

Surprisingly Killer Whales belong to the biggest species of the dolphin family and are the strongest predator in the world. A pod of orcas, or killer whales, cooperate to wash a Weddell seal off an ice floe. This sequence, filmed for Frozen Planet, marks the first complete filming of killer whale "wave washing" behavior.

**Sei Whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Family: | [Balaenopteridae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rorqual) |
| Genus: | [*Balaenoptera*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balaenoptera) |
| Species: | ***B. borealis*** |
| [**Binomial name**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binomial_nomenclature) | |
| ***Balaenoptera boreali*** | |

 A Sei whale is dark-grey in colour and is a baleen whale.  It is stream-lined and can be located all over the world besides Arctic waters. It generally swims in small social groups of 3-5 whales although bigger groups might form in abundant feeding locations. A Sei whale is very much like a Bryde's whale; people often confuse the two.

The sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*) is a [baleen whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baleen_whale), the third-largest [rorqual](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rorqual" \o "Rorqual) after the [blue whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_whale) and the [fin whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fin_whale).[[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sei_whale#cite_note-av-3) It inhabits most oceans and adjoining seas, and prefers deep offshore waters. It avoids [polar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polar_region) and [tropical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropics) waters and semi enclosed bodies of water. The sei whale migrates annually from cool and sub-polar waters in summer to winter in [temperate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temperateness) and [subtropical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subtropics) waters, with a lifespan of 70 years.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sei_whale#cite_note-nmfs-5)

Reaching 19.5 m (64 ft) long and weighing as much as 28 t (28 long tons; 31 short tons),[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sei_whale#cite_note-nmfs-5) the sei whale consumes an average of 900 kg (2,000 lb) of food every day; its diet consists primarily of [copepods](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copepod), [krill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krill), and other [zooplankton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zooplankton).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sei_whale#cite_note-adw-6) It is among the fastest of all [cetaceans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetacea), and can reach speeds of up to 50 km/h (31 mph) (27 [knots](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knot_(unit))) over short distances.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sei_whale#cite_note-adw-6) The whale's name comes from the [Norwegian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norwegian_language) word for [pollock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pollachius_virens" \o "Pollachius virens), a fish that appears off the coast of Norway at the same time of the year as the sei whale.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sei_whale#cite_note-acs-7)

## The sei whale is the fourth-largest balaenopterid, after the blue whale (up to 180 tonnes, 200 tons) and the fin whale (up to 70 tonnes, 77 tons) and the humpback whale (up to 40 tonnes, 44.5 tons).[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sei_whale#cite_note-av-3) In the North Pacific, adult males average 13.7 m (45 ft) and adult females 15 m (49 ft), weighing 15 and 18.5 tonnes (16.5 and 20.5 tons),[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sei_whale#cite_note-Lockyer1976-24) while in the North Atlantic adult males average 14 m (46 ft) and adult females 14.5 m (48 ft), weighing 15.5 and 17 tonnes (17 and 18.5 tons)[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sei_whale#cite_note-Lockyer1976-24) In the Southern Hemisphere, they average 14.5 (47.5 ft) and 15 m (49 ft), respectively, weighing 17 and 18.5 tonnes (18.5 and 20.5 tons).

## This rorqual is a [filter feeder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filter_feeder), using its [baleen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baleen) plates to obtain its food by opening its mouth, engulfing or skimming large amounts of the water containing the food, then straining the water out through the baleen, trapping any food items inside its mouth.

### Reproduction

[Mating](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mating) occurs in [temperate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temperateness), subtropical seas during the winter. [Gestation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gestation) is estimated to vary around 10​3⁄4 months,[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sei_whale" \l "cite_note-lockyer_and_martin-48) 11​1⁄4 months,[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sei_whale#cite_note-lockyer77-49) or one year,[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sei_whale#cite_note-risting-50) depending which model of [foetal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fetus" \o "Fetus) growth is used. The different estimates result from scientists' inability to observe an entire pregnancy; most reproductive data for baleen whales were obtained from animals caught by commercial whalers, which offer only single snapshots of fetal growth. Researchers attempt to extrapolate conception dates by comparing fetus size and characteristics with newborns.

## Sperm Whale:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Family: | [Physeteridae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physeteridae) |
| Genus: | *Physeter* [Linnaeus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Linnaeus), [1758](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/10th_edition_of_Systema_Naturae) |
| Species: | ***P. macrocephalus*** |
| [**Binomial name**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binomial_nomenclature) | |
| ***Physeter macrocephalus*** | |

## Mother and baby sperm whale.jpg

A Sperm whale is classified as a “toothed” whale and lives in social groups. Its brain is massive and weighs around 20 pounds; it has the  biggest brain compared to all other animals. A Sperm whale just has one blowhole which has an S shape and is around twenty inches length wise. Its blowhole is situated on the front of its massive head, on the left hand side. A Sperm whale has a thick layer of blubber that is between 4-12 inches.

The **sperm whale** (*Physeter macrocephalus*) or **cachalot** [/ˈkæʃəˌlɒt, ˈkæʃəˌloʊ/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English) is the largest of the [toothed whales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toothed_whale) and the largest toothed [predator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predator). It is the only living member of genus ***Physeter*** and one of three extant [species](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Species) in the [sperm whale family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sperm_whale_family), along with the [pygmy sperm whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pygmy_sperm_whale) and [dwarf sperm whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dwarf_sperm_whale) of the genus *[Kogia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kogia" \o "Kogia)*.

The sperm whale is a [pelagic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pelagic) [mammal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mammal) with a worldwide range, and will migrate seasonally for feeding and breeding.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sperm_whale#cite_note-4) Females and young males live together in groups, while mature males (bulls) live solitary lives outside of the mating season. The females cooperate to protect and [nurse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lactation) their young. Females give birth every four to twenty years, and care for the calves for more than a decade. A mature sperm whale has few natural predators, although calves and weakened adults are sometimes killed by pods of [orcas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orcas) (killer whales).

Mature males average 16 metres (52 ft) in length but some may reach 20.5 metres (67 ft), with the head representing up to one-third of the animal's length. Plunging to 2,250 metres (7,382 ft), it is the second deepest diving mammal, following only the [Cuvier's beaked whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuvier%27s_beaked_whale).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sperm_whale#cite_note-NatGeoDeepest-5)

The sperm whale uses [echolocation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_echolocation) and [vocalization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sperm_whale#Vocalization_complex) as loud as 230 [decibels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decibel) (re 1 µPa at 1 m) underwater.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sperm_whale#cite_note-natgeo-6) It has the largest brain on Earth, more than five times heavier than a human's. Sperm whales can live for more than 60 years.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sperm_whale#cite_note-Degratietal2011-7)

[Spermaceti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spermaceti) (sperm oil), from which the whale derives its name, was a prime target of the [whaling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whaling) industry, and was sought after for use in oil lamps, lubricants, and candles. [Ambergris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambergris), a solid waxy waste product sometimes present in its digestive system, is still highly valued as a [fixative in perfumes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fixative_(perfumery)), among other uses. Beachcombers look out for ambergris as [flotsam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flotsam,_jetsam,_lagan,_and_derelict#Flotsam).[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sperm_whale#cite_note-8) [Sperm whaling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sperm_whaling) was a major industry in the nineteenth century, immortalised in the novel [*Moby Dick*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moby_Dick). The species is protected by the [International Whaling The sperm whale is the largest toothed whale, with adult males measuring up to 20.5 metres (67 ft) long and weighing up to 57,000 kilograms (56 long tons; 63 short tons).[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sperm_whale#cite_note-encyc-32)[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sperm_whale#cite_note-marinebio-33) By contrast, the [second largest toothed whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cetaceans) ([Baird's Beaked Whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baird%27s_Beaked_Whale)) measures 12.8 metres (42 ft) and weighs up to 15 short tons (14,000 kg) Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Whaling_Commission) moratorium, and is listed as [vulnerable](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vulnerable_species) by the [International Union for Conservation of Nature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Union_for_Conservation_of_Nature).



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Kingdom: | [Animalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal) |
| Phylum: | [Chordata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chordate) |
| Class: | [Mammalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mammal) |
| Order: | [Carnivora](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnivora) |
| *Clade*: | [Pinnipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinniped) |
| Family: | [Odobenidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odobenidae) |
| Genus: | *Odobenus* [Brisson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathurin_Jacques_Brisson), 1762 |
| Species: | ***O. rosmarus*** |
|  | |
| ***Odobenus rosmar*** | |

The mustached and long-tusked walrus is most often found near the Arctic Circle, lying on the ice with hundreds of companions. These marine mammals are extremely sociable, prone to loudly bellowing and snorting at one another, but are aggressive during mating season. With wrinkled brown and pink hides, walruses are distinguished by their long white tusks, grizzly whiskers, flat flipper, and bodies full of blubber

The walrus is a large flippered marine mammal with a discontinuous distribution about the North Pole in the Arctic Ocean and subarctic seas of the Northern Hemisphere. The walrus is the only living species in the family Odobenidae and genus Odobenus.



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Family: | [Otariidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eared_seal) |
| Subfamily: | **Otariinae** Gray 1825 |
| **Genera** | |
| [*Eumetopias*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eumetopias) [*Neophoca*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neophoca) [*Otaria*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otaria) [*Phocarctos*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phocarctos) [*Zalophus*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zalophus) | |

Sea lions are sea mammals characterized by external [ear flaps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinna_(anatomy)), long foreflippers, the ability to walk on all fours, short, thick hair, and a big chest and belly. Together with the [fur seals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fur_seal), they comprise the family [Otariidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otariidae" \o "Otariidae), [eared seals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eared_seal), which contains six [extant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extant_taxa) and one extinct species (the [Japanese sea lion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_sea_lion)) in five [genera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genera). Their range extends from the [subarctic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subarctic) to [tropical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropical) waters of the [global ocean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ocean) in both the [Northern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Hemisphere) and [Southern Hemispheres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Hemisphere), with the notable exception of the northern [Atlantic Ocean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_lion#cite_note-seaworld-1) They have an average lifespan of 20–30 years. A male California sea lion weighs on average about 300 kg (660 lb) and is about 8 ft (2.4 m) long, while the female sea lion weighs 100 kg (220 lb) and is 6 ft (1.8 m) long. The largest sea lion is [Steller's sea lion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steller%27s_sea_lion" \o "Steller's sea lion), which can weigh 1,000 kg (2,200 lb) and grow to a length of 10 ft (3.0 m). Sea lions consume large quantities of food at a time and are known to eat about 5–8% of their body weight (about 15–35 lb (6.8–15.9 kg)) at a single feeding. Sea lions can go around 16 knots in water and at their fastest they can go up to 30 knots.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_lion#cite_note-2) Three species, the [Australian sea lion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_sea_lion), the [Galápagos sea lion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gal%C3%A1pagos_sea_lion) and the [New Zealand sea lion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand_sea_lion) are listed as Endangered.



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Order: | [Sirenia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirenia) |
| Family: | [Dugongidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dugongidae) |
| Genus: | *Dugong* [Lacépède](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernard_Germain_de_Lac%C3%A9p%C3%A8de), 1799 |
| Species: | ***D. dugon*** |

The dugong ([/ˈdjuːɡɒŋ/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English); Dugong dugon) is a medium-sized [marine mammal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_mammal). It is one of four living species of the order [Sirenia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirenia" \o "Sirenia), which also includes three species of [manatees](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manatee). It is the only living representative of the once-diverse family [Dugongidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dugongidae" \o "Dugongidae); its closest modern relative, [Steller's sea cow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steller%27s_sea_cow" \o "Steller's sea cow) (Hydrodamalis gigas), was hunted to [extinction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extinction) in the 18th century. The dugong is the only strictly [herbivorous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbivorous) [marine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seawater) mammal.

The dugong is the only sirenian in its range, which spans the waters of some 40 countries and territories throughout the [Indo-West Pacific](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-West_Pacific). The dugong is largely dependent on [seagrass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seagrass" \o "Seagrass) communities for subsistence and is thus restricted to the coastal habitats which support seagrass meadows, with the largest dugong concentrations typically occurring in wide, shallow, protected areas such as [bays](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bays), [mangrove](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mangrove) [channels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Channel_(geography)), the waters of large [inshore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inshore) islands and inter-reefal waters. The northern waters of Australia between [Shark Bay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shark_Bay) and [Moreton Bay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moreton_Bay" \o "Moreton Bay) are believed to be the dugong's contemporary stronghold.

Like all modern sirenians, the dugong has a [fusiform](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/fusiform) body with no [dorsal fin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorsal_fin) or [hind limbs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hind_limb). The [forelimbs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forelimb) or flippers are paddle-like. The dugong is easily distinguished from the manatees by its fluked, dolphin-like tail, but also possesses a unique skull and teeth. Its [snout](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snout) is sharply downturned, an adaptation for feeding in [benthic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benthic_zone" \o "Benthic zone)seagrass communities. The molar teeth are simple and peg-like unlike the more elaborate molar dentition of manatees.

Monatee

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Order: | [Sirenia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirenia) | |
| Family: | Trichechidae [Gill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Gill), 1872 | |
| Genus: | ***Trichechus*** [Linnaeus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Linnaeus), [175](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/10th_edition_of_Systema_Naturae) | |
| **Manatees**  **Temporal range: 2mya-recent**[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manatee#cite_note-1) | | | |
| [FL fig04.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:FL_fig04.jpg) | | | |
| Antillean manatee | | | |
| [**Scientific classification**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxonomy_(biology))**[e](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Taxonomy/Trichechus)** | | | |
| Kingdom: | | [Animalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal) | |
| Phylum: | | [Chordata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chordate) | |
| Class: | | [Mammalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mammal) | |
| Order: | | [Sirenia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirenia) | |
| Family: | | Trichechidae [Gill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Gill), 1872 | |
| Genus: | | ***Trichechus*** [Linnaeus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Linnaeus), [1758](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/10th_edition_of_Systema_Naturae) | |
| [**Species**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Species) | | | |
| [*Trichechus inunguis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazonian_manatee) [*Trichechus manatus*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Indian_manatee) [*Trichechus senegalensis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_manatee) [*Trichechus "pygmaeus"*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dwarf_manatee) (validity questionable) | | | |

**Manatees** ([family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Family_(biology)) **Trichechidae**, [genus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genus) ***Trichechus***) are large, fully aquatic, mostly [herbivorous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbivory) [marine mammals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_mammal) sometimes known as **sea cows.** There are three accepted living species of Trichechidae, representing three of the four living species in the order [Sirenia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirenia" \o "Sirenia): the [Amazonian manatee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazonian_manatee) (*Trichechus inunguis*), the [West Indian manatee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Indian_manatee) (*Trichechus manatus*), and the [West African manatee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_African_manatee) (*Trichechus senegalensis*). They measure up to 4.0 metres (13.1 ft) long, weigh as much as 590 kilograms (1,300 lb),[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manatee" \l "cite_note-2) and have paddle-like flippers.

Manatees typically breed once every two years; generally only a single calf is born. [Gestation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gestation) lasts about 12 months and to [wean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weaning) the calf takes a further 12 to 18 months.

Manatees are [herbivores](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbivory) and eat over 60 different freshwater ( e.g. floating hyacinth, pickerel weed, alligator weed, water lettuce, hydrilla, water celery, musk grass, [mangrove](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mangrove) leaves) and saltwater plants (e.g. sea grasses, shoal grass, manatee grass, [turtle grass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seagrass), widgeon grass, sea clover, and marine algae). Using their divided upper lip, an adult manatee will commonly eat up to 10%–15% of their body weight (about 50 kg) per day. Consuming such an amount requires the manatee to graze for up to seven hours a day.



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Order: | [Carnivora](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnivora) |
| Family: | [Mustelidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mustelidae) |
| Subfamily: | [Lutrinae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otter) |
| Genus: | *Enhydra* [Fleming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Fleming_(naturalist)), 1828 |
| Species: | ***E. lutris*** |

The sea otter (Enhydra lutris) is a [marine mammal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_mammal) native to the coasts of the northern and eastern [North Pacific Ocean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Ocean). Adult sea [otters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otter) typically weigh between 14 and 45 kg (31 and 99 lb), making them the heaviest members of the [weasel family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mustelidae), but among the smallest marine mammals. Unlike most marine mammals, the sea otter's primary form of insulation is an exceptionally thick coat of [fur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fur), the densest in the animal kingdom. Although it can walk on land, the sea otter is capable of living exclusively in the ocean.



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Order: | [Carnivora](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnivora) |
| Family: | [Ursidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bear) |
| Genus: | [*Ursus*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ursus_(genus)) |
| Species: | ***U. maritimus*** |

The polar bear ([Ursus](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/ursus" \l "Latin" \o "wikt:ursus) [maritimus](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/maritimus" \l "Latin" \o "wikt:maritimus)) is a [hypercarnivorous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypercarnivore" \o "Hypercarnivore) [bear](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bear) whose native range lies largely within the [Arctic Circle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arctic_Circle), encompassing the [Arctic Ocean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arctic_Ocean), its surrounding seas and surrounding land masses. It is a large bear, approximately the same size as the [omnivorous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omnivore) [Kodiak bear](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kodiak_bear) (Ursus arctos middendorffi).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polar_bear#cite_note-5) A boar (adult male) weighs around 350–700 kg (772–1,543 lb),[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polar_bear" \l "cite_note-Animal-6) while a sow (adult female) is about half that size. Although it is the [sister species](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sister_species) of the [brown bear](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brown_bear),[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polar_bear#cite_note-MSW3-7) it has evolved to occupy a narrower [ecological niche](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecological_niche), with many body characteristics adapted for cold temperatures, for moving across snow, ice and open water, and for hunting [seals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinniped), which make up most of its diet.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polar_bear#cite_note-8) Although most polar bears are born on land, they spend most of their time on the sea ice. Their scientific name means "[maritime](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea) bear" and derives from this fact. Polar bears hunt their preferred food of seals from the edge of [sea ice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_ice), often living off fat reserves when no sea ice is present. Because of their dependence on the sea ice, polar bears are classified as [marine mammals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_mammal).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polar_bear#cite_note-StirlingGuravich1998-9)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Kingdom: | [Animalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal) |
| Phylum: | [Chordata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chordate) |
| Class: | [Mammalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mammal) |
| Order: | [Artiodactyla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Even-toed_ungulate) |
| Infraorder: | [Cetacea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetacea) |
| Family: | [Delphinidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceanic_dolphin) |



Dolphins are a widely distributed and diverse group of [aquatic mammals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aquatic_mammal). They are an informal grouping within the order [Cetacea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetacea" \o "Cetacea), excluding [whales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whale) and [porpoises](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porpoise), so to zoologists the grouping is [paraphyletic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paraphyletic).

There are 40 extant species of dolphins. Dolphins, alongside other [cetaceans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetaceans), belong to the clade [Cetartiodactyla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetartiodactyla" \o "Cetartiodactyla) with [even-toed ungulates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Even-toed_ungulate). Cetaceans' closest living relatives are the [hippopotamuses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hippopotamus), having diverged about 40 million years ago.

Dolphins range in size from the 1.7 m (5.6 ft) long and 50 kg (110 lb) [Maui's dolphin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maui%27s_dolphin) to the 9.5 m (31 ft) and 10 t (11 short tons) [killer whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale). Several species exhibit [sexual dimorphism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_dimorphism), in that the males are larger than females. They have streamlined bodies and two limbs that are modified into flippers. Though not quite as flexible as [seals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinniped), some dolphins can travel at 55.5 km/h (34.5 mph). Dolphins use their conical shaped teeth to capture fast moving prey. They have well-developed hearing which is adapted for both air and water and is so well developed that some can survive even if they are blind. Some species are well adapted for diving to great depths. They have a layer of fat, or [blubber](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blubber), under the skin to keep warm in the cold water.

**The dolphins comprise the extant families**

[Delphinidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delphinidae) (the oceanic dolphins),

[Platanistidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Platanistidae) (the Indian [river dolphins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_dolphin)),

[Iniidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iniidae) (the new world river dolphins), and

[Pontoporiidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pontoporiidae) (the [brackish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brackish) dolphins), and the extinct

[Lipotidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lipotidae) (baiji or Chinese river dolphin).



**Platanistidae**

The South Asian river dolphin (Platanista gangetica) is an endangered freshwater or [river dolphin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_dolphin) found in the region of South Asia which is split into two subspecies, the Ganges river dolphin (P. g. gangetica)(~3,500 individuals) and the Indus river dolphin (P. g. minor)(~1,500 individuals). The Ganges river dolphin is primarily found in the [Ganges](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ganges) and [Brahmaputra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brahmaputra_River) Rivers and their tributaries in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, while the Indus river dolphin is now found only in the main channel of the [Indus River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indus_River) in [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) and active channels connected to it between the Jinnah and Kotri barrages. From the 1970s until 1998, they were regarded as separate species; however, in 1998, their classification was changed from two separate species to subspecies of a single species (see taxonomy below). The Ganges river dolphin has been recognized by the government of [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) as its [National Aquatic Animal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_national_animals)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_river_dolphin#cite_note-3) and is the official animal of the Indian city of [Guwahati](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guwahati).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_river_dolphin#cite_note-4) The Indus river dolphin has been named as the [National Mammal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_national_animals) of Pakistan.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_river_dolphin#cite_note-5)

The South Asian river dolphin has the long, pointed nose characteristic of all river dolphins. Their teeth are visible in both the upper and lower jaws even when the mouth is closed. The teeth of young animals are almost an inch long, thin and curved; however, as animals age, the teeth undergo considerable changes and in mature adults become square, bony, flat disks. The snout thickens towards its end. Navigation and hunting are carried out using [echolocation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_echolocation).[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_river_dolphin#cite_note-EDGE-12) They are unique among cetaceans in that they swim on their sides.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_river_dolphin#cite_note-13) The body is a brownish color and stocky at the middle. The species has only a small, triangular lump in the place of a [dorsal fin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorsal_fin). The flippers and tail are thin and large in relation to the body size, which is about 2-2.2 meters in males and 2.4-2.6 m in females. The oldest recorded animal was a 28-year-old male, 199 cm in length.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_river_dolphin#cite_note-14) Mature females are larger than males. [Sexual dimorphism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_dimorphism) is expressed after females reach about 150 cm (59 in); the female [rostrum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rostrum_(anatomy)" \o "Rostrum (anatomy))continues to grow after the male rostrum stops growing, eventually reaching approximately 20 cm (7.9 in) longer.

### Life Cycle

Births may take place year round, but appear to be concentrated between December to January and March to May.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_river_dolphin#cite_note-CMS-15) Gestation is thought to be approximately 9–10 months. After around one year, juveniles are weaned and they reach sexual maturity at about 10 years of age.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_river_dolphin#cite_note-16) During the monsoon, South Asian river dolphins tend to migrate to [tributaries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tributaries) of the main river systems.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_river_dolphin#cite_note-CMS-15) Occasionally, individuals swim along with their beaks emerging from the water,[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_river_dolphin" \l "cite_note-wdcs-17) and they may "breach"; jumping partly or completely clear of the water and landing on their sides.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_river_dolphin#cite_note-wdcs-17)

### Diet[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=South_Asian_river_dolphin&action=edit&section=5" \o "Edit section: Diet)]

The South Asian river dolphin relies on [echolocation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_echolocation) to find prey due to their poor eyesight. Their extended rostrum is advantageous in detecting hidden or hard to find prey items. The prey is held in their jaw and swallowed. Their teeth is used as a clamp rather than a chewing mechanism.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_river_dolphin#cite_note-:1-18)

The species feeds on a variety of [shrimp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrimp) and fish, including [carp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carp) and [catfish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catfish). The Ganges subspecies may take birds and turtles. They are usually encountered on their own or in loose aggregations; the dolphins do not form tight interacting groups.[[1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_river_dolphin#cite_note-19)

**Family Iniidae**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Kingdom: | [Animalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal) |
| Phylum: | [Chordata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chordate) |
| Class: | [Mammalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mammal) |
| Order: | [Artiodactyla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Even-toed_ungulate) |
| Infraorder: | [Cetacea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cetacea) |
| Superfamily: | [Inioidea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inioidea) |
| Family: | **Iniidae** [Gray](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Edward_Gray), 184 |



*Inia geoffrensis* - [Amazon river dolphin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon_river_dolphin)

Iniidae, also known as the Amazon River Dolphin or boto[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iniidae" \l "cite_note-Martin2006-1), can be found throughout the freshwater habitats of the Amazon rivers and Orinoco Basin[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iniidae#cite_note-Gravena2014-2). The Amazon River Dolphin, genus *Inia*, is endemic to South America and the only extant genus of the family Iniidae

The Iniidea have adapted morphology common to freshwater, riverine habitats[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iniidae" \l "cite_note-Gutstien2011-3) These adaptions include cervical vertebra that are not fused, allowing for a flexible neck. Also, their dorsal (back) fin are highly reduced or absent so they do not become entangled in vegetation from the flooded terrestrial plains. Large and wide, paddle-like, pectoral fins allow for maneuverability in small vegetated areas.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iniidae#cite_note-Gomez2011-6)Other riverine adaption including a long [rostrum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rostrum_(anatomy)), skull and jaw, and reduced orbits[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iniidae#cite_note-7)

## Migration[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Iniidae&action=edit&section=2" \o "Edit section: Migration)]

Iniidae seasonally follow fish migration, also. In the drier, seasons they are restricted to the deeper channels and found along flooded meadows and forest, and also near tributaries. Along the main river are [floodplain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floodplain) lakes. The number of river dolphins found here are seasonal, suggesting that the floodplains are favored. These floodplains are especially favored by females and the offspring that still rely on them for parental care. Since the water level fluctuates seasonally, no dolphin spends their entire life here. Also, the ratio of males to females in these lake systems is uneven. Females are more dominant in the floodplains, while males are congregated more in the rivers.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iniidae#cite_note-Martin2006-1)

## Feeding[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Iniidae&action=edit&section=3" \o "Edit section: Feeding)]

Iniidae feed during the day and night but are most actively feeding in the early morning and evening[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iniidae" \l "cite_note-9). Fish were the only food for Inia to be recorded[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iniidae" \l "cite_note-10). To find their food, biosonar is used. This short-range biosonar allows them to locate their prey in shallow water environments while helping them maneuver.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iniidae#cite_note-11)

## Sexual Dimorphism[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Iniidae&action=edit&section=4" \o "Edit section: Sexual Dimorphism)]

Males are typically larger than the female river dolphins. Males are up to 16% longer and more than 50% heavier than their female partners, making them one of the most sexually dimorphic species of cetaceans. In general, male botos have a stronger hue of pink than females, while the pinkest dolphins are nearly all males.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iniidae#cite_note-Martin2006-1) Juvenille Botos are gray, since their base pigment is gray. The scar tissue in this genus is pink. For many adults, their skin is covered in scars. Females tend to be less lacerated then the males. A cobblestone scarring pattern on caudal and dorsal fins are only found in males. This most likely gives rise to the intense pink color. The male Inia dolphins are also known to use an object in their sexual display, suggesting that the visual color may play a role in mate selection. Larger body size and pink color are consequences of sexual selective pressure.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iniidae#cite_note-Martin2006-1)

## Reproduction[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Iniidae&action=edit&section=5" \o "Edit section: Reproduction)]

Mating takes place from June to September, while the [gestation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gestation) period can last from 10 to 11 months. Species of Iniidae produce their offspring between May and July, to coincide with the dry season. With falling water levels fish are herded out of the floodplains, causing a high food availability.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iniidae#cite_note-Gomez2011-6)

Breeding for Iniidae dolphins is seasonal and varies according to food availability and water levels. A single offspring is produced per season. The gestation period is approximately 11 months, and they can produce offspring every year and a half. The lactation period is long, and calves stay with mothers for a few years before becoming independent. The age of maturity is unknown but thought to be at a few years old. Mating systems of this family are unknown, but scientists do know that females take after the young and look to be the limiting factor, which suggests a polygynous system.

Pontoporia

# FRANCISCANA

*Pontoporia blainvillei*

Classification:

The franciscana is one of the smallest cetaceans, but it has the longest beak relative to body size of any dolphin – almost 15% of its total body length. While it is very similar in appearance to river dolphins and can be found in several estuaries throughout its range, it is not a true river dolphin and lives predominantly in shallow salt water and is often seen very close to shore. Although morphological studies suggest two distinct forms based on size (those in the north are found to be larger than those in the south), the species is currently divided into three genetically distinct populations, managed as four separate stocks or 'Franciscana Management Areas'.

Appearance:

The franciscana is a slender dolphin with a very long, thin beak and a steep, rounded forehead. It has small eyes that are well developed. The backswept dorsal fin is low and rounded with a broad base whilst the large broad flippers are spatulate with undulating trailing edges, consistent with the presence of 'finger-bones'. The flukes are extremely broad, up to 1/3 the length of the body. The body is brownish-grey on top with a slightly darker cape, whilst the belly and lower sides are a paler yellowish-grey. The franciscana may be confused with the tucuxi, but it has a longer beak and a more rounded dorsal fin and should be easily discernible.

Behaviour:

The franciscana is inconspicuous and difficult to spot in the wild as they generally avoid boats. It is a smooth, sluggish swimmer, rarely splashing or rolling and certainly not acrobatic. When breathing, the beak may break the surface at a very shallow angle and they tend to show very little of themselves before disappearing back under the water again. They are generally solitary animals but may be found in groups of up to 15. Found in turbid waters less than 30m deep, they are preyed upon by large sharks and killer whales, while they themselves feed on shallow-water fish, squid and crustaceans at or near the sea floor.

Distribution:

The range of the franciscana extends from the coastal waters of Southeast Brazil in the north to central Argentina in the south. This species has been impacted by fisheries in a variety of ways as not only is the major threat to the franciscana incidental entanglement in gillnet fisheries but the fisheries themselves target many of their prey species, and by trawling the benthos these same fisheries destroy vital habitat. On its own, fisheries-induced mortality is thought to be unsustainable and therefore the cumulative impacts are an even more serious concern. There is no total abundance estimate available for this species and the IUCN currently lists this species as Vulnerable



Oceanic dolphins or Delphinidae are a widely distributed family of [dolphins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolphin) that live in the sea. Thirty extant species are described. They include several big species whose common names contain "whale" rather than "dolphin", such as the [killer whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale) and the [pilot whales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilot_whale). Delphinidae is a family within the superfamily [Delphinoidea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delphinoidea" \o "Delphinoidea), which also includes the [porpoises](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porpoise) (Phocoenidae) and the [Monodontidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monodontidae" \o "Monodontidae) ([beluga whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beluga_whale) and [narwhal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narwhal)). [River dolphins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_dolphin) are relatives of the Delphinoidea.

Oceanic dolphins range in size from the 5.6-foot (1.7 m)-long and 110-pound (50 kg) [Maui's dolphin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maui%27s_dolphin) to the 31-foot (9.4 m) and 11-short-ton (10.0 t) killer whale, the largest known dolphin. Several species exhibit [sexual dimorphism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_dimorphism); the males are larger than females. They have streamlined bodies and two limbs that are modified into flippers. Though not quite as flexible as [seals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinniped), some dolphins can travel at 34.5 mph (55.5 km/h). Most delphinids primarily eat fish, along with a smaller number of squid and small crustaceans, but some species specialise in eating squid, or, in the case of the killer whale, also eat marine mammals and birds. All, however, are purely [carnivorous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnivore). They typically have between 100 and 200 teeth, although a few species have considerably fewer. Delphinids travel in large pods, which may number a thousand individuals in some species. Each pod forages over a range of a few dozen to a few hundred square miles. Some pods have a loose social structure, with individuals frequently joining or leaving, but others seem to be more permanent, perhaps dominated by a male and a [harem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harem_(zoology)) of females.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceanic_dolphin#cite_note-EoM-1) Individuals communicate by sound, producing low-frequency whistles, and also produce high-frequency broadband clicks of 80–220 [kHz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hertz), which are primarily used for [echolocation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_echolocation). [Gestation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gestation) lasts from 10 to 18 months, and results in the birth of a single calf. Some species are well adapted for diving to great depths. They have a layer of fat, or [blubber](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blubber), under the skin to keep warm in the cold water.

Although oceanic dolphins are widespread, most species prefer the warmer waters of the tropic zones, but some, like the [right whale dolphin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Right_whale_dolphin), prefer colder climates. Some have a global distribution, like the killer whale. Oceanic dolphins feed largely on fish and squid, but a few, like the killer whale, feed on large mammals, like seals. Male dolphins typically mate with multiple females every year, but females only mate every two to three years. Calves are typically born in the spring and summer, and females bear all the responsibility for raising them. Mothers of some species fast and nurse their young for relatively long times. Dolphins produce a variety of vocalizations, usually in the form of clicks and whistles.

Oceanic dolphins are sometimes hunted in places such as Japan, in an activity known as [dolphin drive hunting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolphin_drive_hunting). Besides drive hunting, they also face threats from [bycatch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bycatch" \o "Bycatch), habitat loss, and [marine pollution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_pollution). Dolphins have been depicted in various cultures worldwide. They occasionally feature in literature and film, as in the Warner Bros film [Free Willy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_Willy_(film_series)). Dolphins are sometimes kept in captivity and trained to perform in shows. The most common species of dolphin in captivity is the [bottlenose dolphin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bottlenose_dolphin), and less than 50 killer whales were found in [oceanariums](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceanarium" \o "Oceanarium) in 2012.



## Description

Manatees weigh 400 to 550 kilograms (880 to 1,210 lb), and average 2.8 to 3.0 metres (9.2 to 9.8 ft) in length, sometimes growing to 4.6 metres (15 ft) and 1,775 kilograms (3,913 lb) (the females tend to be larger and heavier). At birth, baby manatees weigh about 30 kilograms (66 lb) each. The manatee has a large, flexible, [prehensile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prehensility) upper lip, used to gather food and eat and for social interaction and communication. Manatees have shorter snouts than their fellow [sirenians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirenia" \o "Sirenia), the [dugongs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dugong). The lids of manatees' small, widely spaced eyes close in a circular manner. The adults have no [incisor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incisor) or [canine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canine_tooth) teeth, just a set of cheek teeth, which are not clearly differentiated into [molars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molar_(tooth)) and [premolars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premolar). These teeth are repeatedly replaced throughout life, with new teeth growing at the rear as older teeth fall out from farther forward in the mouth, somewhat as [elephants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elephants)' teeth do.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manatee#cite_note-6)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manatee#cite_note-EoM-7) At any time, a manatee typically has no more than six teeth in each jaw of its mouth.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manatee#cite_note-EoM-7) Its tail is paddle-shaped, and is the clearest visible difference between manatees and dugongs; a dugong tail is fluked, similar in shape to a that of a whale. The female manatee has two teats, one under each flipper,[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manatee" \l "cite_note-8) a characteristic that was used to make early links between the manatee and elephants.

The manatee is unusual among [mammals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mammals) in having just six [cervical vertebrae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cervical_vertebrae),[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manatee#cite_note-9) a number that may be due to mutations in the [homeotic genes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeotic_genes).[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manatee#cite_note-10) All other mammals have seven cervical vertebrae,[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manatee#cite_note-11) other than the [two-toed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two-toed_sloth) and [three-toed sloths](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three-toed_sloth).

Like the [horse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horse), the manatee has a simple stomach, but a large [cecum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cecum), in which it can digest tough plant matter. Generally, the intestines are about 45 meters, unusually long for an animal of the manatee's size.

### Reproduction

Manatees typically breed once every two years; generally only a single calf is born. [Gestation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gestation) lasts about 12 months and to [wean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weaning) the calf takes a further 12 to 18 months.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manatee#cite_note-EoM-7)

Manatees are [herbivores](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbivory) and eat over 60 different freshwater ( e.g. floating hyacinth, pickerel weed, alligator weed, water lettuce, hydrilla, water celery, musk grass, [mangrove](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mangrove) leaves) and saltwater plants (e.g. sea grasses, shoal grass, manatee grass, [turtle grass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seagrass), widgeon grass, sea clover, and marine algae). Using their divided upper lip, an adult manatee will commonly eat up to 10%–15% of their body weight (about 50 kg) per day. Consuming such an amount requires the manatee to graze for up to seven hours a day.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manatee#cite_note-Journey_North-18) To be able to cope with the high levels of cellulose in their plant based diet, manatees utilize hindgut fermentation to help with the digestion process.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manatee#cite_note-19) Manatees have been known to eat small numbers of fish from nets.[[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manatee#cite_note-powell-20)