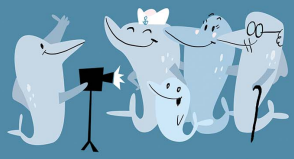
Know more about
INDIAN-OCEAN HUMPBACK DOLPHINS!

Hello there! I'm Humpy the Humpback Dolphin!
We Indian Ocean humpback dolphins live in shallow coastal waters. We are distinguished by the presence of a beak and a large hump on our backs.

We are mammals, just like you! We breathe air, give live birth to our young and have mammary glands with the help of which mothers nourish their offspring.



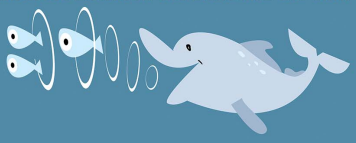
We have strong family bonds and live in groups called pods.

Like you meet your friends and relatives, we dolphins too interact with each other in a group.

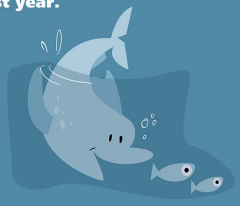
Calves and young adults can be seen playing. Very young calves are never seen without their mothers and often accompanied by other female relatives, much like elephants.

Mother dolphins are protective of their calves and when approached by a boat, mothers will put themselves between the boat and the calf.

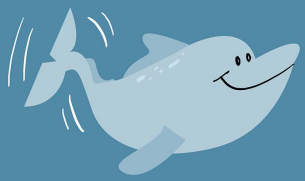
Young calves spend their first few years with their mother, learning about their environment, their kin and their food. They feed on their mother's milk for the first year.



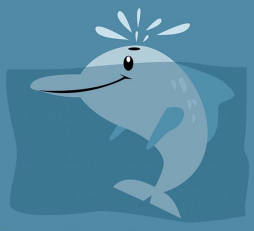
We dolphins feed on fish. Many a times we can be seen on their side, as we search for fish below using echolocation.



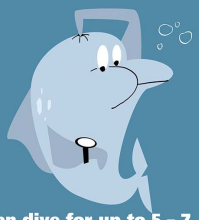
When we dive for fish, our tail flukes come out of the water.



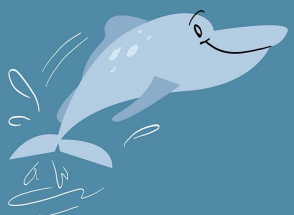
Our tails, unlike fish, move up and down to propel us forward.



We need to surface to breathe. Being mammals we need to replenish the air in our lungs.



We can dive for up to 5 – 7 minutes and spend a lot of time below the surface.



We often jump out of the water or slap our tails on the water surface.

We do this to get rid of external parasites or display fitness to other rivals, or when we feel threatened, like when a boat approaches too close.

Boat engines emit a loud noise that travels through the water. Much like how loud noises annoy you, it also disturbs us dolphins. Noise disrupts our daily activities like feeding, foraging, socializing, resting, milling etc. Even a slight noise, over long durations can drive us away from our habitat.

The waters that we inhabit are murky and often visibility underwater is very low. So, we depend largely on echolocation to get a sound picture of our surroundings and to find food. We communicate using complex whistles, squeaks and clicks.

When you introduce a large amount of noise into our environment, it affects us much like we feel talking besides a busy highway. Loud disturbances over long periods in an area may force us to move away from areas, if it greatly disturbs our communication and search for prey.

What can you (tourists) do so that you don't disturb the dolphins?

- Observe responsibly
- Take pictures from a distance
- Don't throw garbage or make loud noises to attract dolphins
- Don't force your tour operator to chase dolphins

Nature Protects if She is Protected

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