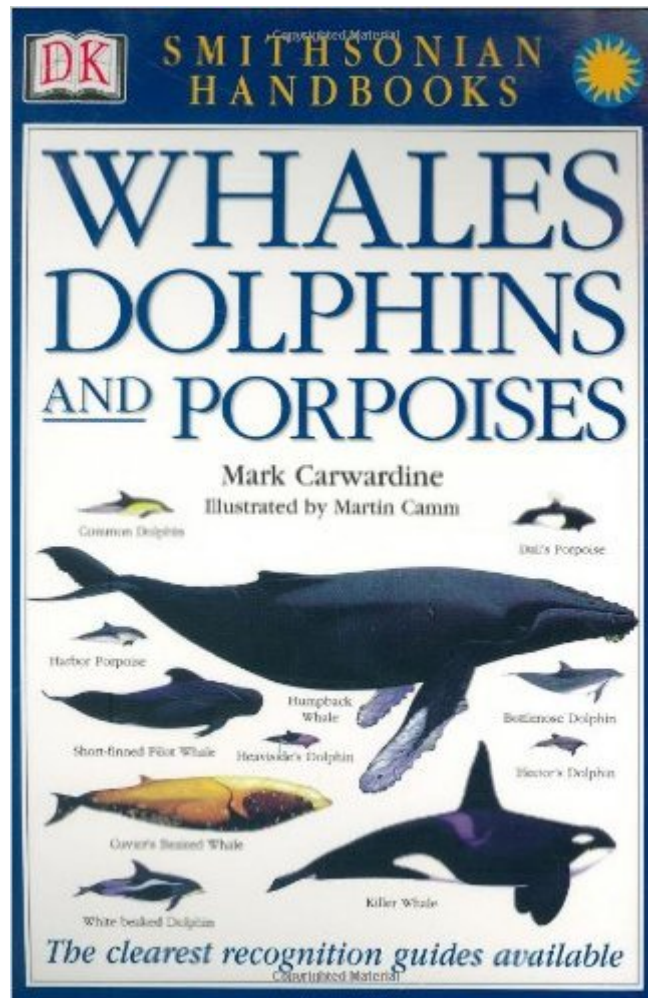


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# Whales, Dolphins And Porpoises



## Synopsis

Authoritative text, detailed illustrations, and a systematic approach make DK's Smithsonian Handbook of Whales, Dolphins, and Porpoises the most comprehensive and concise pocket guide to cetaceans. With more than 900 illustrations, this visual recognition guide is designed to make identification as simple and accurate as possible. This book is one of a series covering plants, animals, and other natural phenomena from around the world and is published in association with the Smithsonian Institution.

## Book Information

Flexibound: 256 pages

Publisher: DK (May 15, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0789489902

ISBN-13: 978-0789489906

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.7 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (42 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #329,879 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #154 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Marine Life](#) #296 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Mammals](#) #446 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Oceans & Seas](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book is universally recognised in the whale conservation world as the best of all field guides to whales, dolphins and porpoises. It has no peer for accuracy of information, and the drawings of species are the most reliable you can find. The organisation I am with, the Whale and Seal Foundation, gives a copy to every student in our marine mammal rescue workshop where we train government agencies and carer groups in whale rescue including species identification.

This book is breathtaking. I had no idea there were 80 or more species of Cetaceans! While I may never have the opportunity to see any of these wonderful animals alive except in captivity, this book is a wonderful addition to my nature reference library. It is fascinating to read, and even scientists have not seen all of these cetaceans alive (some have been named by skeletal remains), or if they have reported seeing them alive, have possible doubts about the exact species observed. I will read

this book over and over just because it is so fascinating. Beautifully illustrated, including maps of the individual species ranges. It also has an exact format, page to page, with clear, concise identification keys. Population numbers are shown where known, threats, habits, diet and habitat are also in a keyed format for each species represented. A wonderful book for anyone nature lovers, and especially good for children because so much information is provided about dwindling populations due to various types of assaults made on either the animals or their habitats by people. Even children who may not be able to clearly understand all of the text will find the pictures and the text that they can understand to be very enjoyable and educational. It is a book that most anyone will reach for again and again through the years!

This is a great introduction for anyone developing an interest in watching cetaceans. It's packed with all kinds of useful information. The illustrations are tweaked for maximum identification usefulness and each species account-complete with tips on typical behaviours and habits- is accompanied by handy range maps. Considering this was first published 18 years ago, it would be nice if they could produce an updated version.

We used this book when crossing the Atlantic and Pacific oceans aboard our sailboat and found it to be an excellent resource. We were able to make identifications quickly and easily on the basis of this guide and learn all the basics about each dolphin or whale along the way. It was also useful in home schooling our elementary aged son. This book is excellent for sailors because it is compact yet packed with information.- Nadine Slavinski, author of *Lesson Plans Ahoy* (Second Edition): *Hands-On Learning for Sailing Children and Home Schooling Sailors* and *Lesson Plans To Go: Hands-on Learning for Active and Home Schooling Families*

The amount of information packed into such a compact format is just amazing. There are chapters on whale biology, evolution, species identification (all 81 species listed) and even a mini guide to whale and dolphin watching around the globe! This is the book I carry with me whenever I go on a field trip (other than the DK guidebook which is not nearly as portable). Its small size means that it fits snugly in my cargo pockets. You might also like to know that this book features information found in DK's "Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises" and Nature Company's "Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises" guidebooks.

This book was fun because my grandson loves studying all types of animals. It allows him a wide

range of water creatures to study. He thinks that sharks are not bad all the time. These type books help him understand that whales, dolphins, and porpoises are less bad to people than sharks. The problem is there are fish eaters and mammal eaters. It is best to understand what makes each type the way they are.

Of the DK handbooks I've purchased, this is probably my favorite, and I plan on bringing it along when I go on my first whale watch in August. The illustrations by Martin Camm are exceptionally nice, the text is informative and concise, and each of the two- and four-page spreads are very logically laid out. There isn't much here about cetacean anatomy or evolution, but this is a very useful book for anyone interested in whale watching or identifying cetaceans. Each species receives information on their behavior, distribution, identification features, diet, main threats, group size, and weight, along with closeups of their flukes, flippers, and teeth or baleen. As nice as it, this book could use a bit of an update. It was originally published in 1995, and although the 2002 edition includes updated population figures, it still reflects the state of cetacean taxonomy as it was in 1995. Species such as Omura's Whale, the Guiana Dolphin, and the Araguaian River Dolphin are obviously not included, and the Minke Whale and Bottlenose Dolphin are both presented as being single species. Very nicely done, but be careful when using it.

Great book. Most of the information you need for whale watching and reports on whales and dolphins. I am a naturalist and I use it to show whale watchers, what they can see from whale watching boats. I also give lectures in schools and I pass this book around.

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Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises Whales, Dolphins & Porpoises (Nature Company Guides) Draw 50  
Sharks, Whales, and Other Sea Creatures: The Step-by-Step Way to Draw Great White Sharks,  
Killer Whales, Barracudas, Seahorses, Seals, and More... National Geographic. October 2009. Vol.  
216 No. 4. The Tallest Trees. Redwoods. Plus Whales; Indonesia; Sahara; Shipwreck. (Rocketing  
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of Hawai'i's Dolphins and Whales: Natural History and Conservation Wild Sea Creatures: Sharks,  
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Seals Souls in the Sea: Dolphins, Whales, and Human Destiny Dolphins and Sharks: A Nonfiction

Companion to Magic Tree House #9: Dolphins at Daybreak (Magic Tree House (R) Fact Tracker)  
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the Arctic Whales: Belugas, Bowheads, and Narwhals National Geographic Readers: Great  
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