

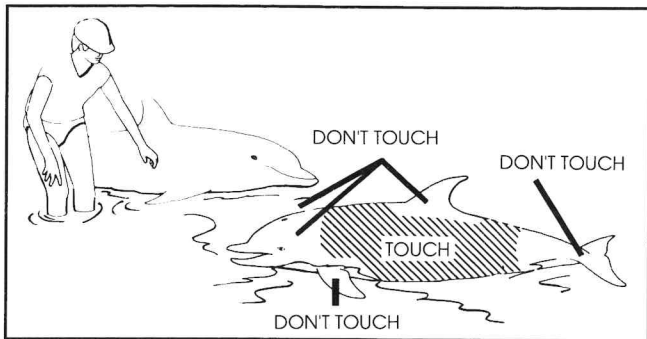
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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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DOLPHIN CARE

- ◆ Sunscreen lotions can irritate dolphin eyes. Please refrain from using lotions until after you have met the dolphins.
- ◆ Dolphins can be infected by human diseases. If you are ill, please do not touch or feed the dolphins.
- ◆ Dogs and dolphins don't mix. Pets are prohibited from the beach near the dolphins meeting place.



MONKEY MIA RESERVE MANAGEMENT

The Shire of Shark Bay and the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) are responsible for the management of the reserve.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Monkey Mia rangers are keen to help make your visit enjoyable and informative. It is their job to assist and advise you, and to ensure the safety and well being of the dolphins. If you require information or assistance, please ask the ranger.

A ranger will be in the water so follow instructions and ask how to treat the dolphins if you are uncertain.

Please address your letters to:

District Manager
C.A.L.M.
67 Knight Terrace
Denham W.A. 6537
Phone: (099) 481 208
Fax: (099) 481 024

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE DOLPHINS OF MONKEY MIA

All proceeds from the entrance fees fund the provision of visitor facilities, the management of the Dolphin Information Centre, and supervision of the dolphins' health.

The neighbouring Monkey Mia Resort is a private venture.

HOW TO MEET THE DOLPHINS

Follow these simple rules to ensure a pleasant meeting between you and the dolphins:

- ◆ stand knee deep in the water;
- ◆ wait for the dolphins to approach you;
- ◆ do not reach for or over the dolphins;
- ◆ stroke the middle side of the dolphin's body as it swims alongside you.

The dolphins (like humans) have individual personalities and characteristics. If a dolphin is being particularly intolerant, the ranger may ask you to leave the water. Please respect the dolphin's moods and the ranger's requests.

Monkey Mia's dolphins are wild animals, so they come and go as they please. Their unpredictable behaviour thrills and fascinates the many visitors who come to meet them.

During your visit you may have an opportunity to feed the dolphins. Feeding times and quantities of fish vary so the dolphins do not become dependent on handouts. If the ranger invites you to feed a dolphin, remember the following:

- ◆ follow the instructions of the ranger
- ◆ feed immediately while the fish is fresh
- ◆ place the fish in the dolphin's mouth
- ◆ do not tease the dolphins with the fish
- ◆ do not touch the dolphins while they are being fed

DOLPHINS ARE WILD ANIMALS

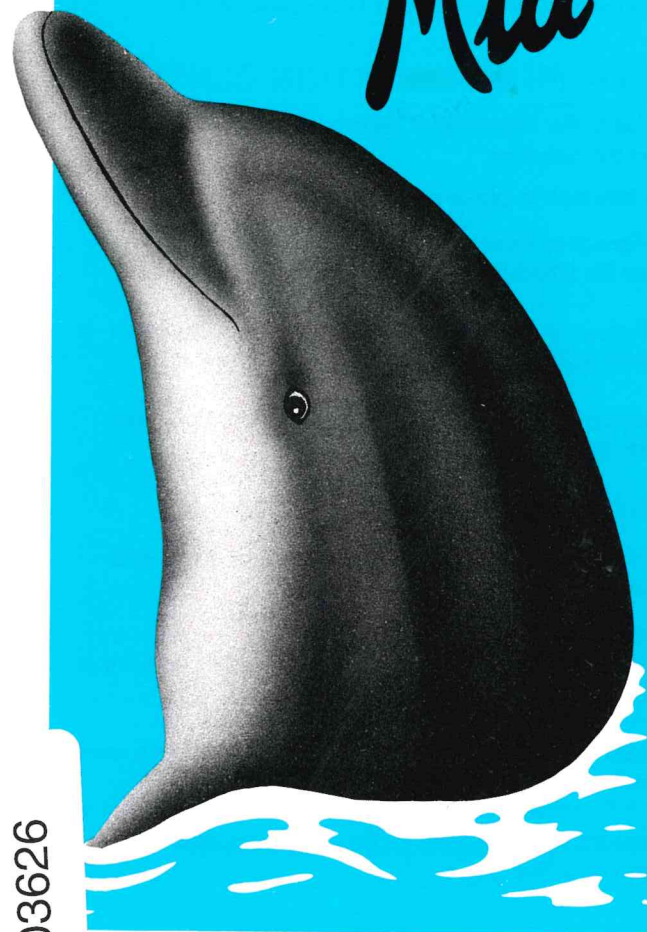


Dolphin behaviour is unpredictable. When a dolphin is upset or stressed it may bump or bite.

Watch for signs of stress:

- ◆ a flick of the head;
- ◆ a flick of the tail;
- ◆ bumping;
- ◆ swimming backwards or away from you.

Do not approach a dolphin which displays signs of stress.



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DAY PASS

Dolphins of Monkey Mia

DOLPHINS OF MONKEY MIA

Bottlenose dolphins are highly social mammals which live in small groups called pods. Members of a pod assist each other in activities such as fish herding and calf rearing. Dolphins use their biological sonar to locate objects underwater. Above the surface their eyesight is as good as a humans.

At Monkey Mia, dolphins have been interacting with people since the early 1960s. They are wild animals and come to the beach only when they want to. Generally they visit the beach in the morning and swim in and out for the rest of the day. By showing a caring attitude, this phenomenon will continue for future generations.

DOLPHIN INFORMATION CENTRE

A visit to the information centre will help when you meet the dolphins.

The information centre provides the following services:

- ◆ informative videos about dolphins, whales and other sea life (check notice board for viewing times);
- ◆ displays of charts, maps, photos and wildlife posters - a great insight into the unique Shark Bay region;
- ◆ postcards, books, information sheets, tapes and film can be purchased.

PARENTAL SUPERVISION

A calm and orderly atmosphere will ensure a safe and pleasant meeting with the dolphins.

Parents, please;

- ◆ accompany your children, particularly while they are in the water with the dolphins;
- ◆ reassure your children so that they do not become over-excited or frightened by the dolphins;
- ◆ beware of the pelicans as they may intimidate children and steal fish.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Swimming

Monkey Mia is delightful for swimming, although swimming is only allowed outside the waters where you meet the dolphins. Take care to stay clear of boat traffic.

Boating

Boats of all types are welcome, though certain areas are restricted for dolphin safety.

Take care if dolphins approach your boat. For the well-being of the dolphins they should not be fed from boats.

Walk Trail

The walk trail features a superb look-out over the bay, an historic grave site, interesting landforms and a quiet beach.

Beach Walks

Skeletons of the sand dollar starfish are amongst the many interesting objects to be discovered on the beaches.

