**Introduction**

Viewing Dolphins

**Dolphin Trail**

This is a great place to start the trail in the heart of Port Adelaide and its heritage precinct. Sign 1 is located on the docks at Lighthouse Square. Here you can look across the Port River and hope to see Wave and her friends.

We also see industry and heritage combined to make an eclectic mix of man-made environments. Information on the signs will expand your knowledge of the dolphins found locally.

The Port is a great diverse destination offering so much to see and do. Nearby is the Port Adelaide Visitor Information Centre, where you can find all that you require for a day on the dolphin trail.

**Port Adelaide**

Although limited in facilities, this location provides great dolphin viewing opportunities. Dolphins are frequently spotted here feeding and at play. This is ideal for a quick stop or on�nday you can combine your visit with a trip to the mooring markets. Buy some fish and produce, and hopefully see the visiting dolphins.

What do dolphins eat? Find out on the trail!

**Largs Bay**

Largs Bay is a short, 10 minute drive along the coast from Port Adelaide. This is where you will find the fourth interpretive sign positioned near the jetty. It is a great spot for the whole family to enjoy the sights and sounds of the beach, swimming and looking out for dolphins. This location is popular for dolphins due to the way the river meets the sea.

Do you wonder? Look at the sign and find out before wandering over the water.

**Garden Island**

The second interpretive sign is located near the headland at the eastern end of Garden Island, which reflects the intimate relationship between the city and its surrounding natural environment. Here we see a mangrove ecosystem and bird life existing in conjunction with industry.

These mangroves are part of the most extensive forest of Grey Mangrove (Avicennia marina) in Australia. Why do the mangroves so important? Read the sign and discover.

On your way to Garden Island, if you are a keen fisherman, you can stop at the ‘Greywater’ a power station and a wetland habitat, highlighting the diversity of the region. You will be surprised with what you find at the end of the road.

**North Haven Marina**

Take a short 5 minute drive along the coast from Largs Bay and North Haven, the interpretive sign is located at the Gulf Place Marina and the North Haven Marina has become a well known spot for viewing dolphins. Here you can see them feed and play amongst the boats. With many human inhabitants, the marina can be a dangerous place for dolphins, however, many dolphins have found this to be a safe haven that provides protection from rough seas.

Why do dolphins like big ships?

**Fast Facts**

- Although dolphins look like fish, they are actually mammals.
- Humans drop waste, including toilet paper and plastic debris, into our oceans. Collectively, this pollution results in many deaths and illnesses among marine mammals.
- Dolphins have a three-chambered stomach, like cows. They do not chew and instead break down food in their stomach.
- Dolphins can breathe only through their blow holes and not their mouths.
- Dolphins are related to the whale.
- Dolphins have a narrow head, a very large space between the eyes (temporal space) and a slender body resembling a right-angled triangle.
- Dolphins have no sense of smell, they use a sonar system for navigation and hearing.
- Dolphins have a hairless head and body and a thin layer of fat.[1] (There are no scales on dolphins.)
- Dolphins have a three-chambered stomach, like cows. They do not chew and instead break down their food in their stomach.
- Keeping dolphins in captivity and feeding wild dolphins is banned in South Australia and Victoria.
- Information in this brochure is correct at the time of printing and provided for general information and may change.

**Adopt-a-Dolphin**

While a Dolphin Conservation (WDC) offers the popular Adopt-a-Dolphin program based around the excellent Port River dolphin population. Adoptors will receive a certificate, regular updates and a weekly email containing facts about dolphins. If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive more details about the program, email info.au@wales.org

**Latest Sightings Website**

This website is updated regularly and you can go to the Latest Sightings website to add your own dolphin sightings on the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary map and leave a comment.

**Contact Details**

Port Adelaide Visitor Information Centre

66 Commercial Road, Port Adelaide SA 5015

Telephone: 8490 8000

Open 7 days a week from 9am to 5pm (closed Christmas Day)

**Website:** www.portadelaide.info

experience the dolphins up close!
**Bottlenose Dolphins**

Bottlenose Dolphins are among the most common species of dolphins found living in the shallow coastal waters of South Australia. There are more than 30 Bottlenose Dolphins living in the Port River. It is believed that they evolved from the elements underwater. Scientists believe that dolphins evolved from land mammals to become marine mammals. It is believed that all dolphins actually have such characteristics. In the Port River area, scientists estimate that one dolphin has at least 100 species of cetaceans in the water there. Dolphins generally live in shallow coastal waters and are often seen in the Port River. Dolphins are common around the world, particularly in tropical and temperate waters. They are known for their intelligence and are often seen interacting with each other through vocalizations and body language.

**Physical Characteristics**

Dolphins have a sleek, streamlined body designed for the pursuit of prey. They have a streamlined body, which reduces drag and allows them to move through the water more efficiently. They have a large dorsal fin that helps them to maintain balance and steer through the water. Dolphins have a long snout and a beak-like structure at the front of their skull. They have a flexible, movable beak that allows them to adjust their feeding method based on the size and shape of their prey. Dolphins have a small, rounded tail fin that helps them to maneuver and change direction. They also have a pair of pectoral flippers on either side of their body, which are used for swimming and maneuvering.

**Behavior**

Dolphins are highly social and can be observed in pods of up to 50 individuals. They are not solitary creatures, as they live in close-knit groups, or pods. These pods are often led by a single female, known as the matriarch. Dolphins are highly intelligent animals and are known for their complex vocalizations and body language. They communicate with each other through a variety of sounds, including whistles, clicks, and echolocation. Dolphins are known for their intelligence and have been observed to learn new behaviors through imitation and social interaction.

**Feeding**

Dolphins are omnivores and feed on a variety of prey, including fish, squid, crustaceans, and even other small marine animals. They are known for their hunting skills and are able to catch fish using a variety of techniques, including leaping out of the water to catch fish in mid-air.

**Breeding**

Dolphins are sexual animals and are known to mate at any time of the year. The gestation period is approximately 12 months, and the newborn dolphin is about 1 meter in length. Dolphins are known for their long lifespan, with some individuals living up to 50 years or more. They are highly social animals and are known to form strong bonds with each other.

**Dolphins can be found virtually all over the world. Approximately 13 species of dolphins are found in the waters surrounding South Australia, the Bottlenose Dolphin being the most common.**

---

**Identifying Individual Dolphins**

Being able to identify individual dolphins is an important starting point for most animal behaviour research. In dolphins this is actually quite difficult!

---

**Dolphins Explorer Cruises**

**Port River, 2 Queen Wharf, in front of the Lighthouse, Port Adelaide**

Tel: (08) 8243 2777 Mobile: 0418 817 837

Website: www.portprincess.com.au

Cruise times: Sunday, School Holiday & cruise times.

**Boating Safety**

Keep your distance:

- Do not approach dolphins:
  - from in front or behind closer than 50 metres
  - closer than 150 metres to mothers and calves
  - closer than 300 metres for personal watercraft

**Adventurer Kayaking SA**

*Free pick-up service from Port Adelaide Visitor Information Centre*

Tours depart from Garden Island, Port Adelaide

Tel: 0435 019 41 (08) 8295 8812

Website: www.adventurer-kayak.com.au

**Sanctuary Team:** Tel: (08) 8240 0193 or 0418 832 068

---

**Report all offences to Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Team:** Tel: (08) 8240 0193 or Email: aadolphin@san.org.au

---

**Cruises and Tours**

*“Bottlenose Dolphins are the most common species of dolphin found living in the shallow coastal waters of South Australia”*