

DID YOU KNOW THAT BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS ...

... recognize themselves in the mirror?

They are very intelligent and have self-awareness.

... live up to 50 years?

Some maintain lifelong friendships.

... have lungs and breathe air just like we do?

They can hold their breath for up to 10 minutes.

... sleep while swimming?

One half of their brain is asleep at one time, while the opposite eye is closed. They swim closely together with other group members and come to the surface regularly for air. Mothers give milk to their calves during the resting time.

... do not smile at us?

Opening their mouths is a sign of distress.

... like to rub different body parts on selected corals and sponges?

Scientists have discovered that there are special chemicals in corals and sponges, which may be used by dolphins for self-medication to prevent and cure skin diseases and irritations.

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 www.dolphinwatchalliance.org

 [@dolphinwatchallianceorg](https://www.instagram.com/dolphinwatchallianceorg)



CARE FOR DOLPHINS

ENGLISH



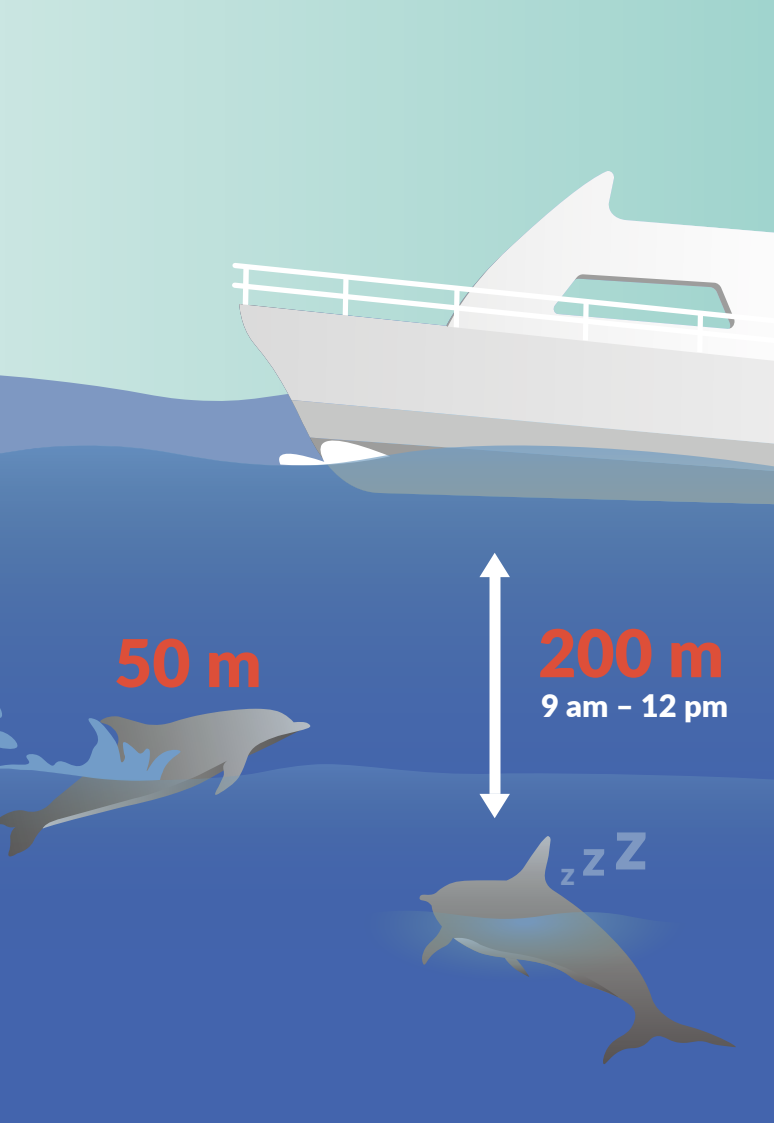
CARE FOR DOLPHINS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Swimming with wild dolphins has become a popular tourist attraction in the Red Sea and is offered by a large number of agencies.

To ensure that both – humans and dolphins – have a pleasant encounter, it is important to know **how to interact with dolphins in a sustainable and dolphin-friendly way.**

The **Care for Dolphins education programme**, established in September 2012, promotes conservation awareness and environmental education. It informs locals and tourists about the needs of the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins in the Egyptian Red Sea off Hurghada / El Gouna.

Based on our research data since 2009, and in cooperation with the Egyptian authorities and environmental protection organisations, the **“Code of Conduct”** was developed. In addition to this, protection zones were established, which serve as important resting places for the dolphins.



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR **BOATS AND ZODIACS**

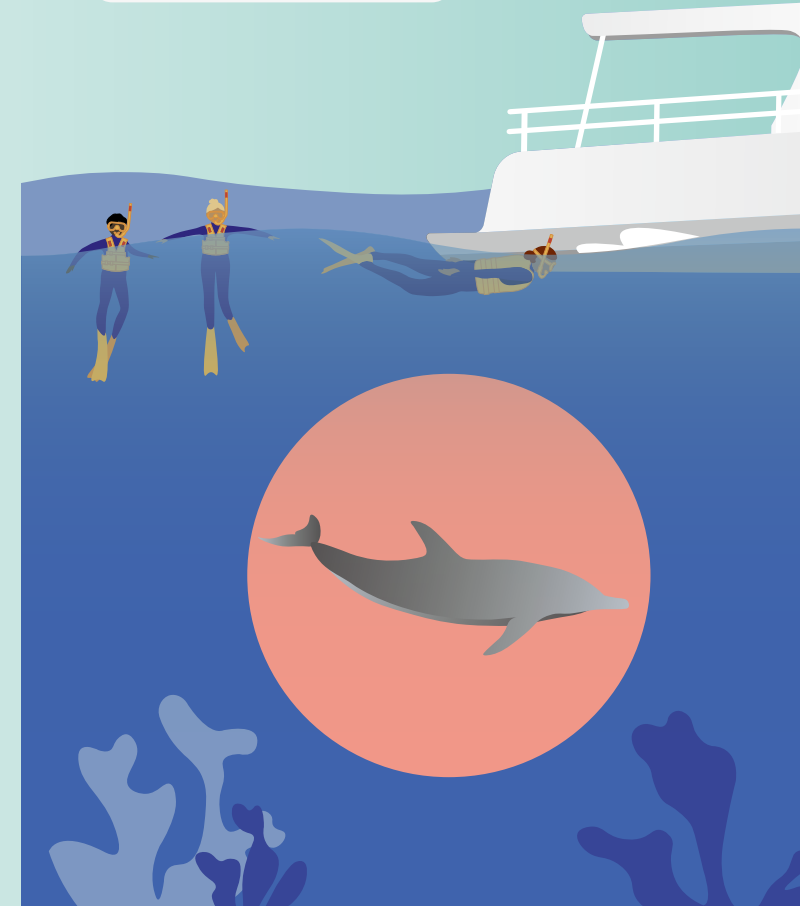
- From 9 am to 12 pm, during the dolphins' main sleeping time, there is a "no approach time", i.e. dolphins should not be approached by boats closer than 200 m.
- Outside of this "non-approach time", a respectful **minimum distance of 50 m** parallel to the swimming direction of the animals must be kept, unless the dolphins try to approach the boat by themselves. In this situation, the direction should not be changed too quickly, and the **speed should be adapted to the slowest animal**.
- **Boats should position** themselves on the same side **behind each other** to allow an escape route for the animals. **Zodiacs are not allowed** in dolphin resting areas (such as lagoons and close to the reef edge). There is a high risk of boat collisions with sleeping dolphins which must come to the surface regularly to breathe.
- The number of boats on each reef is limited to the amount of available mooring buoys. If all anchorages are occupied, another reef should be approached. It is forbidden to attach boats to reefs with anchors or wire ropes.
- Dolphins are extremely sensitive to noise. Therefore, **noises** such as shouting, hooting, whistling, and clapping **should be avoided**, and the engine is switched off when possible or put in a neutral position.
- When it is time to leave with the boat, it is important to know where the group of dolphins is located around the vessel, to avoid possible collision or getting too close. Pay attention to **signs of distress**, such as flapping the tail, a change of direction or a sudden increase in swimming speed. In this case, one should immediately and **carefully leave the animals** at a slow pace.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR **SWIMMERS**

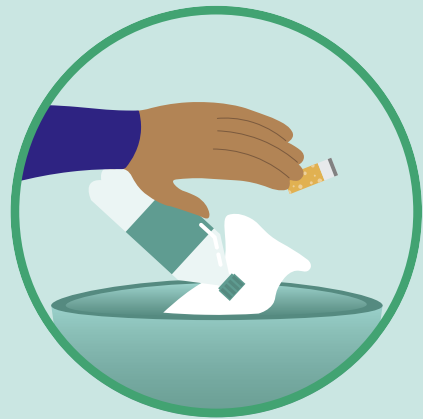
- Swimmers should glide **calmly** and **carefully** into the water from a seated position and **always wear a life jacket, fins, a mask and a snorkel**.
- On board, there should **always be a trained guide** who briefs about the marine life and the guidelines.
- Swimmers should move gently and keep their arms close to their body. They should only move their fins and **avoid excessive splashing and unnecessary noise**.
- Swimmers should not dive down towards the dolphins. **Never touch them**, since **diseases can be transmitted** between dolphins and humans.
- Wild animals should **not be fed**. **Rubbish**, pollutants, and oil should **not be dumped in the sea**.



If you observe any violations,
please contact the Red Sea
Marine Parks Authority.



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BOATS, ZODIACS AND SWIMMERS



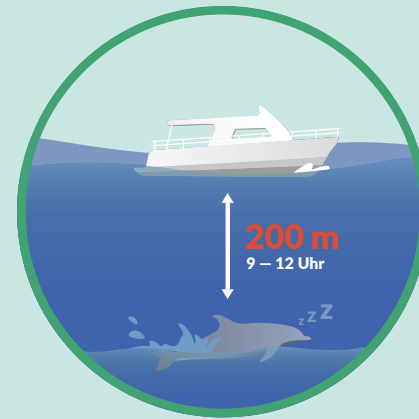
Use the trash can.



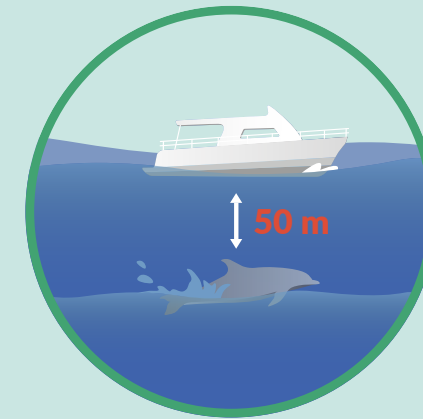
Use a life jacket, fins, mask, and snorkel.



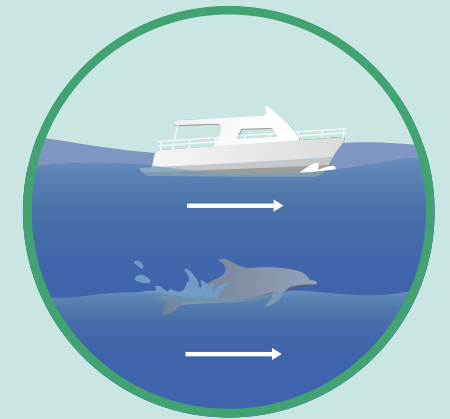
A guide should brief about marine life and guidelines.



9 am - 12 pm (dolphins' main sleeping time) keep a safe distance (best 200 m).



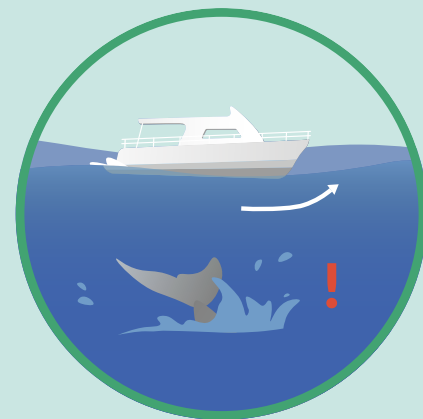
Outside of the "main sleeping time" a safe distance of 50 m is recommended.



Boats should drive slowly in a parallel line next to the dolphin. Never reverse, accelerate, or change direction suddenly.



Glide very gently and quietly from a sitting position into the water.



In case of distress (e.g. tail slap, direction change, sudden increase of swimming speed) leave the animals carefully.



Dolphins are very sensitive to sound. Avoid unnecessary noise.



Boats should never chase or encircle dolphins. Always leave an escape route.



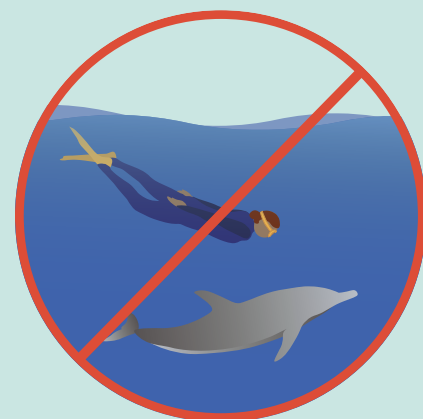
No zodiacs in dolphin resting areas.



Boats should not use anchors or wires in coral reefs.



Don't touch dolphins and other marine life.



Don't dive down.



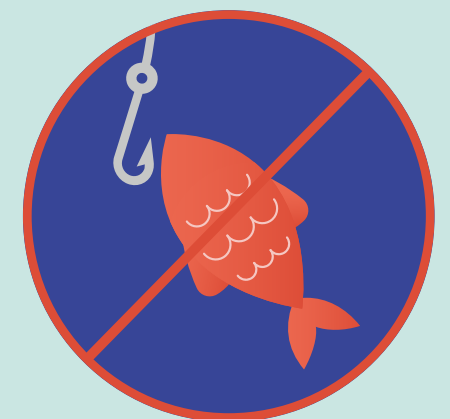
Don't litter. Don't feed the animals.



Don't touch, kick or step on the corals.



Don't remove anything from the sea.



No fishing in protected areas.