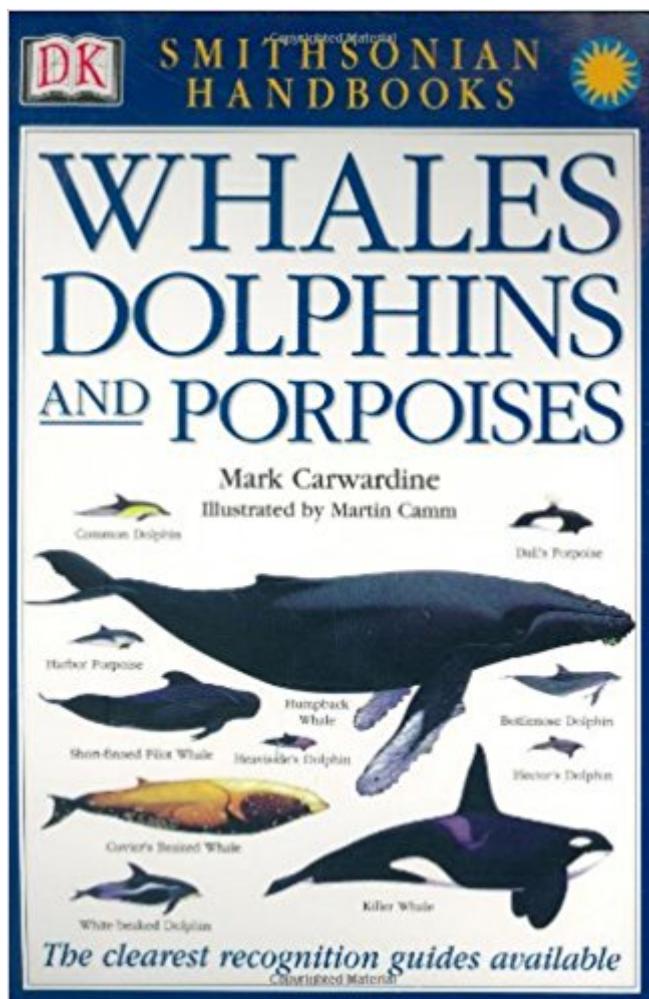


The book was found

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

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 52 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Mark Carwardine is a zoologist, writer, photographer, consultant, and broadcaster with a special interest in marine wildlife. He has written more than 40 books and has hosted natural history programs on BBC Radio. Martin Camm is a gifted natural history artist who specializes in studying each species in its native environment.

As with any guide published so long ago (before the mid-2000s), it is now sorely outdated (it doesn't include newly described species such as Omura's whale or Perrin's beaked whale, among others). It includes sections on just about every species of cetacean then known, including information on appearance, behavior, and where to find particular species. Though I love the inclusion of so many illustrations for identifying the various species (including the differences between the tusks of male beaked whales and lovely dive sequence profiles especially useful for the larger species), they

unfortunately hired a freelance artist to do them, resulting in many cartoonish and at times inaccurate illustrations (for example, the wrongly colored blue and sei whales and the obese-looking gray whale) meant to show the animals moving in their natural element but coming far short of it. Although I liked that the main illustration for each animal included text pointing to important identification features, the various nicks, scars and differences in shape and coloration shown for each species often resulted in ugly, overly marked animals. Despite these short-comings (which also include a few inaccuracies), it is still a fun - albeit childish looking - identification guide. Buy it for cheap and enjoy the number of illustrations.

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!

Clear and beautiful depictions of our whale and dolphin friends, and fills in fun 'facts' as well.....great book...

My son is 10 and recently found a real interest in all things whale. We got him this book for Christmas and it has been a huge hit! He spent most of the morning looking through it and telling me new info about whales. Oh boy! I am glad he loves it but I don't know how much whale info I can take J/k! LOL It's a great book for those who love whales. Good quality and shipped fast.

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.

This is a fantastic book! I love it as much as my Audubon Society Guide to Marine Mammals! The information is comprehensive and it has great photos and illustrations. The book is great whether you already know a lot about cetaceans, or whether you're just starting to learn, and great for kids or adults. The book isn't very bulky, so it would be easy to bring along on any whale or dolphin watching expedition.

great

Wonderful book in every respect. Ready for an updating to keep track of the new beaked whales would be my only complaint!

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