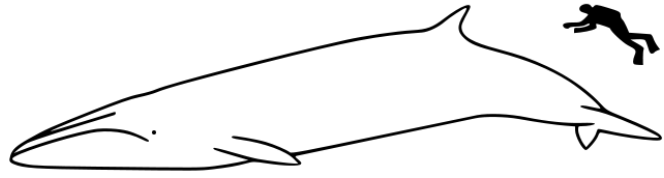


BRYDE'S WHALES



One of the types of Baleen Whales is the Bryde's Whale. They are very often confused with the Sei Whale due to them being similar in size and overall physical appearance. Their name is after Johan Bryde who set up the first whaling station in South Africa in 1908. It is debated about if there are three subspecies or not. The debate stems from genetic differences which are quite complex according to the various forms of scientific literature that is offered on the subject. **Interesting Facts:**

- At an average length of 40 – 55 ft. long Bryde's whale is considered a mid sized whale among the baleen whale suborder with the smaller minke whale measuring an average length of 22 – 25 ft. long and the larger blue whale measuring an average of 70 – 90 ft. long.
- This marine mammals name comes from Johan Bryde, who helped set up the first modern whaling station in South Africa.
- In addition to Bryde's whale there is also a smaller species of Bryde's whale known as Sittang or Eden's whale which can be found in the indo-pacific ocean as well as a smaller coastal whale that is sometimes referred to as the Indo-Pacific Bryde's whale.
- Due to its smaller size Bryde's whale remained relatively safe from early commercial whaling expeditions and wasn't extensively hunted until the 1970's when larger baleen whale species became harder to find due to excessive whaling efforts.
- When searching for food these marine mammals can dive underwater for up to 20 minutes before resurfacing for air.
- Being part of the baleen whale suborder Bryde's whale does not possess teeth, but is equipped with baleen plates that have bristles attached to them to allow the whale to filter prey from the water.
- Bryde's whale is known for carrying certain physical characteristics that closely resemble that of the sei whale.
- In terms of size bryde's whale can reach lengths of up to 55 ft and weigh up to 30 tons when it is fully matured, however depending on where they live these whales may only grow to be 40 – 50 ft long.
- In rare instance there have also been observations of smaller whales measuring less than 35 ft. long.
- On average male whales tend to be slightly smaller than their female counterparts.
- These whales have long slender bodies with a combination of dark gray and white skin coloring.
- To protect their blowholes from accidentally taking in water they have a splash guard with three ridges near their blowholes.
- While these whales typically travel at speeds of less than 5 miles per hour they can reach up to 15 miles per hour when startled or threatened.