

SWIMMING WITH DOLPHINS

SHAME EL SHEIKH

Sharm el Sheikh, a haven for divers, is also becoming increasingly popular with non-divers. While this increase is great for tourism, entrepreneurs quick to see an opportunity have lost no time in developing swim with dolphin facilities. This is causing great international concern. What makes the development of these

“businesses” in Sharm even more distasteful is the fact that wild dolphins can easily be seen in their natural surroundings in the Red Sea. Tourists are being charged exorbitant fees to swim with captive dolphins and plans are now underway by hotels and entrepreneurs in Sharm to expand upon these facilities.

How you can help

- Do not visit Sharm's 'Swim with Dolphin' facilities – you can see these beautiful animals in the wild, where they belong.
- If you care about dolphins please support our campaign to make Sharm el Sheikh a **CAPTIVE DOLPHIN FREE ZONE**. A list of tour operators/hotels/dive companies who support keeping captive dolphins in Sharm is available on our website. Please write telling them you will not use their company until they stop supporting dolphins in captivity.



For further information please visit our website
www.marineconnection.org

People love dolphins – some even want to fulfil the dream of a lifetime by swimming with them, but your dream could be a nightmare for the very animals you care about.



"Swimming with humans 90 dollars"

**"Swimming free in the ocean..."
PRICELESS!"**

Most dolphins are still captured from the wild...

- During capture dolphins can be injured, some even die during capture or in transit.
- Removing individual animals from the wild can endanger future generations. Captured dolphins may be vital to successful breeding within the group to ensure their survival.
- Female dolphins still lactating may be captured. Baby dolphins dependent upon their mothers milk for survival in the wild, will starve and die.

Smile – though your heart is breaking...

- Their freedom of choice is removed; trainers use food as a reward method to train the dolphins, if they do not perform their food quota is reduced until they do.
- The 'smile' on a dolphins face does not mean it is happy – it is a genetic feature, even dead dolphins 'smile'.
- Dolphins in captivity have a shorter life expectancy and suffer from many stress related diseases and illnesses.

I'm not in any danger from swimming with dolphins, am I..?

- People have sustained injuries from swimming with captive dolphins¹
- Even experienced trainers, working with animals for years have been seriously injured²
- Reports of injuries have included broken bones, internal injuries and serious wounds³
- Because they have no separate area to rest in or escape from other dolphins or swimmers, dolphins have been known to react aggressively and attack.
- Disease. Anyone coming into close contact with dolphins put themselves and the animals at risk from cross species infection. Dolphins permanently confined in a tank or sea pen produce huge amounts of sewage each day (a dolphin weighing 450 pounds will generate up to 5 times as much urine and faeces as an average human). Therefore, tank water contaminated with urine and faeces, spray from the animals blowhole or "kissing" them on the mouth can facilitate the entry of a micro-organism into a human host. Pathogens widespread in the marine environment include; streptococci, pseudomonas, aeromonas, clostridium and mycobacteria. One particularly insidious pathogen is "pseudomonas pseudomalle" which is known to cause respiratory disease in man and marine mammals. The organism also causes serious wound infections which can result in fatal septicaemia

(1) NMFS 1990; Frohoff 1993; Maas et al 1999; Samuels and Spralin 1995; (2) Norms 1937; Defran Pryor 1980; (3) NMFS Marine *Mammal Inventory Reports*



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Working worldwide to protect and conserve dolphins, whales and the worlds' oceans

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