

MARINE LIFE OCTOPUS

THE MASTERS OF INTELLIGENCE, CAMOUFLAGE & ADAPTATION

Octopus are among the most intelligent and adaptable animals in the sea. They are soft-bodied cephalopods known for problem solving, camouflage, flexible movement and remarkable hunting behaviour. From reef species to specialist muck-diving favourites such as the coconut octopus and mimic octopus, they are unforgettable macro and wide-angle subjects.



QUICK FACTS

	SCIENTIFIC GROUP	Order Octopoda
	SIZE	From tiny species to over 1 m arm span in many common reef species
	HABITAT	Reefs, rubble, seagrass, sand and muck sites
	DEPTH RANGE	Shallow water to deep sea, depending on species
	DIET	Crabs, shrimps, molluscs and small fish
	SPECIAL FEATURES	8 arms, beak, ink, camouflage, high intelligence

ANATOMY & ADAPTATIONS

MANTLE

Muscular body sac housing major organs

EYES

Excellent vision helps detect prey and threats

ARMS & SUCKERS

Powerful, flexible arms for gripping and exploring

BEAK

Hard beak used to break prey

SIPHON

Used for jet propulsion and directing ink/water

CHROMATOPHORES

Skin cells that change colour and pattern for camouflage



HABITAT



Octopus live in a wide range of marine habitats, from coral reefs and rocky crevices to sandy muck sites and seagrass beds. Many use holes, shells or rubble as dens and rely on camouflage to stay hidden.

COMMON LOCATIONS:

Coral reefs | Rubble slopes | Sandy muck | Seagrass beds | Rocky crevices

BEHAVIOUR & DIET



HUNTERS

Octopus stalk, pounce or probe into holes for prey.



DIET

They feed on crustaceans, molluscs and small fish.



DEFENCE

They use camouflage, ink and rapid escape.



DID YOU KNOW?

Many octopus can squeeze through incredibly small gaps because they have no rigid skeleton.

COCONUT OCTOPUS



- Famous for carrying coconut shells or other objects for shelter
- Often seen on sandy slopes and muck sites
- Walks across the seabed using a distinctive stilt-like posture
- A favourite subject for macro divers and photographers

MIMIC OCTOPUS



- Best known for changing shape, colour and posture
- Can imitate animals such as lionfish, flatfish and sea snakes
- Usually found on silty or sandy Indo-Pacific muck sites
- One of macro diving's most exciting and sought-after sightings

FUN FACTS



Octopus have three hearts



Their blue blood uses copper-based hemocyanin



They are extremely intelligent problem solvers



Many species are masters of camouflage and texture change



CONSERVATION

Octopus depend on healthy marine habitats. Reef damage, pollution and destructive fishing can reduce the places they live and hunt.

Responsible diving, careful buoyancy and respect for wildlife all help protect these remarkable animals.



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