



## Lily's First Trip to the Ocean

Lily is so excited! This will be her first trip to the ocean. She can't wait to see some of the amazing ocean animals - out in the wild.

Her favorite ocean mammals are dolphins and porpoises. She thinks they are so cute and smart. She learned in class last year that dolphins and porpoises use echolocation to navigate. That means they use sound, through sonar radar, to know where they were and what was around them. Lily really hopes she gets to see either a porpoise, dolphin or whale on her trip.

Lily and her mom are going on a wildlife boat tour around the Florida Keys. They walk down the planks and load into the boat. Then, they put their life jackets on. The boat rocks to life as they move out into the ocean.

Within thirty minutes, the captain's voice comes across the intercom. "Folks, if you look over the left side of the boat, you'll see a large pod of dolphins playing in the ocean."

Lily eagerly looked to her left, searching the water. Then, she spotted the curve of a hooked dorsal fin. The dolphin's long nose and big mouth popped out of the water as it jumped into the air, almost right next to the boat. Its long, lean body was almost ten feet long.

Lily could feel the water spray as the dolphin splashed down into the water. She could hear one of the dolphins talking through his blowhole to his friends, as they swam around the boat. One of the dolphin's cone shaped teeth grabbed a codfish, and the dolphin swam away under water. She was so excited she got to see a real dolphin!