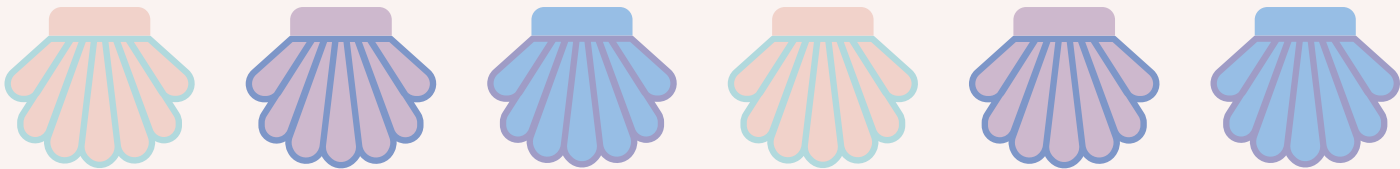


Join the
Merpeople

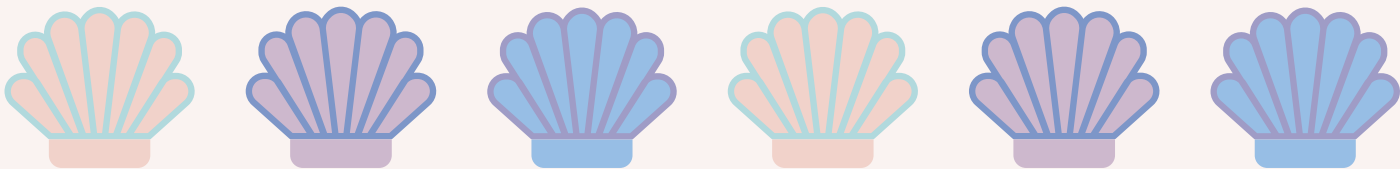
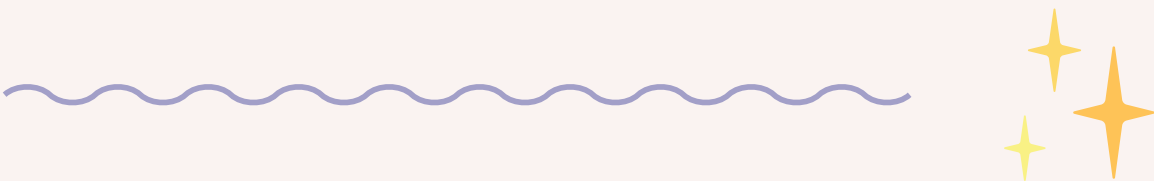


Contents



What Is a Mermaid?	2
History of the Mermpeople	3
Famous Mermaids & Mythical Creatures	6
How To Be a Merperson	10
Mermaid Shopping	13
Mermaid Glossary	15

They have been an ongoing fascination for as long as we can all remember. Their strangeness and beauty, their fierceness, their charm; mermaids and mermen are everything the word mystery embodies. We're diving deep into the underwater world of these intriguing creatures to get a closer look at the life of merpeople.

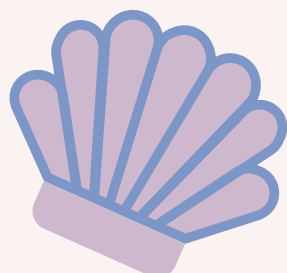
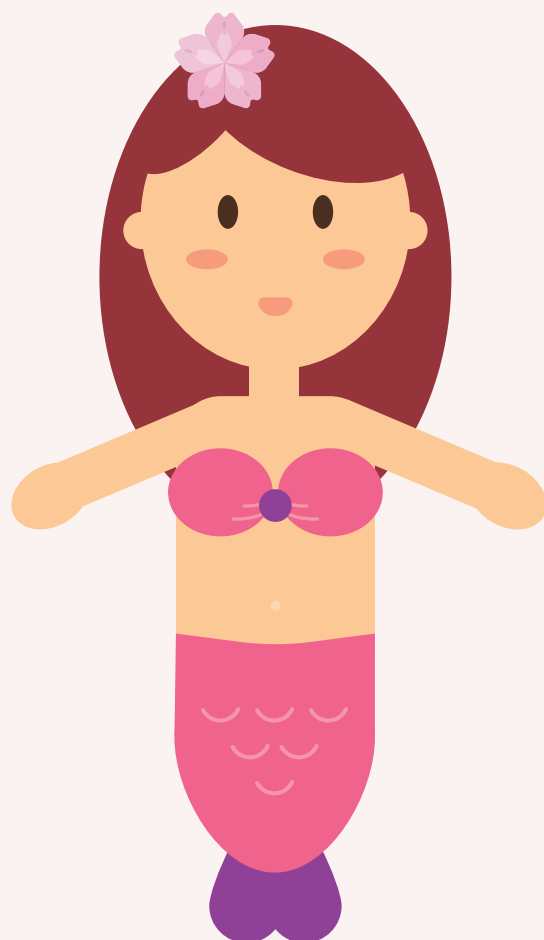


What Is a Mermaid?

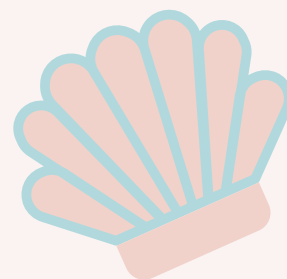
The word *mermaid* is made up of two parts: *mer* meaning sea, and *maid* meaning female. The male counterparts are called mermen, and as a group, they are known as merpeople or merfolk.

Merpeople are half human and half fish. They have a reputation of being extremely beautiful with a fierce – and sometimes frightening temper. Their attractive looks are the stuff of folklore and legend – and these mystical sea-dwellers have fascinated people for millennia. From historical times up until now, we have had a preconceived perception of what being a merperson entails:

- **Long, colourful tail**
- **A single shimmery fin**
- **Shiny, perfect hair**
- **Floral or coral accessories**
- **Clothes and crowns made from shells and coral**

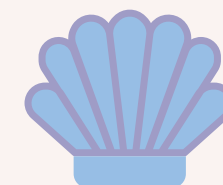
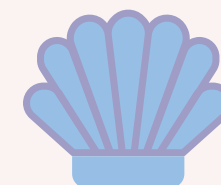
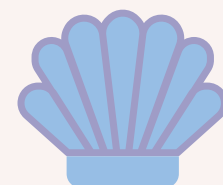


History of the Merpeople



The enchantment surrounding mermaids dates back to the late Stone Age – around 30,000 years ago. This is where humans gained control over the land and started to sail across the seas. It was then that people began to see paintings of mermaids adorning cave walls.

However, the stories of mythical merfolk vary in different parts of the world...



Ireland & Scotland

In Ireland and Scotland, Merrows were said to be human above the waist and to have fish tails, and webbed hands. These stories tell of mermaids marrying humans by taking human shape whilst on land.

Old Scottish mythology also tells of the Ceasg – the “maid of waves”. This particular mermaid had the lower half of a salmon.

Spain

From Cantabria, the mermaid Sirenuca had actually once been human, and it was her mother’s curse that turned her into a mermaid – “God grant that you become a fish”.

Brazil

Brazil’s legend tells of Lara – meaning “Lady of the Lake” or “Water Queen” – who would sit on a rock by the river, combing her green hair and waiting for a man to join her underwater.

Wales

In the 6th century, the tale of a mermaid called Murga became legendary in Wales. Murga means “woman who comes from the sea”. In the story, Murga was captured and taught to speak the native language and adjusting to life on land – however, she never lost the ability to live underwater.

Ancient Greece

The Ancient Greek name, “Seirén” is closely linked to the origin of the word *rope*. Mermaids were often known as being “the ones that tie or grab” with their mesmerising melodies and songs. This is where the literary expression “siren song” comes from.

Middle East

Around 1,000 BC, the first stories of merpeople in the Middle East appeared in Assyria. Atargatis – assyrian goddess – was known to rule the seas and her legacy was worshipped in temples that were decorated with fish and large ponds.

Russia

Known as Rusalkas, the tales from old Russia depict merpeople without fish tails. They were depicted as seductive yet dangerous and were ghosts that lived at the bottom of rivers and lakes.

China

Old Chinese tales depict merpeople as having webbed feet and hands. Chinese mythology refers to mermaids as wondrous and skilled beings who cried tears of pearls.

South Korea

Found on Geomundo Island, the local legend tells of a mermaid called Sinjiki. With fair skin and long black hair, she would appear during bright moonlight or early mornings to warn fishermen of storms.

Cambodia & Thailand

Both countries share stories of a golden-skinned mermaid princess named Suvannamaccha. She is said to have fallen in love with a human prince and have had a child with him.



Famous Mermaids & Mythical Creatures



Starbucks

One of the most recognisable logos is that of Starbucks, which features the iconic green and white mermaid Starbucks owners believed their products could lure in coffee lovers – as mermaids lured in sailors and fishermen. The first Starbucks shop was located on the Seattle waterfront, which the owners wanted to reflect in their brand.

Fun Facts:

- The company was originally named **Pequod** after the **whaling ship** in the literary classic **Moby Dick**.
- The design was based on **16th-century Norse woodcut** found in old marine books.
- The original logo was a coffee-brown colour. The **green** was introduced to represent **freshness, uniqueness, and prosperity**.



Madison from Splash!

Splash! Is the story of Madison, a blonde bombshell who just happens to be a mermaid in New York City.

Fun Facts:

- The fin worn by Daryl Hannah weighed **35 lbs**.
- The mermaid named herself after **Madison Avenue**.
- The mermaid costume **decomposed quickly**, meaning Daryl Hannah **wasn't** able to **keep the costume**.



The Little Mermaid

The famous underwater redhead with a Jamaican – crab for a sidekick – Ariel was based on the Danish fairytale by Hans Christian Andersen.

Fun Facts:

- Actress **Alyssa Milano** inspired the appearance of Ariel
- **Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, and Goofy** made cameo appearances in the film
- **Sebastian** was originally written with a **British** accent



Merpeople – Harry Potter

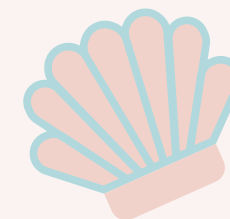


In *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, the Great Lake – which features heavily in the film – is home to Hogwarts' most fascinating underwater residents.

These merpeople are certainly not what we're used to, with their greyish skin, broken teeth and sharp spears.

Fun Facts:

- They have **yellow eyes**.
- They speak **Mermish**.
- The merpeople have a song called **Underwater Secrets**.



Other Ocean Legends

The Kraken

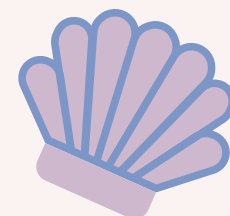
Terrifying stories of the Kraken started appearing in the 13th century. Reports tell of a fearsome squid-like creature that was as long as ten ships and could easily engulf a shipful of sailors.

The Megalodon

Proof of this ocean giant exists in the form of enormous teeth – up to 18 cm in length. Unfortunately, megalodons became extinct more than two million years ago, so we'll never know exactly how they looked. Imagine the biggest shark you can think of and triple it. The megalodon is believed to have been bigger than a school bus!

The Lost City of Atlantis

The story of Atlantis has endured generations of folklore. It is said to have been a utopian – meaning perfect – and peaceful civilisation. Having been written about for centuries, many believe that Atlantis was a real city, but as it's never been found, it's believed to have been swallowed by the sea.



How to Be a Merperson

If the enchanting **mysteries** of these **beautiful underwater creatures** and legends has captured your imagination, then take the plunge and **become a creature of the sea** yourself. Now, you don't have to take a magical potion or befriend a talking crab – follow these **six steps** and you'll be on your way to meeting Ariel in no time.



1. A Fairytale of a Tail

Whether you want to be a real-life merman or mermaid underwater, or just look like one on land, there's a **tail** out there for everyone. Remember to get a waterproof one if you're taking it for a dive!

2. Just Keep Swimming

You have your wondrous tail, so now it's time to learn how to use it. The famous mermaid stroke is called the **'dolphin kick'**. Once you've mastered the dolphin kick, it's time to try your skills with the **monofin**!

The monofin **adds power** to your kick so you can glide further and swim like a real mermaid.

Remember, only try these steps if you're a **confident swimmer** and **comfortable in water**.



3. Beautiful Scales

Ever wondered how mermaids get their **magical shimmer**? You can use a few common items to get the look.

The essentials:

- Eyeshadow
- Glitter
- Fishnet
- Brushes and sponges

Merpeople come in all colours, shapes and sizes, but **hues of blue, green, purple and pink** are perfect for a classic look.

To create the illusion of scales, pull the **fishnet over your skin** – wherever you want the scales – and using a **brush, apply layers** of different colours over the material. To give yourself that shimmering underwater effect, **apply layers of glitter**. Remove the fishnet to reveal your shimmering scales!

Remember to use **waterproof makeup** or a **waterproof setting spray** if you're planning to go underwater.

There are many **online tutorials** to help you perfect your mermaid makeup, **so don't worry** if you're not sure how to blend colours together.





4. Outfit Change

Here's the go-to outfit checklist to look like a merperson:

- ✓ **Tail**
- ✓ **Shell or coral top**
- ✓ **Pearl or shell accessories**

Get creative – flowers and leaves from the garden can make a beautiful crown, and seashells can be stuck to clothes for a truly beachy look.

Remember: If you take seashells from the beach, make sure you return them when you're finished with them.



Mermaid Shopping

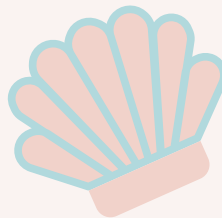
Time to get your tail wagging with a touch of mermaid shopping. Whether you're after some underwater gifts for your best merpeople, or accessories for your next adventure, the online world has an abundance of options for you.

Don't forget to add a little sparkle with some **dazzling glitter**. Eco Glitter Fun has your glistening needs covered. Check out their **biodegradable** selection on Instagram ([@eco.glitter.fun](https://www.instagram.com/eco.glitter.fun/)).

Pearls and Pebbles gives you all the aquatic accessories you need, from mermaid earrings and bracelets, to magical and enchanting pendants. You can find them on Instagram ([@pearlsandpebblesgifts](https://www.instagram.com/pearlsandpebblesgifts/)). It's not just personal accessories, either. Have you thought about adding mermaid-esque splashes to your interior design? Posters, trinkets, and room accessories can all transform your room.

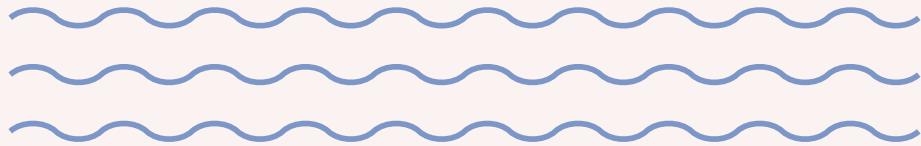
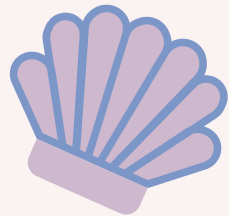
Swim The Extra Mile

It's easy to overlook the little touches that can really finish off your mermaid look. Take a peak at **Little Nail Designs** to get your fins on some cool mer nails. Follow their shimmering look on Instagram ([@littlenaildesigns](https://www.instagram.com/littlenaildesigns/)) and on **Facebook** to get more of your mermaid fix.



The most important part to mermaid shopping: **tail buying**. Whether you're looking for a **full tail**, **a monofin**, or a **matching mermaid bra**, [Planet Mermaid](#) and [Mermaid Wave](#) have the tail for you.

If the mystery of merfolk has got you swimming around in enchantment, don't forget to show us your **mer-makeover** on [Facebook](#) and on [Twitter \(@DeepSeaWorld\)](#). And as the famous Ariel once said: "Who says that my dreams have to stay just my dreams?"



Mermaid Glossary



- Ceasg:** Mermaid from Scottish folklore tales with the tail of a salmon. According to legend, they're found in rivers and streams.
- Dolphin kick:** A swimming technique where both legs kick simultaneously.
- Fluke:** The large part of the tail that helps propel merpeople through the water.
- Mer:** Gender-neutral term used for anyone wearing a tail.
- Mer-con:** Short for mer conventions.
- Merfolk:** Collective term for merpeople.
- Merling:** A young or baby merperson.
- Mermaiding:** The act of swimming in a tail. For example, "I'm going mermaiding."
- Mermish:** The language spoken by merfolk.
- Merrows:** Mermaids from Irish folklore tales.
- Merwrangler or Mertender:** Those who assist mers.
- Murga:** Mermaids from Welsh folklore tales.
- Rusalka:** A water nymph from Slavic mythology.
- Sirens:** Dangerous creatures who lured nearby sailors with enchanting music and singing.