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VISUAL REFERENCE

Shark Groups at a Glance: Where to Start in the Field Guide

This page now acts as a starting map for the strongest current field-guide routes on the site. It is most useful when a reader knows roughly what sort of shark they are looking at but needs help choosing the right first hub or guide.

[Orientation guide](#)

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This page is also available as a printable PDF for classrooms, quick reference, and offline use.

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Start broad, then narrow down

Readers should sort by broad group or body-plan clue before they jump into species pages.

Point to the strongest current clusters

Hammerheads, catsharks, deep-sea sharks, coastal sharks, and the

identification guide are the clearest current starting points.

Keep it practical

This page is an orientation tool, not a complete taxonomy map of every shark group.

At a glance

IF YOU NOTICE	START HERE	WHY
A wide hammer-shaped head	Hammerhead Species Comparison	Hammerheads are one of the site's clearest high-confidence clusters.
A small bottom shark with cat-like proportions	Catsharks	That hub narrows many of the smaller benthic sharks quickly.
A flattened ambush shark on the seafloor	Angel Shark vs Wobbegong	This comparison helps sort one of the site's recurring body-plan confusions.
A huge filter-feeding shark	Basking Shark vs Whale Shark	That pair is the clearest first split for the site's best-known giant plankton-feeding sharks.
An unusual deeper-water shark or strange body plan	Deep-Sea Sharks	That hub is the strongest path for lanternsharks, roughsharks, gulper sharks, and sixgill-type pages.

IF YOU NOTICE**START HERE****WHY**

A general question about shape, habitat, or pattern

Shark Identification Guide

The identification guide is the best first stop when no single group is obvious.

How to use this page

- Use this page when you know the broad look of the shark but not the exact name.
- Pick the strongest matching group or cue, then move into the linked hub instead of trying to jump straight to a species page.
- Use the silhouette or depth resources next if your first clue is still too broad for a clean group choice.
- Download the PDF when you want a quick classroom handout or offline reference sheet.

Frequently asked questions

These quick answers keep the page practical and point readers toward the next useful guide page.

Is this a complete list of shark groups?

No. It is a starting map built around the site's strongest current guide clusters, not a full taxonomy of every shark family.

When should I use this instead of a species page?

Use it when you only know a broad body plan, habitat, or head shape. It is meant to help you choose the right first hub.

What if my clue is still too broad after this page?

Does this page have a printable version?

Move into Shark Silhouette Comparison, Shark Depth Zones Chart, or the main Shark Identification Guide instead of forcing a species choice.

Yes. The page includes a download link for a printer-friendly PDF version of the same orientation guide.

Useful next pages

Keep moving through the field guide with the pages that make this one more useful.

Topic hub

Topic Hubs

The browse page for the site's topic structure.

Reference

Shark Identification Guide

The best first stop after the overview.

Visual reference

Shark Silhouette Comparison

A visual board for the broadest first-pass body-plan split.

Visual reference

Shark Depth Zones Chart

A chart for readers whose first clue is water depth or habitat zone.

Resources

Resource Library

The main landing page for visual and printable aids.

Keep the guide offline

Pocket Shark is built as an offline shark field guide for iPhone and iPad, so the same comparisons, glossary notes, and species context can stay with you away from a browser.

[Get the field guide on the App Store](#)

Pocket Shark Field Guide

An independent shark field guide focused on species reference, comparison, and educational context.

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