

## The Water Pegasus

The Water Pegasus is a rare type of flying horse that is found near coastlines. Every weekend, unicornologists gather on cliffs and remote beaches to find out more about these beautiful creatures. During recent lockdown periods, these winged horses have become bold and travelled inland and up rivers. To the delight of many citizens, the Water Pegasus has now been seen in parks taking advantage of empty boating pools and outdoor swimming pools. However, not much is known about the Water Pegasus.

Would you be able to recognise a Water Pegasus if you saw one? Like most winged horses, they have a flowing mane, long tail and powerful wings. The main feature of this fantastic creature is its extraordinary wings which are webbed. They have the ability to fly and swim. Amazingly, they have gills like fish so that they can breathe underwater. This is why they have often been referred to as 'dolphins of the sky'. Up close, you can see their pointed ears, flared nostrils and very bright green eyes. Generally, they are an amazing blue-green colour which means that they are hard to see when swimming but do stand out when flying. The majority have scales under their fur which keep them warm in the water and when flying at an altitude. However, a rare minority are completely covered in golden scales which glimmer in the sunlight.

The Water Pegasus lives on coastlines and cliff areas where they are close to the water. They make their nests out of driftwood and can be seen in rocky places where they rear their young. The nests are hidden on cliffs which means that they are hard to find. Water Pegasi must live near water otherwise their bodies run the risk of overheating. They like to wander up and down deserted beaches, drinking from salt water pools and foraging for rare gemstones that may have been washed ashore. They love flying over the sea where they dip and dive, alongside marine birds.

These shy and wonderful winged horses feed off seaweed which they find on the shoreline as well as plankton and other small fish. They are especially fond of cloudberry but, if they eat too many, they run the risk of turning a strange custard-yellow colour! They can live for long periods of time without feeding. In this way, Pegasi have often been likened to the flying camel which can exist for days without drinking as they store water in their humps. The Pegasus is able to store food as a layer of fat under its scales so that it can last for weeks without eating. This enables it to make long sea journeys to other lands.

To relax, the Water Pegasus collects gemstones and they make collections which are hidden on cliff faces and in rocky caves. These treasure stores have, in the past, been mistaken for the lair of a dragon and this has led to the Water Pegasus being hunted. Adult Water Pegasi enjoy stretching their wings and rising higher and higher on warm thermals. They can be seen floating in the sky, spiraling up and up. At night, they sing like an ethereal choir.



The Water Pegasus is a gentle creature. They are shy but fun-loving and easily interested in anything that glitters! They will only become aggressive if they fear that their young are in danger. Of course, their gentle nature can make them easy prey to predators, such as unicorn hunters who have been known to slaughter these wonderful animals, mistaking them for their horned relatives, the sea unicorn.

Many people believe that the Water Pegasus can grant magical wishes but this has yet to be proved. If you believe that one is living in the local area, it is probably best to keep this as a secret. They enjoy being fed seaweed by hand if you have gained their trust. Remember, though, these are wild creatures so do not try to ride on them as they resent such an intrusion! Let's keep these graceful creatures safe for future generations.