

## The hippopotamus

The hippopotamus is a large herbivore that lives in Africa. Its name means 'river horse'. Hippos have some similar features to pigs, but in fact they are more closely related to whales and dolphins!

### Living together

Hippos live in pods with one bull male in charge of many female and young hippos. They need to be near water all the time: they spend most of the day keeping cool in the water and mud. They can stay underwater for up to 5 minutes. They leave the water each night to graze on grasses.



### Fast runners

Despite their short legs and large barrel-like bodies, hippos are fast runners and can charge at an amazing 30 kilometres per hour.

