

Blue Whale Diet and Feeding Habits

Despite having no teeth, Blue Whales are carnivorous. Each day a single adult blue whale consumes about four tons of krill tiny shrimp-like organisms.

In order to eat, a blue whale takes huge gulps of water, extending its pleated throat. The whale filters the water out by pushing its enormous tongue and contracting its throat. The water pours through fringed plates of “baleen,” made of fingernail-like material that is attached to its upper jaw. It swallows its prey – krill, tiny shrimp-like organisms – by the thousands.

During certain times of the year in some regions, blue whales have been recorded going weeks without eating. It had long been thought that blue whales ate only during their summer treks to colder, polar waters, but the expedition to the Costa Rica Dome and other expeditions have proved that blue whales also eat during the winter months in warmer tropical waters.

