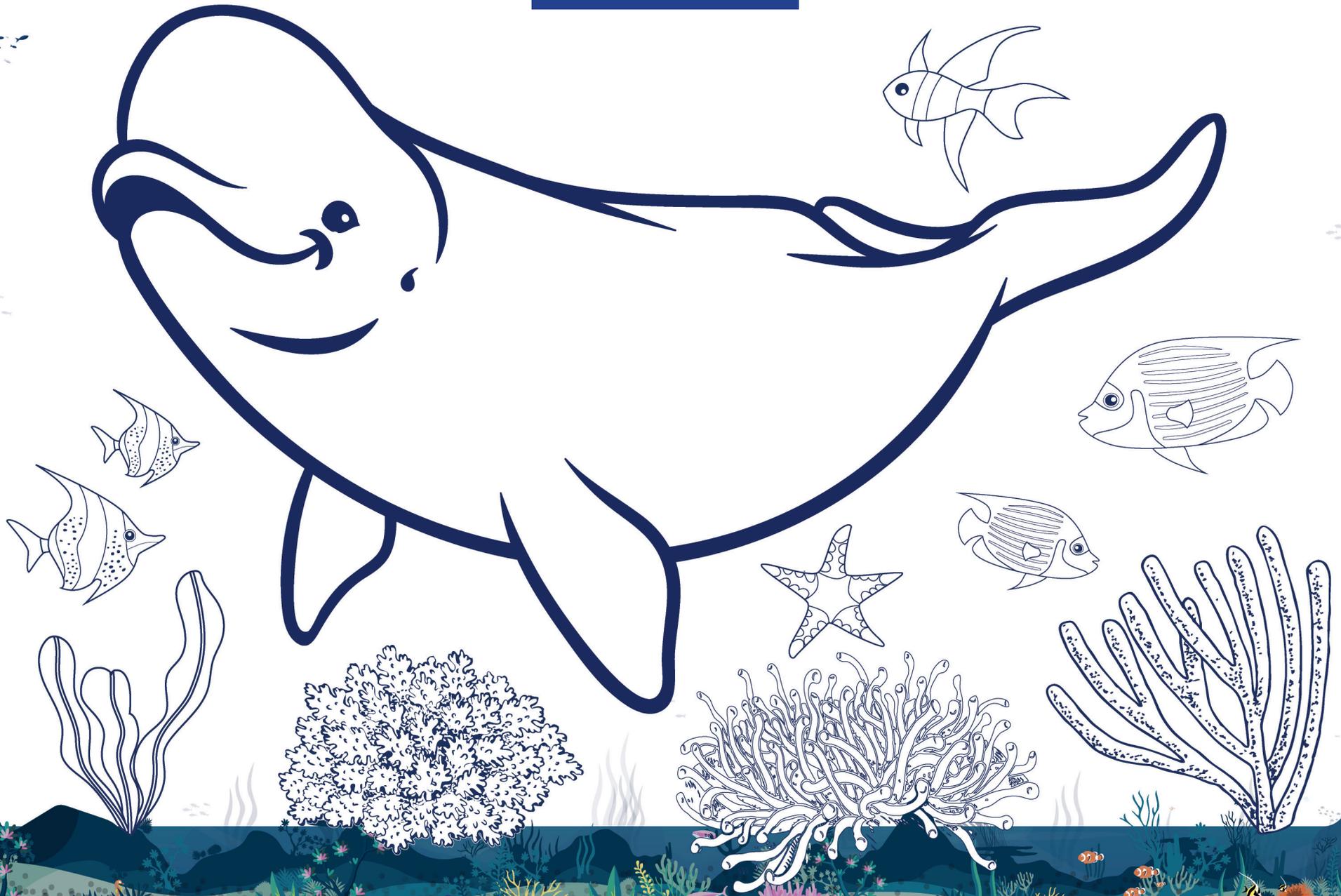


Turn over to read my story.

**COLOUR ME IN!**



# SEA LIFE TRUST

Beluga Whale Sanctuary

## Stage 6 Little steps with the Halo

In 2022, building on the learnings of Little White's and Little Grey's first trip into the bay we added a new stage to the belugas 'Little Steps' rehabilitation process. 'Big Halo' is a specially designed floating habitat created as an additional step to support Little Grey and Little White in acclimatising to their open water sea sanctuary home. This new habitat will help both Little Grey and Little White and future belugas too.



FIND OUT MORE AND  
SEE HOW YOU  
CAN HELP

## THE AMAZING JOURNEY OF LITTLE WHITE & LITTLE GREY

In 2012, Merlin Entertainments acquired an aquarium in Shanghai that was home to two belugas. At SEA LIFE, we don't believe in keeping whales and dolphins in captivity so we worked with our partner charity, the SEA LIFE Trust, and invested in building the world's first Beluga whale sanctuary in Iceland to return the whales to a more natural habitat. And so this amazing journey for Little White and Little Grey began.

## Stage 5 Home to the ocean - their first summer

After years of preparation, planning and dedication and not to mention the thousands of miles travelled, September 2020 saw Little Grey and Little White finally swim in their natural sea sanctuary home. Here, they spent the summer exploring, swimming and diving in their stunning 32,000m<sup>2</sup> ocean environment, before being moved back into their landside facility for winter.

Seasonal rotation will likely be necessary for a few years to ensure the two belugas acclimatise to the changing conditions of Iceland.

## Stage 4 Testing The Water

This is when Little White and Little Grey got their first taste of life in the ocean again.

A big winch with a sling was carefully used to release them into special care pools inside the sanctuary bay.

Here they could start to get used to the water and the creatures in their new home, whilst their care team kept an eye on them to make sure they were healthy and cared for.

## Stage 3 Welcome To Iceland

Halló (Hello in Icelandic)  
When the belugas landed they were taken by lorry and then a ferry to the SEA LIFE TRUST Beluga Whale Sanctuary.

They stayed in a care pool to get used to the colder water, with vets and a care team on hand to monitor and look after them.

After such a long journey it was important to make sure they were fit and well.

They also met some of the Sanctuary's other residents - rescued puffins!

## Stage 1 Preparing for their big adventure

Little White and Little Grey had months of training to fully prepare them for their epic journey ahead.

They also needed time to put on extra blubber ready for the colder temperature of their new Icelandic home.

## Stage 2 Flying Belugas

The whales had their own private plane to fly them 6,000 miles from China to Iceland. The aircraft, flight, and expertise were very kindly donated by Cargolux Airlines.

Custom-made slings were designed to their exact physical needs, keeping them calm, cool and comfortable for the 30 hour journey.