Mermaid Tattoos

Mermaid tattoos are among some the most popular tattoo designs to date and have fascinated people of all ages for numerous decades with their exquisite beauty.
They date back to when tattoos were popular with sailors and to the time of Sailor Jerry, a famous tattoo artist. Mermaid tattoos symbolize mystery and wonder of which many people can connect with, identify with, and simply fall in love with. Mermaid tattoos represent feminine beauty as well as the perils and wonders of the sea. They allow for a great deal of diversity in design, color and size.

History of Mermaid Tattoos

Sailors would commonly get mermaid tattoos as a symbol of good luck and also to show respect for these beautiful and mythical creatures. Mermaids date back to the early 1300's when sailors were said to have spotted them on long voyages across the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. It was commonly believed that seeing a mermaid on one's journey across the sea was a sign of good luck and that such a sighting was sure to bring bountiful catches for fishermen; however, it was also believed that they could be a symbol of danger to any sailor who dared to pursue them. Many stories tell of mermaids luring sailors into the sea with their beauty and enchanting songs only to squeeze the life out of them and leave their bodies to drown in the endless sea.

Mermaid Tattoos for Men

Men often choose traditional sailor mermaid tattoos to place on their chest, back, calf and arm areas—with the forearm being the most popular locale. Many of these designs are done with the classic pin-up girl style of artwork.

Another popular mermaid tattoo among men features a mother mermaid with her infant child encircled in her arms and tailfin. This particular design is a popular choice for new fathers and generally represents the love they have for their wife and child.

Mermaid Tattoos for Women

At one time, mermaid tattoos were traditionally only worn by men. However, over the years, many women have found the stories that surround mermaids and their exquisite beauty to be quite appealing. Mermaid tattoos symbolize a variety of mystery and beauty that any woman can identify with. They can symbolize a woman's beauty, grace and, especially, a woman's power. Often times, women who have experienced significant life changes and feel that they have become stronger and more confident in themselves will choose mermaid tattoos as permanent reminders of their transformations.
Women generally prefer mermaid tattoos that are done in a full array of brightly colored inks.

Mermaid Tattoo Designs

Mermaids are commonly represented with long flowing hair, which is believed to symbolize an abundance of potential love. The classic mermaid pose featured in most of these tattoos is that of a mermaid sitting on a rock, most often with waves crashing around her. Another commonly chosen design is the image of a mermaid swimming with dolphins. Individuals looking for a traditional sailor's style tattoo typically incorporate other nautical themes such as anchors, ships and nautical stars.

Celebrities with Mermaid Tattoos

FEARNE COTTON/British Television Broadcaster: has an old school 50's pin up girl style mermaid on her lower back.

SAMANTHA FOX/Musician, Model: has a mermaid tattoo on her butt.

CHRISTINA RICCI/Actress: has a small mermaid tattoo on her left ankle.