

Turtles in Queensland

Why Choose Queensland for Watching Turtles?

Queensland is the perfect destination to get an insight into one of nature's most fascinating creatures. All year round in the protected and shallow waters that align the Queensland coast, divers, snorkellers and turtle watches can catch sight of juvenile and adult turtles swimming and playing in the ocean.



The calm blue waters and golden sand of Queensland is the perfect backdrop to marvel at the life of a turtle and witness the struggles these creatures face. From mid November to February each year, the turtles crawl onto the sandy Queensland shores to nest and lay their eggs. Then between January to the end of March you can witness the little brown shapes of turtle hatchlings making their way down to the ocean for their very first swim.

Of the seven species of marine turtles, six are found in Queensland's shallow coastal waters. However great care need to be taken to protect the marine creature as all species of sea turtle are considered to be endangered or vulnerable.

Whether it is a visit to the Great Barrier Reef and islands, or a trip to the Central Queensland and Bundaberg coasts, there is always a chance that lucky spectators who venture out at night will get a first hand glimpse at one of Queensland's most interesting animals.

Quick Turtle Watching Facts:

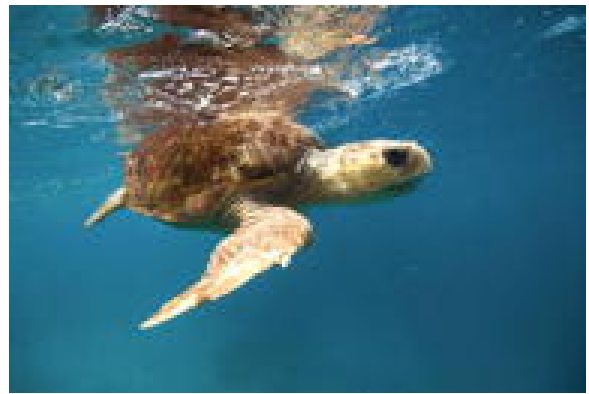


- Sea turtles have nested on parts of Queensland's coast for thousands of years.
- Green, Hawksbill and Loggerhead, Flatback, Leatherback and Olive are all breeds of turtles found in Queensland.
- Turtles have a large shell called a carapace, four strong, paddle-like flippers and like all reptiles, lungs for breathing air.
- Turtles are very shy creatures, however in the right environment, a turtle's gracefulness, playfulness and obvious curiosity is revealed.
- Foxes, dingos and goannas the main predators for turtles as they regularly raid the turtle nests looking for food.
- Hatchlings have a very low chance of survival, with perhaps only one in 1000 possibly reaching maturity.



Top Queensland Turtle Watching Sites

- **Mon Repos Conservation Park:** Mon Repos is world famous for its marine turtles. From November to March, take a night tour for a close encounter with turtles on the beach. You may see turtles coming ashore to lay their eggs or hatchlings emerging from their nests. Turtle watching is very popular and Mon Repos can provide a premium turtle experience.
- **Lady Elliot Island:** Lady Elliot Island is the most southerly island within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Sea turtles regularly nest on Lady Elliot during the summer months and the baby turtles called hatchlings can be seen scampering to the ocean from January until April.
- **Lady Musgrave Island:** Lady Musgrave Island is a national park and as such there are no shops or facilities ashore, which make it a perfect place for turtles to lay their eggs. As visitor numbers are limited, spectators can have a truly personal experience with a turtle.



Further Information

For further information, visit www.queenslandholidays.com.au/natural-adventures

Operators who specialise in Turtle Watching in Queensland

Tours:

Australia See Moreton Island Tours
Footprints Adventures
Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort Tours
Lady Musgrave Cruises

www.sunrover.com.au
www.footprintsadventures.com.au
www.ladyelliot.com.au
www.lmcruises.com

Attractions:

Mon Repos Conservation Park

www.epa.qld.gov.au/projects/park/index.

Turtle Rescue:

On western Cape York, join an expedition to work with Aboriginal Rangers and researchers as they endeavour to reverse the damage done on to nesting sea turtles by feral pigs and entrapment to adult animals in abandoned 'ghost nets': www.capeyorkturtlerescue.com