

To swim with Turtle's



To swim with a sea turtle is a dream that most people share. So graceful, in the coral sea's clear water, as they glide by with not a care in the world. But as we're taken in by the

beauty of this pre-historic animal, we often forget how fortunate we are to be able to swim with these placid creatures.

Of the seven existing species of sea turtle, six are listed as threatened or endangered. They are exceptionally long-lived, and are slow to reach sexual maturity. For example loggerhead turtles take around 35 years to reach sexual maturity and then breed on around 5 occasions, at intervals of several years. Apart from Crocodiles, sea turtles are amongst the largest of reptiles with mature specimens ranging in size from 40kg - 300kg. Their diets vary with the species:

green turtles eat algae and seagrasses; loggerheads molluscs and crabs; hawksbill sponges and algae; and

leatherbacks eat jellyfish. When sea turtles lay their eggs in the shallow dunes

of Frankland Islands and other beaches, it is the temperature of the sand that

will determine what sex the hatchlings will be. Incubation temperatures above

30°C cause female sex in hatchlings, whereas temperature below 28°C result

in male hatchlings. Over the course of one reproductive season the females

can lay anywhere between 100 and 500 eggs. Of these maybe one or two

will actually reach adulthood. Only a small percentage of sea turtles actually make it back to the beaches

where they hatched.

I hope the odds are greater for you to make it back to swim with

the turtles around the Frankland Islands.

FRANKLAND ISLANDS MARINE HIGHLIGHTS!

- ✓ FANTASTIC CORAL
- ✓ ABUNDANCE OF TROPICAL FISH
- ✓ OVER 20 RESIDENT TURTLES
- ✓ GIANT CLAM'S
- ✓ MANTARAY'S & WHALE'S (SEASONAL)

