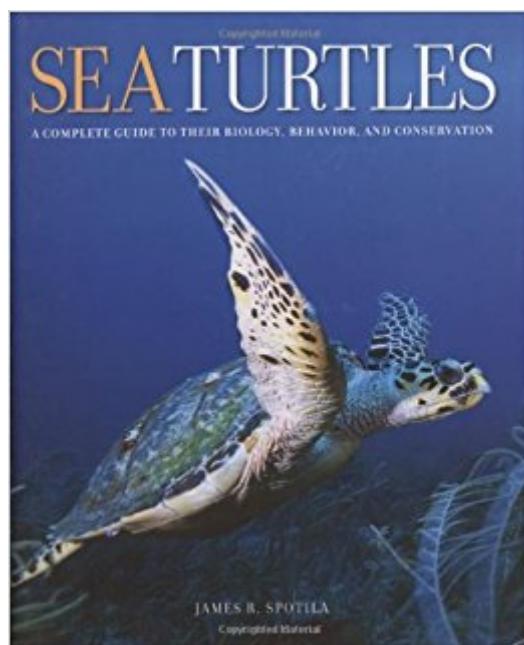


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# Sea Turtles: A Complete Guide To Their Biology, Behavior, And Conservation



## Synopsis

For more than a hundred million years, sea turtles have been swimming in the world's oceans. These magnificent, long-lived creatures spend their lives in the water, coming ashore to lay their eggs. Upon hatching, the baby turtles leave the nest and enter a dangerous world of storms and predators. The females will return to the same beach to lay their own eggs when they reach maturity a decade later. Today, there are seven species of sea turtle: the grass-feeding green turtle; the sea sponge-eating hawksbill; the olive ridley; the Kemp's ridley, which is the smallest species; the loggerhead; the flatback of Australia; and the giant leatherback. Having escaped the mass extinction that wiped out the dinosaurs, these ancient reptiles today face new dangers that threaten their survival: pollution, hunting, and the destruction of their nesting grounds. Will this century be the last to witness their majesty? Will succeeding generations live in a world devoid of their graceful presence? Marine biologist James R. Spotila has spent much of his life unraveling the mysteries of these graceful creatures and working to ensure their survival. In *Sea Turtles*, he offers a comprehensive and compelling account of their history and life cycle based on the most recent scientific data and suggests what we can do now to save them. From the Kemp's ridley, which nests on a single beach on Mexico's Gulf Coast, to the nomadic leatherback, which can weigh up to a ton and is in the most imminent danger of extinction, Spotila offers a vivid description of their diets and mating habits, and the conservation efforts being made on their behalf. Illustrated with stunning color photographs by the world's leading nature photographers, *Sea Turtles* will inform and inspire readers of all ages everywhere.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Sea turtles are among the planet's most ancient inhabitants, arising during the Triassic period some 220 million years ago and not changing much since. As they spend their lives at sea, only coming ashore to nest, much of what has been learned about the physiology and behavior of sea turtles has been discovered fairly recently with the advent of modern scientific equipment. Spotila, a longtime sea turtle researcher, distills what is known about these mysterious ocean wanderers into this beautifully illustrated new treatise. He writes with an informative and chatty narrative flow, covering his research and that of other scientists in chapters on the biology, evolution, life cycle, and conservation of sea turtles. Each of the seven species, ranging from the well-known green turtle to the mysterious flatback, receives its own chapter detailing diet, behavior, range, and nesting beaches. Sidebars throughout the text go into more detail on techniques such as radio-tagging turtles. The author is eloquent in his appeal for the conservation of sea turtles. The best single book on the subject. Nancy BentCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

"In this comprehensive guide, [Spotila] treats in detail the seven species: green turtles, hawksbills, olive ridleys, Kemp's ridleys, loggerheads, flatbacks, and leatherbacks. Each chapter includes tables of data on where the species is found, population estimates of colonies, and, in some cases, a chronology of conservation efforts... Spotila, fittingly, offers vignettes of conservation projects that provide human interest... Spotila's book is recommended for high school, university, and research-level libraries." (Library Journal)"Such enthusiasm is infectious... The accessible text is beautifully illustrated with numerous color photographs. The lay readers will be captivated. The book's review of what scientists know about these charismatic but woefully endangered creatures is substantial enough to interest biologists and conservationists as well." (Roger Harris American Scientist)"Each species gets a chapter with sumptuous photographs, and short personal profiles pay homage to those spearheading conservation efforts. " (New Scientist)" Sea Turtles is spellbinding, articulate, indispensable and, with its many full-color photos, taken by the world's leading underwater photographers, astonishing." (Spirit of Aloha)"The author is both a leading authority on sea turtles and a talented writer; his passion for the subject is on every page." (Choice)"An evocative portrait of the seven species and their valiant fight for survival." (Compendium Newsletter)"This is a great book." (Wildlife Activist)"Clearly written and well-illustrated book... provides a helpful primer for nonscientists." (Larry Evans Charlotte Herald-Tribune)"It is this

mixture of scientific expertise and outright human awe that makes this book such a treasure... A trove of information, a collection of spectacular photos, and an ode to a creature that somehow, years after its birth, is able to navigate back to the precise beach where it was born to lay its own eggs." (Philadelphia Inquirer)"Bottom line: This book is worthy of centerpiece placement on any coffee table. But Sea Turtles' loftier goal make it more than just another pretty picture book." (Mary Beth Regan Baltimore Sun)" Sea Turtles capitalizes on the depth of James Spotila's experience in field and political environments as well as his evident passion for conservation, [producing] an equally compelling, modern book. Readers of all stripes will be captivated by the outstanding photography and entertained by the stories... A wonderful entrÃƒÂ©e into the exciting world of sea turtles for the uninitiated and a delightful repast for everyone. His eloquent words are inspiring, and his hopeful message deserves to be heard." (Fredric J. Janzen Science)"This lavishly produced book is filled with numerous excellent photographs, as well as beautiful schematics of anatomy and distribution maps. But this is much more than a coffee-table book: it deserves space on the academic's bookshelf." (Graeme C. Hays Nature)"Open this new, beautifully produced book and you'll find yourself hopelessly caught up in the life of sea turtles." (Post Register)"This is simply a great book: lucid, literate, and lavishly illustrated." (Tony Tucker Aquatic Mammals)"This volume hits the sweet spot between a hard science manual and a mere coffee table book." (Michael Stachowitsch Marine Ecology)"A worldwide study into what is causing the decrease in sea turtles throughout the world. Going beyond just what is causing it, though, [Spotila] carefully explicates why the decline is so important to all living things." (Black Sheep Dances)

As described A+

I needed a book to help identify photos I found. This book is fabulous - photos, descriptions & insight. Also helps you to understand the possible fate of some of these majestic creatures starting with the egg. Makes you proud to know people care & actually do something. Written for anyone to understand. Beautiful photos/descriptions.

The book I received had sticky stuff spilled on the front and numbers engraved on the back cover as if someone used it for a writing surface and pressed really hard. Super lame to send a coffee table type book with a ruined cover.

This book is incredible! I absolutely love it! A wealth of information, great photographs, etc. If you

are a lover of sea turtles, or just want to learn all you can about them, this is definitely the book for you. A wonderful resource...can't stop reading it!

I love everything sea turtle and this is a great addition to my library. Would recommend!

I read this from cover-to-cover before I left for Costa Rica. It was a tremendous help to me as I went on a 2 week sea turtle conservation tour in Junquillal, Costa Rica at a turtle station called Verdiazul. Would love to have had a smaller version to take with, however. Great info and pictures.

I purchased this book for my High School Freshman as a Honors Lit non-fiction book project. She made a beautiful powerpoint presentation and Website with quizzes. This book was fabulous. At first I thought it would be a tough kind of informational book to read, but it was not! It was written in layman terms and easy to read. The pictures are nothing less than gorgeous. There is so much information packed in this book it was hard to decide what to leave out! Also this book would be a beautiful coffee table book because the quality and pictures are wonderful. There was plenty of information about conservation and even though my daughter has always loved turtles now she is an activist and has joined a save the sea turtles foundation. This book was a godsend and a pleasure to read.

Loved this book ...spent a week at the Bald Head Island Conservancy which operates a nationally recognised Sea Turtle Protection program and is the only non governmental agency in N.Carolina allowed to conduct turtle identification and satellite tracking of sea turtles. The book was an excellent resource and adjunct to the teaching of the sea turtle biologists at the Conservancy. Plus the illustrations are beautiful!!

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