

SEA TURTLES: ANCIENT MARINERS OF THE OCEAN

Often referred to as the ancient mariners of the ocean, sea turtles have been swimming the ocean for more than 150 million years, first appearing during the age of the dinosaurs. Turtles use the Reef as a valuable feeding and nesting ground, coming ashore to lay their eggs. The Reef is a refuge for six of the world's seven species of marine turtle - the green, loggerhead, hawksbill, flatback, olive ridley and leatherback turtles.

TURTLE HOSPITAL AT REEF HQ

Nursing sick and injured turtles back to health, the Reef HQ Turtle Hospital aims to enhance the long term survival of marine turtles. The hospital gives visitors the chance to see and learn more about marine turtles through educational talks and guided tours. You can help this important work by visiting Reef HQ Aquarium in Townsville or donating at info@reefHQ.com.au

DWARF MINKE WHALES: UP-CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Only found in the southern hemisphere, the dwarf minke whale can be seen in the north Great Barrier Reef in June and July. These small baleen whales were discovered in the Great Barrier Reef in the mid 1980s when they began to approach boats and swimmers. Under strict codes of practice, tourism operators run tours where visitors can swim with these whales – an experience found nowhere else. The tours help by collecting research data on these curious creatures.

MANAGING NATURE'S GIFT TO HUMANKIND

The Great Barrier Reef is protected within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park – one of the world's largest marine protected areas, stretching from Bundaberg in the south to the tip of Cape York in the north. A vast multiple use area, where protection goes hand-in-hand with sustainable use, it is widely recognised as one of the world's best managed marine parks. The Reef's vast size and complexity means a collaborative approach is necessary to look after its biodiversity long-term. The Australian Government's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the agency responsible for protection and management of the marine park, works with many other government agencies, stakeholders and community members towards its protection and sustainable use. By working together we can all protect this valuable asset so it can continue to be experienced and enjoyed by future generations. To find out more visit: www.gbrmpa.gov.au



Come close to a Green Turtle



Swim with the Dwarf Minke Whale as they migrate



For more information on this Landscape or to learn about other naturally beautiful places which offer a different but uniquely Australian experience, visit www.australia.com/nl

Images courtesy of Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

HELP US PROTECT THIS UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT

You make your own contribution to protecting the Great Barrier Reef when you choose a high standard operator that is ecologically sustainable.

Operators that display these logos are recognised by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for their contribution to protecting and presenting the marine park at a consistently high standard.

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Volunteers help with some of the most important research and monitoring on the Reef. There are lots of ways to get involved – contact your preferred volunteering organisation to find out more:

Earthwatch Institute Australia Expeditions

www.earthwatch.org/australia/

Smaller Earth Australia www.smallerearth.com

Seagrass-Watch www.seagrasswatch.org/

