

THE JOURNEY OF CARETTA

THE STORY OF A LOGGERHEAD TURTLE,
FROM THE EGG TO THE OPEN SEA



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Hello there! I'm Caretta, a newborn sea turtle! Now that I'm out of the egg I have to dig the sand to reach the surface... Fortunately, I'm with my brothers and sisters, and we'll help each other! This is another good reason why mom lays about one hundred eggs in the same nest!

Did you know? If our eggs are at more than 29°C, we become females, otherwise we become males...

Not sure what I am, but now I have other things to worry about!...

Where's the sea? Give me a second...

The light of the stars is all I need: it is reflected by the waves and so the sea is the brighter part of my horizon...

That direction!

Turtles breathe air, like us, so they periodically come to the sea surface. They spend all their lives at sea, with a single exception: females must lay their eggs on land.

Adults return to breed in the same zone they were born, that can be thousand kilometers from where they normally live, and how they find their route in the oceans is one of the greatest mysteries of these animals. Probably they use a mix of senses, including their capacity to perceive the Earth's magnetic field.

The life of a sea turtle is very dangerous. When young and small, sea turtles are predated by many animals, at land and at sea. Those which survive and grow can only be predated by very big animals like some sharks. However, their real threat is from humans who in recent times began to disturb turtle reproduction at beaches (buildings etc.) and to accidentally kill turtles at sea (by fishing, boat traffic, pollution, etc.). Fortunately, humans have started to protect turtles and to behave differently. The NETCET project is contributing to sea turtle conservation in the Adriatic Sea.

