

TURTLE CONSERVATION STORY

BY ANNE CAMPBELL



GRUPO TORTUGUERO
TODOS SANTOS
- BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR -

**CAMPAMENTO TORTUGUERO
TODOS SANTOS, A.C**



PUEBLOS
MÁGICOS
TODOS SANTOS
B.C.S.

**PROYECTO
CONSERVACIÓN Y PROTECCIÓN
DE TORTUGA MARINA
AREA DE PROTECCIÓN:
PUNTA LOBOS-BOCA CARRIZAL
CORRAL DE INCUBACION**

Inf. 612 20 341 92

On a trip to Baja, my kayaking companions and I went to a turtle conservation project in Todos Santos to help new-born loggerhead sea turtles survive on their journey across the beach to the ocean.

BIENVENIDOS

The turtles were born about an hour before we arrived. The staff had dug up the eggs from the beach and kept them in a building until they hatched. Just before sunset, we released them on the sand and pointed them toward the ocean.



Only our guide was allowed to touch the turtles with gloved hands. The rest of us used coconut shells to carry them to the beach from the building where they were born.



A line in the sand kept us
from stepping on the turtles.



The tiny turtles were perfect replicas of adult loggerhead turtles. I couldn't imagine how they would survive without parents to teach them. So many dangers waited for them in the ocean.



At first, most of them just stayed on the spot where we set them, like they were waking from a long sleep. Some required a nudge to get them moving. Slowly they began to move, and waddled toward the water.





Our guide was a wildlife biologist, and knew just how much help to give them.



We didn't know how many of the babies would survive. The adult females lay an average of 4 clutches, with 100 to 120 eggs in each. We watched the waves swallow them up, now it's up to the ocean to keep a few of them alive.



