

SALTWATER CROCODILE

Crocodylus porosus



FACTS AT A GLANCE

TYPE OF ANIMAL

Reptile

OTHER NAMES

Saltie

FOUND WHERE

Asia & Australia

WEIGHT

Up to 1,000kg

LENGTH INCLUDING TAIL

Largest on record is 6.1m,
but could grow longer than this.

CONSERVATION STATUS

Least concern

LIFE SPAN

Unknown for sure,
but potentially over 100 years

The Saltwater Crocodile, also known as Estuarine Crocodile, has been around for millions of years. It is the world's largest living reptile and can be found in mangrove swamps, coastal marshes, estuaries, lakes and river mouths. Contrary to their name, saltwater crocodiles do not spend all their time in salt water, with 80% of their life lived in freshwater.

DIET

Although saltwater crocodiles mostly eat fish, they can, and do eat anything they can overpower, from turtles, goannas, snakes, birds, cattle and even mud crabs. They lie in wait for an opportunity to take their prey unawares. They can hold their breath for extensive periods by lowering their heart rate, to reduce their oxygen requirements.



Source: <https://www.theanimalfiles.com/>

REPRODUCTION

The female builds a mound with a chamber to lay her eggs in. She can lay up to 70 hard shelled eggs. She guards her nest, splashing with water if needed to stop it drying out.

The eggs take around 90 days to hatch with the sex being determined by the temperature of the nest. Below 30°C and they will be female and above 32°C, they will be male.

FUN FACTS

Salties have a bite force of up to 3,700 psi (pressure per square inch)! This gives them one of the strongest bites of any living animal!

Crocodiles can't eat underwater – they have to surface to swallow their food.