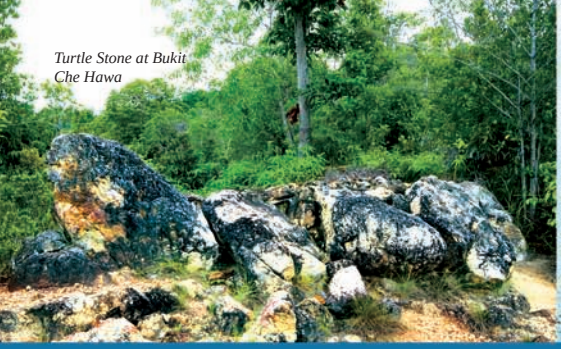

Turtle Stone at Bukit Che Hawa

Baby leatherback turtle

The Tragic Tale of A Turtle Stone

Legend has it, there once lived a loving turtle couple that would always roam and play together. One day, while they were together near the mystical sea garden called *Banjaran Sari*, they got lost and decided to ask a local puffer fish about where they were. She told them that they were in the waters of Rantau Abang. She also told them about an incredibly beautiful location nearby where the sand was soft and pure but such area was off limits to the fishes because they could not go on land.

Beach at Rantau Abang

Curiosity got the better of both turtles who decided to go and explore the forbidden area. When they finally reached the shore they were reminded once again by a crab of the danger of the forbidden area. The female turtle was afraid and wanted to leave. However, the male was adamant. He told the female that she could stay behind and wait for him if she was too scared to continue. Then the male turtle went off to explore the bay further.

While exploring, he saw a beautiful pond with crystal clear water. Tired and parched, he decided to drink from the pond. Immediately he started to feel heavier and could not move his legs, eventually he was turned into stone. Apparently, he had sipped from a cursed pond. A seagull brought the sad news to the female turtle. Heartbroken, the female turtle went back into the ocean, alone.

It is said that no matter where she went she would always return to the beach of that very bay to lay eggs and visit her altered beloved. Every time she lays her eggs, she would weep and deeply grieve over her tragic fate. Soon, many turtles started coming to the beach of Rantau Abang to lay eggs. They too would cry as they lay their eggs remembering their unfortunate ancestor. The area is now known as *Batu Penyu* or Turtle Stone.

Located 56 kilometres south of Kuala Terengganu, *Batu Penyu* is in a village called Bukit Che Hawa in Rantau Abang area. Besides these unique and wonderful turtles, Rantau Abang is known for its sun-drenched, soft sandy beaches such as Teluk Bidara and Tanjong Jara that are perfect for picnicking, sunbathing, swimming and unwinding.

Turtle Stone