

DOs and DON'Ts



during sea turtle nesting season

Sea turtle nesting season has begun in Florida! Sea turtles can be found nesting on most sandy beaches in Florida at night. The season officially ends on October 31.

The team at Florida Leatherbacks Inc. have put together a few helpful tips for you when visiting the beautiful sea turtle nesting beaches in Florida.

Do

Don't



Go on a Turtle Walk

Many organizations in the State of Florida offer FWC permitted turtle walks each summer.



Be careful

Remember that not all sea turtle nests are marked or flagged on busy beaches. Use care when placing umbrellas.



Clean up

Leave the beach cleaner than you found it. Debris left on the beach can blow into the ocean.



Turn off the flash

Many cameras allow you to take photos at night without flash. Flash photos can interrupt turtles all along the beach.



Share the beach

Enjoy the beach during the day, but please allow the turtles to nest without interruption at night.



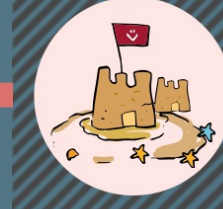
No lights

Both adult and hatchling sea turtles can be disoriented by artificial lighting.



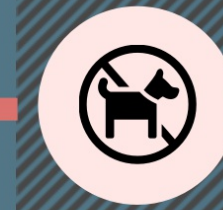
Don't approach

If you encounter a nesting turtle on the beach, don't approach her.



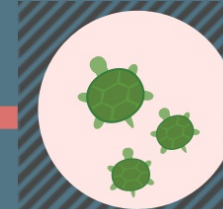
Don't leave holes

Sea turtles can get trapped in holes left on the beach. Please fill in all holes when you leave the beach.



Keep them leashed

Don't let your dogs roam off leash at night on the beach. Dogs can be aggressive to large sea turtles at night.



Do not touch

Don't pick up turtle hatchlings. Their crawl to the sea may be important to helping them return to the beach as adults.

www.floridaleatherbacks.com



If you find an injured turtle or see someone harassing a sea turtle or disturbing a nest, please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-888-404-FWCC