

## WHO?

Locals and tourists enjoying the beautiful beaches bordering the East End Marine Park.

## WHAT?

Understand and practice responsible recreation habits to protect the integrity of nesting sites for seasonal visits by green and hawksbill sea turtles.

## WHERE?

Beaches! People and turtles love the same sandy beaches, so it's important to use these public spaces responsibly.

## WHEN?

The busiest part of nesting season for greens and hawksbills on island is August - October.  
Leatherbacks nest mostly from April - June.

## WHY?

Sea turtles are federally and locally protected. **THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973** states it is illegal to harass, harm, capture, or collect sea turtles or their eggs. Sea turtles are also protected under the **US Virgin Islands Endangered and Indigenous Species Act of 1990**.

**St. Croix East End Marine Park**  
**5005 Estate Great Pond**  
**Christiansted, VI 00820**  
**(340) 718-3367**

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**Thank you!**



## Sea Turtle Nesting Season

**Etiquette**



**St. Croix beaches are shared spaces for human recreation and wildlife reproduction. Please enjoy responsibly!**



**14 of 17 beaches bordering the East End Marine Park are known sea turtle nesting habitats.**

# Beach

Etiquette

- **Lose the litter! Please leave the beach cleaner than when you came. Trash attracts predators.**
- **Do not drive on the beach.**
- **Keep your dog on a leash. It's the law!**
- **Protect shoreline vegetation. It stabilizes the natural shoreline, blocks unnatural light, and is habitat for nesting hawksbill turtles.**

# Boat

Etiquette

- **Speed kills! Operate vessels at a safe and legal speed.**
- **Mind local hotspots! The channel between Buck Island and St. Croix is a favorite foraging ground, and corridor between nesting beaches.**

# Sea Turtle

Etiquette

 **If you encounter sea turtles on the beach at night...**

**Do not interfere with their crawl to sea.**

- **DO NOT DISTURB with light or sound!!**
- **Remain quiet, still, and at a distance.**
- **Avoid light interference from flashlights or flash photography. Lights interfere with a turtle's orientation to the sea.**

**If you encounter sea turtles on the beach during the day...**



- **CALL STAR! Daytime activity on land is unnatural.**
- **If you find hatchlings: do NOT put them in a bucket of water. Call STAR.**
- **If you find an adult: note its location and condition. Call STAR.**



Leatherback



Green



Hawksbill



**The STAR (Sea Turtle Assistance & Rescue) Network is a partnership of experts that responds to sea turtle emergencies in the US Virgin Islands.**

## When to call STAR

- **To report stranded, injured, trapped, disoriented, or dead sea turtles**
- **For info on turtle-friendly behavior**
- **For help with turtle nesting and/or hatchling issues**

**In Case of a Sea Turtle  
Emergency,  
CALL STAR 340-690-0474**