

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**