

PLEASE HELP
US PROTECT
OUR BEAUTIFUL
ISLAND & REEF BY
FOLLOWING
THESE ECO
GUIDELINES

Turtle Viewing

TURTLE NESTING

From November to March, Loggerhead and Green sea turtles can be seen coming ashore to nest on the beaches of Lady Elliot Island.

Please read these Eco Guidelines that have been developed to protect turtles and to provide our guests with an educational and memorable experience.

Please be considerate of other guests' enjoyment when viewing the turtles. If you have any concerns over the actions of others whilst viewing turtles, speak to one of our Activities Team members.

TURTLE VIEWING ZONES

To find turtles nesting on the Island, go to our viewing zones where turtles are most commonly seen:

- in front of the Resort.
- from Coral Gardens across the northern end of the airstrip.



ALL GUESTS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND THE 'TURTLE UPDATE' BEFORE VIEWING TURTLES

You will be given important information including the best time and places to go looking, and an explanation of our Eco Guidelines to follow to ensure our turtles nest successfully.

We appreciate your understanding and thank you for following these guidelines. If you have any further questions please speak to one of our Activities Team.



TURTLES TO LOOK FOR

Two species of sea turtles nest on Lady Elliot Island, Green and Loggerhead Turtles. They have distinct differences in their body tracks:



Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)



4 ft



Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*)



3 ft

TURTLE VIEWING TIPS



LOW GLOW

- Only use the torch behind the turtle.
- Never shine a torch into a turtle's eyes.
- Please turn veranda lights off when not in use and close curtains to ensure turtles are not impacted by artificial light.



WATCH AS YOU GO

When looking for turtles, watch as you go and walk slowly. Please avoid walking on sand dunes where there are nests. Walk slowly along the waters edge and watch for turtles and hatchlings up and down the beach, keeping a safe distance of greater than 5m and out of direct eyesight.



STAY BEHIND AND TAKE IT SLOW

Keep a safe distance behind nesting turtles. When laying has started, you can slowly move closer behind the turtle (2 metres or less) and look at the eggs in the chamber. Never rush or move quickly around or towards a turtle and allow a clear path to the ocean.

IT IS NOT PERMITTED TO TOUCH OR INTERFERE WITH TURTLES, NESTS, EGGS OR HATCHLINGS.

Viewing Hatchlings

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

YOU CAN SEE TURTLES IN THE OCEAN ALL YEAR ROUND!

TURTLE NESTING

TURTLE NESTING

TURTLE HATCHING

HATCHLING SAFETY

Sea turtle hatchlings use natural light from the horizon to find their way to the ocean. Artificial light from rooms, torches/flashlights and flash photography can cause hatchlings to become disorientated, resulting in a reduced chance of survival.

TO HELP ENSURE THAT OUR HATCHLINGS MAKE IT SAFELY TO THE OCEAN, WE ASK THAT YOU:



Keep light usage to a minimum when on the beach.

Minimise light pollution from your room by keeping your outside light turned OFF where possible and keeping your curtains closed when using internal lights.



If you see hatchlings making their way to the ocean please give them plenty of space and do not use flashlights or flash photography.



Turtle laying eggs

IMPORTANT!

GUESTS MUST NEVER TOUCH OR INTERFERE WITH TURTLES, HATCHLINGS, NESTS OR EGGS. TURTLES ARE PROTECTED UNDER AUSTRALIAN LAW AND IT IS ILLEGAL TO DO SO WITHOUT A PERMIT.

ONLY TRAINED STAFF are permitted to handle disorientated hatchlings as per the conditions of the Resort's permit from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

IF YOU FIND A HATCHLING MOVING AWAY FROM THE OCEAN, PLEASE INFORM A STAFF MEMBER IMMEDIATELY



Loggerhead Turtle hatchling (*Caretta caretta*)



Green Turtle hatchling (*Chelonia mydas*)