



*As the sun sets...*

# GIVE SEA TURTLES A SAFE PATH

**Here's what you can do to help:**

## Mind Your Pets

Be aware of pet restrictions. Don't let your pets dig up sea turtle nests.



## Leave Them Be

Do not handle sea turtles, their hatchlings or their eggs. Disturbing sea turtles or their nests is a violation of state and federal law with criminal penalties. If you see sea turtle nest barriers, leave the stakes in the ground.



## Put Your Stuff Away

Remove unattended beach furniture and other items from the beach at night. Mother turtles and hatchlings have died from entanglement in beach furniture.

## Artificial Light

Turn off exterior lights and draw curtains and window blinds in your beachfront home. Don't light up the beach at night with flashlights. Artificial light discourages adults from nesting and attracts hatchlings toward danger.

## Take Down Sandcastles and Fill in Holes

Sandcastles are fun to build, but they can create deadly obstacles and traps for tiny hatchlings.

All sea turtles are listed as endangered. The Loggerhead is the most common sea turtle species nesting on Hilton Head beaches. Only 1 in 1,000 will make it to adulthood. You can help them survive by leaving only your footprints in the sand.

## Loggerhead



Nesting season is May – October and is a critical time for sea turtles. Nesting and hatching mostly occur at night, and this is when sea turtles are most impacted by humans. Artificial lights, beach furniture and other obstructions reduce nesting success and the ability for hatchlings to reach the sea. To report marine turtle nest poaching, hatchling disorientations, harassment or injured or dead sea turtles, please call 800-922-5431 SCDNR.

Learn more by going to [seaturtlepatrolhhi.org](http://seaturtlepatrolhhi.org)

**SAVING SEA TURTLES**  
*It's A Way of Life*  
[seaturtlepatrolhhi.org](http://seaturtlepatrolhhi.org)