

Turtle Watchers Code of Conduct

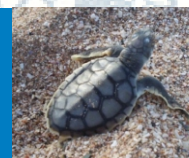
Stage of Nesting	Time Taken	Vulnerability To Disturbance	Torch Use	Distance from Turtle
1. Leaving the water and crossing the beach	5 - 10 mins	HIGH	No	Stay still - at least 15m away
2. Digging the body pit	20 - 40 mins	HIGH	No	Stay still - at least 15m away
3. Excavating the egg Chamber	15 - 20 mins	HIGH	No	2 people at a time only. At least 2m away behind turtle
4. Laying eggs	3 - 10 mins	MEDIUM	OK from behind (shielded with hand)	Stay at least 1m away behind turtle
5. Covering & camouflaging the nest	20 - 40 mins	LOW	No	Stay still and stand back behind turtle
6. Returning to the ocean	5 - 10 mins	MEDIUM	No	Stay still and remain at least 2m behind turtle

Nesting



- ✓ Walk along the beach at the high tide mark (near the water) looking for tracks in the wet sand, or turtles. Do not approach or shine lights on turtles leaving the water or moving up the beach. If a turtle is encountered, calmly stop where you are, sit down, and wait for her to start digging.
- ✓ Avoid excess noise and sudden movement at all times.
- ✓ When approaching a nesting turtle crawl up behind her on your stomach ("commando crawl").
- ✓ Always position yourself behind the turtle and stay low (sit, crouch or lie on the sand). If you are getting covered in sand as she digs you are too close!
- ✓ Be patient. She may abandon the nest and dig another one for a variety of reasons including hitting an obstacle or the sand being too dry.
- ✓ Wait until she is laying before moving closer. She will be quite still when laying her eggs - if sand is spraying or she is using her flippers, she is not laying.
- ✓ Give her enough space to camouflage the nest. Stay out of her sight.
- ✓ Let her return to the ocean without interruption or getting between her and the ocean.
- ✓ Avoid all flash photography.
- ✓ Depart all beaches by 11pm.

Hatching



Please observe the following during hatching:

- ✓ Stand back from the nest - do not compact the sand.
- ✓ Let the hatchlings make their own way down the beach.
- ✓ Hatchlings can get stuck in footprints so stand to the side rather than crossing their path.
- ✗ Do not touch or handle the hatchlings.
- ✗ Do not use lights or flash photography.
- ✗ Do not get between the hatchlings and the ocean.

For further information about turtle nesting, please contact:

Care for Hedland Environmental Association

Mobile phone 0439 941 431



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RECYCLE

Please return unwanted leaflets to distribution points