

How to act around nesting turtles



1 Pay attention. When you see a turtle coming up the beach, keep your distance, turn off any lights you are using and crouch down low. Do NOT walk closer!

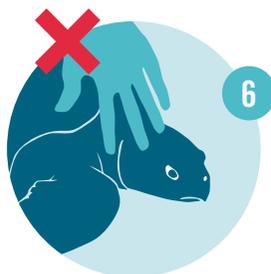
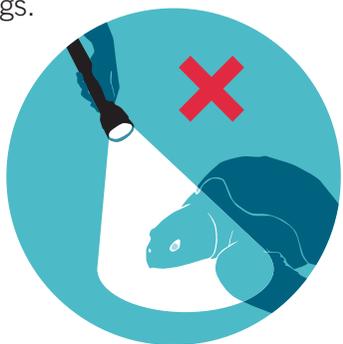
2 Avoid loud noises.

3 Do NOT take pictures of the turtle with flash.



4 Do NOT walk or stand in front of the turtle. Only approach the turtle carefully from behind after she has started laying eggs.

5 Do NOT shine a flashlight in a turtle's face.



6 Do NOT touch the turtle. If the turtle appears to be in distress or is stuck, help the turtle find its way back to the ocean or seek professional help.

How to act around hatching turtles

1 Turn off bright lights. Lights may distract the turtles from finding their way into the water.

2 No flash photography.



3 Watch your step. Be careful not to step on hatchlings on the beach.

4 Do NOT handle hatchlings unless advised otherwise by a qualified person.



5 If you find hatchlings that appear disoriented or have gone inland, gently rotate the hatchlings to face the ocean and seek professional help if necessary.

www.oliveridleyproject.org



Sea Turtle Code of Conduct

By following our simple code of conduct, you avoid disturbing these beautiful creatures. It will also give you the chance to experience a unique wildlife encounter.



OLIVE RIDLEY PROJECT

How to swim with turtles

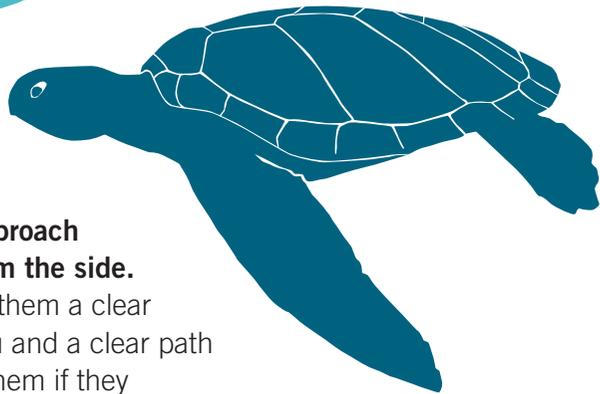
- 1 Be quiet.** When swimming up to a turtle, do so as quietly as possible because loud noises may scare them away. Snorkelers should minimize splashing and talking.



- 2 Do NOT disrupt the turtle's natural behaviour.** Watch and enjoy!



- 3 Always approach turtles from the side.** This gives them a clear view of you and a clear path ahead of them if they want to swim away.



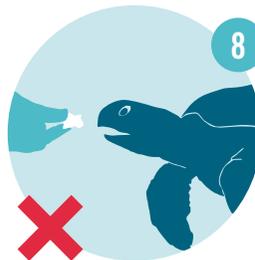
- 4 Do NOT chase after the turtle!** This can cause severe stress to the turtle.

- 5 Do NOT touch the turtle!** They can feel your touch and do not enjoy being petted.



- 6 Do NOT swim directly above the turtle.** They are reptiles and need to come to the surface to breathe.

- 7 Do not get too close!** Turtles can deliver a very strong bite.



- 8 Do NOT try to feed turtles!** They do not need your help to find food and could accidentally bite you.

For Divers only

- 1 Pay attention.** When encountering a turtle while diving, observe them closely to see what they are doing. **Do NOT disturb resting turtles.** Always keep a distance of 1.5 meters (do not approach closer).



1.5m



- 2 Be still.** If a turtle is swimming towards you, keep still and avoid sudden movements.

- 3 Give them space.** When encountering turtles resting in caves or under overhangs, be careful to give them enough room so they can surface to breathe.

