



When staying with Collins Vacation Rentals, you can help the sea turtles who may also be in the area by being aware of nests as you enjoy the beaches and shorelines. Protect the turtles by turning off your outside lights at night and closing any window treatments during the nesting season so that hatchlings will not be attracted to the light and head in the wrong direction rather than following the moonlight to the water. Sea turtles need dark, quiet beaches to successfully nest, and many females return to the beaches where they were born to lay their eggs. This is why it's important to keep places such as St. George Island unspoiled for future generations of turtles.

Turtle Nesting Season runs from May 1st to October 31st

Here are a few tips to help protect sea turtles:

- **Fill in holes** and level sand castles that might trap adult or baby sea turtles before leaving the beach each day
- **Remove all items from the beach at night** – these items such as chairs, umbrellas, canopies, tents, coolers, jet skis, kayaks, inflatable rafts and floats, towels, cast nets, fishing gear and volleyball nets, etc., can be an obstacle to nesting females and hatchlings if left on the beach overnight.
- **Keep pets and children away from designated nest sites on the beach**
- **Avoid bonfires and fireworks at night, which can prevent the turtles from coming ashore**
- Turn off any lights visible on the beach from the house or condo and close your blinds; sea turtles are drawn to light which may cause them to be disoriented.
- Do not use flash lights or flash photography on the beach at night. If you encounter a turtle remain quiet, still, and at a distance. Human disturbance may prevent her from nesting successfully.
- It is against the law to touch or disturb nesting sea turtles, hatchlings, or their nests. Sea turtles are protected by both the Federal Endangered Species Act and the Florida Marine Protection Act. The St. George Island Turtle volunteers walk the beaches each morning at dawn to look for new nests. The nests are clearly marked with a “Do Not Disturb” sign and the volunteers check them each morning for signs of disturbance, hatchlings, or disorientation of hatchlings.



If you see an injured turtle, please contact the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission at 888-404-3922 or *FWC from your cell phone. Collins Vacation Rentals appreciates your assistance and awareness in helping protect the turtles on St. George Island!