

As visitors to our planet's magnificent oceans and coastlines, we have the responsibility to minimize our impact and protect these vital ecosystems. This guide offers practical tips for enjoying marine environments while helping to preserve them for future generations.

Choosing Ocean-Friendly Accommodations

- ✓ Look for eco-certified hotels and resorts that implement water conservation practices
- ✓ Stay at properties that use renewable energy and minimize single-use plastics
- ✓ Support locally-owned accommodations that engage with community conservation efforts
- ✗ Avoid beachfront properties that don't respect setback lines or have removed natural vegetation

Responsible Snorkeling & Diving

- ✓ Choose dive operators who follow environmentally responsible practices and support conservation
- ✓ Maintain proper buoyancy control and keep a safe distance from coral (at least 6 feet)
- ✓ Use reef-safe sunscreen or wear UV-protective clothing instead
- ✗ Never touch, stand on, or collect coral, shells, or marine creatures
- ✗ Avoid using underwater gloves which might encourage touching marine life

Sustainable Seafood Choices

- ✓ Download a sustainable seafood guide app for your destination
- ✓ Choose restaurants that serve local, sustainably harvested seafood
- ✓ Ask about fishing methods and choose line-caught over trawled seafood
- ✗ Avoid consuming threatened species like shark, bluefin tuna, and certain groupers
- ✗ Skip restaurants that serve live fish from tanks or promote exotic marine species

Ethical Wildlife Encounters

- ✓ Choose observation-only wildlife tours with knowledgeable guides and conservation affiliations
- ✓ Maintain appropriate distances from marine wildlife (usually 50+ feet for most species)
- ✓ Learn about the natural behaviors of marine species before your trip
- ✗ Never participate in activities that involve touching, feeding, or riding marine wildlife
- ✗ Avoid tours that guarantee animal sightings or use food to attract wildlife

Reducing Your Travel Footprint

- ✓ Pack a reusable water bottle, utensils, and shopping bag for your trip
- ✓ Participate in beach cleanups at your destination or organize your own mini-cleanup
- ✓ Offset the carbon footprint of your travel through verified marine conservation programs
- ✗ Never release balloons, lanterns, or other items that could end up in the ocean
- ✗ Don't purchase souvenirs made from coral, turtle shell, or other marine materials