

Florida Beach Visit Conservation Checklist

Protect Florida's beautiful beaches and marine life with these simple actions

Responsible Seashell Collection

- Collect only empty, unoccupied shells in areas where they're abundant
- Leave live shells, sand dollars, and sea stars in their natural habitat
- Check "perfect" shells for tiny hermit crabs before collecting
- Photograph rare finds instead of taking them
- Learn to identify protected species that cannot be collected

Beach Protection

- Pack out all trash, including items that aren't yours
- Stay off fragile sand dunes and use designated beach access paths
- Fill in any holes dug in the sand before leaving
- Keep pets leashed and away from sensitive wildlife areas
- Use reef-safe sunscreen without oxybenzone and octinoxate

Wildlife Respect

- Maintain at least 50 feet distance from all marine wildlife
- Turn off beachfront lights during sea turtle nesting season (May-October)
- Report injured marine animals to Florida Fish and Wildlife: 888-404-FWCC
- Avoid flash photography near nesting areas
- Remove all beach equipment before nightfall during nesting season

Did You Know?

Florida is home to more than 700 species of seashells, with Sanibel Island considered one of the top shelling destinations in the world. By practicing responsible collection, you're helping preserve this natural treasure for future generations.

Sea turtles nest on Florida beaches from May through October. Five of the world's seven sea turtle species can be found in Florida waters, and all are protected under state and federal law.