

TURTLE SEASON IN AKUMAL: MAY TO NOVEMBER

Thank you for being our guest, we hope you enjoy your stay and please take a few minutes to review the following IMPORTANT information and legal liabilities when laws are not followed during turtle nesting season.

The months of May to November host sea turtle nesting season on Akumal's beaches. Akumal in Mayan means "Place of the Turtle" and since 1990 the federal law in Mexico has been protecting this endangered species. As you may know, you can swim with young sea turtles in Akumal Bay but did you know they nest on this beach?

Centro Ecológico Akumal (CEA) has been working since 1993 helping protect the nesting sea turtle as well as the ecological balance of the reefs, beaches, water and its inhabitants. CEA has the only government authorized permit for the protection, conservation, research and management for nesting sea turtles on four local beaches, including this beach. During the turtle season, CEA staff will be monitoring this beach throughout the evenings and early mornings.

If you would like to learn more about CEA or help with a donation—visit their office by the basketball court behind the arch or www.ceakumal.org.

TURTLES ARE PROTECTED BY FEDERAL LAW

Mexican Federal law has established mandatory rules that are enforced throughout the country for the protection of sea turtles. Please follow these laws during your stay.

Federal law states the following:

- It is a crime to bother, touch or interfere in any way with the natural processes of the adults' ascent onto the beach or depositing of eggs; and to interfere with the hatchlings' development in the nest, emergence from their eggs, or return to the sea.
- It is serious violation to offer or sell turtle eggs, meat or products made from their shell.
- When encountering trained, authorized technicians ("tortugeros") of CEA, follow their instructions. They are working under federal permit and they will alert authorities when infractions occur.

You can read more about the laws and requirements here:

http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5286506&fecha=01/02/2013



How You Can Help

- The best way to help the turtles is to keep the beaches dark, quiet and empty. Any movement or noise on the beaches between 9pm and 5am can impede or interfere with the nesting process.
- If you encounter a turtle, **do NOT approach**—alert security or the CEA team member. (These mothers do come up close to the houses to nest at sometimes.)
- When hatchlings are noted—do NOT touch them. Keep your distance and alert security or CEA.
- Keep dogs on leashes and away from turtles and nests. At night, keep pets inside.
- NEVER use flash photography.
- Do not use flashlights with white light—use red lights or a red filter cover in case of an emergency on the beach.
- NEVER touch the turtles, hatchlings, nests! (Punishable under/by Federal Law)
- Turn off all outside lighting at dusk—the owner should have proper filter light bulbs in outdoor fixtures. (Bright lighting directed towards the beach is NOT allowed.)
- Be sure inside lighting at the house is kept to a minimum after dusk. Keep blinds/draperies closed when using lights. Bright lighting discourages nesting turtles and can disorient hatchlings making their way to sea.
- Keep noise level very low as to not disturb the nesting mothers.
- Follow any requests or direction of CEA trained, authorized personnel.
- Do not leave food or trash outside as it attracts animals that may harm turtles.
- Keep all beach furniture and sports items up close to house and not on lower beach area so turtles do not get entangled, trapped or disoriented.

Contact Centro Ecologico Akumal to report any concerns, anomalies or violations to nesting activity, nests or hatchlings. Evenings: tortuga1@ceakumal.org // Days: 984-875-9095 during office hours. (8am-5pm).

Your help in protecting our beloved, endangered sea turtles is appreciated.

