

SEA TURTLES OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

There are seven species of sea turtles worldwide, four of which can be found in the Virgin Islands.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Sea turtles have been swimming the world's oceans for over 200 million years. Witnessing these creatures in their natural habitat is nothing short of magical. Sea turtles can be found on the beaches and in the water surrounding St. John, US Virgin Islands. Encountering sea turtles can create priceless memories, however, human interference can disturb their natural behaviors.

This guide is meant to provide beachgoers and nature enthusiasts information and guidelines for respectfully observing sea turtles in their natural habitats.

GREEN



Commonly found foraging in sea grass beds in the VI, this turtle is named for the color of its fat. Adults can reach up to 485 pounds. This is the most commonly spotted sea turtle in St. John.

HAWKSBILL

This critically endangered turtle lays the majority of nests on St. John. They use their hawk-like beaks to eat sponges in the coral reef ecosystem and weigh around 150 pounds as adults.



LEATHERBACK

Named for its leathery carapace, this open-ocean turtle can dive to depths exceeding 3900 feet. These turtles can weigh up to a ton eating a diet of jellyfish.



LOGGERHEAD

Although rarely spotted around St. John, these turtles lay the majority of nests in the US. They use their large jaws to eat a diet of mollusks and crustaceans



All species of sea turtles in the USVI are listed under the Endangered Species Act.

MORE WAYS TO HELP



Use reef safe sunscreen (non-nano zinc oxide and titanium dioxide only)

Pick up your trash and reduce your use of plastics

Stand only in the sand



VOLUNTEER

Contact us to learn how to get involved in our program

CONTACT US:



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Friends of
Virgin Islands National Park