

2019 Sea Turtle Conservation Expeditions



Welcome to the SEE Turtles Conservation Travel Catalog!

On our unique educational and volunteer trips, you will work with local researchers to study and protect sea turtles all around Latin America. By joining one of these trips, you will be directly supporting community-based conservation of endangered sea turtles by providing alternative income to poaching and generating funds to expand their efforts. Part of the profits from every trip will support turtle conservation through our Billion Baby Turtles initiative; we pledge to save at least 100 hatchlings for every traveler.

We started SEE Turtles in 2008 to encourage travelers to visit turtle conservation projects where their visit will make a difference in efforts to protect these endangered creatures. To date, we have raised more than \$1 million for conservation and local communities, connected more than 1,200 travelers with conservation projects, and have saved more than 1 million hatchlings through Billion Baby Turtles.

We hope you can join us on one of these action-packed conservation trips. We will meet and interact with the dedicated people working to protect their natural resources and learn much about the biology and threats facing sea turtles in this beautiful region.

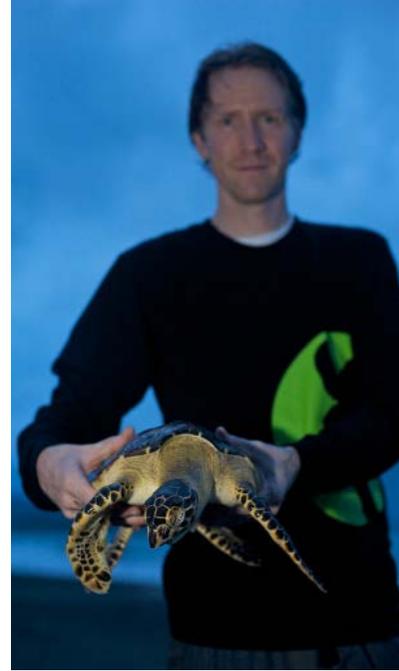
We hope to SEE you soon!



Brad Nahill, President & Co-Founder



Wallace J. Nichols, Co-Founder
& Board Member



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SEE Turtles is a non-profit organization based in Beaverton, Oregon.



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About



SEE Turtles was launched in 2008 as the world's first effort to protect sea turtles through ecotourism. Our mission is to protect endangered turtles throughout Latin America and the world by supporting community-based conservation efforts through ecotourism, education, and fundraising through Billion Baby Turtles. We became an independent non-profit in 2017.

Our mission is to protect endangered turtles throughout Latin America and the world by supporting community-based conservation efforts through ecotourism, education, fundraising through Billion Baby Turtles, and our Too Rare To Wear campaign.



CONSERVATION SUCCESS

Since our launch, we have helped save sea turtles in many different ways:

- We have generated more than \$1 million in benefits for turtle conservation and local communities through tours, donations, and in-kind services.
- Billion Baby Turtles has saved more than 1 million turtle hatchlings at conservation projects across Latin America.
- More than 1,200 travelers visiting turtle projects.
- More than 500 volunteers have completed more than 4,000 work shifts.
- We have reached more than 10,000 students across the US and Latin America with our educational programs.

Conservation Travel

Conservation travel is any trip that directly benefits native endangered wildlife. The benefit can be monetary, such as donations to local organizations or spending that shows local communities that wildlife is valuable to protect. The benefit to endangered wildlife can also come in the form of volunteer help: protecting eggs on a sea turtle nesting beach or recording dolphin behavior, for example.

- Our trips have generated more than \$1 million for turtle conservation and local communities through tour fees, spending in local businesses, grants, donations, and volunteer time.
- Every traveler saves at least 200 hatchlings for every participant through our Billion Baby Turtles program. To date, we have helped save more than 1 million hatchlings at 15 important nesting beaches across Latin America.
- All of our trips partner with local organizations and tourism businesses to benefit conservation efforts and local communities as much as possible.
- Volunteers on our trips have completed more than 4,000 work shifts at turtle conservation projects.
- All profits from our trips fund our conservation work, including our Billion Baby Turtles program, our Too Rare To Wear campaign, and our educational programs.



Baja Ocean Wildlife Expedition

Where else can you see sea turtles, gray whales, whale sharks, & more? Baja California Sur, Mexico! Help study turtles, meet the “friendly gray whales,” and snorkel with whale sharks on this extraordinary wildlife adventure. You’ll camp in Magdalena Bay, visit beautiful Balandra Beach, and much more.

Click for
[Full Itinerary](#)



Above: Whale Shark - Carlos Aguilera, Turtle: Elizabeth Moreno



Trip Details

Price: \$2,395 per person

2019 Date: March 2 - 9

Duration: 8 days

Eco-Friendly Travel

SEE Turtles strives to reduce the environmental impact of our trips wherever possible. Sometimes we need help from you, the traveler, so here are some ways that we (and you) can help.

Reducing Plastic Use

We encourage travelers to bring reusable water bottles to refill (you can go through as many as 15-20 bottles on one trip per person). Another suggestion is to ask for no straws with your drinks. Souvenirs can be stored in day packs instead of disposable plastic bags. We offer reusable water bottles at cost for clients.

Reef-Friendly Sunscreen

Did you know that sunscreen can damage coral reefs? The ingredient “oxybenzone” has been found to cause harm in small quantities. Look for sunscreen without this ingredient or label as “reef-friendly.” Sunscreens with zinc oxide are considered safe.

Reducing Carbon Emissions

Travel by its nature creates significant pollution. Some ways you can reduce your emissions include leaving electronic devices at home, turning off fans, lights, and AC when not at hotels or cabins, and by using public transportation when possible. For sites with limited electricity, you can purchase a solar powered charger to recharge small electronics. You can also purchase carbon offsets; one we recommend is “[Seagrass Grow](#)” which restores important seagrass beds, which are important for green sea turtles and other ocean wildlife.

Belize Ocean Wildlife Expedition

Join us for a unique volunteer trip to Belize. You'll have opportunities to participate in research of bottlenose dolphins, hawksbill sea turtles, manatees, and more. Spend 4 nights at St. George's Caye, participating in research on hawksbill turtles, dolphins, and manatees, and visiting Hol Chan Marine Reserve. There is an optional extension to go cave tubing and visit the extraordinary Tikal National Park on a day trip to Guatemala.

Click for
[Full Itinerary](#)



Trip Details

Price: \$1,995 per person
(Extension: from \$475 pp)

2019 Date: July 20 - 25

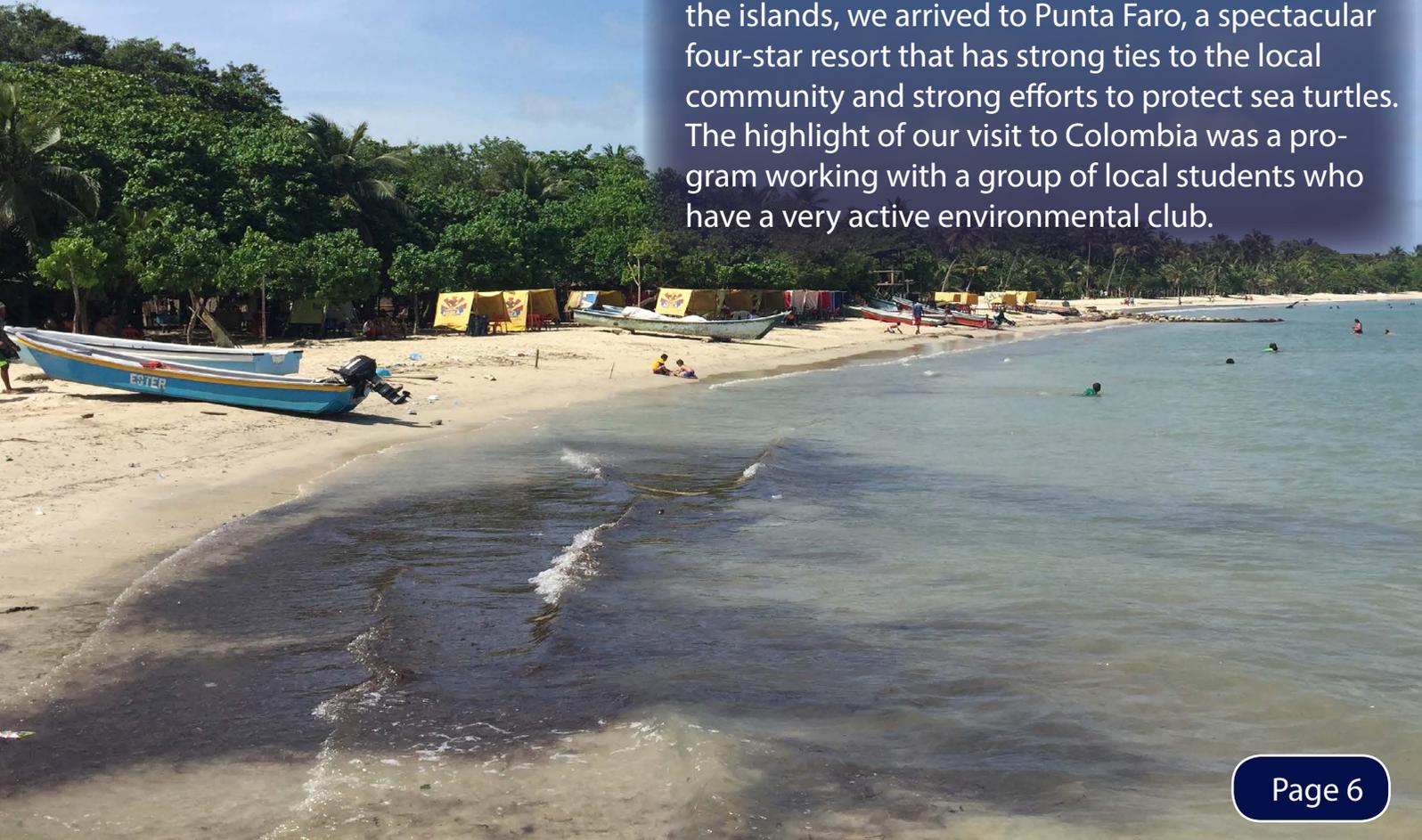
Ext: July 25 - 27

Duration: 6 days + 3 day
extension

[Click to visit the
TurtleBlog](#)

Natural & Cultural Treasures Of Colombia

From there, our next stop was Mucura Island, a beautiful tropical isla in the San Bernardo Archipelago. After relaxing two-hour boat ride through the islands, we arrived to Punta Faro, a spectacular four-star resort that has strong ties to the local community and strong efforts to protect sea turtles. The highlight of our visit to Colombia was a program working with a group of local students who have a very active environmental club.



Colombia Nature & Culture Expedition

Join us for the first sea turtle expedition to Colombia's beautiful and safe Caribbean coast! We will participate in sea turtle research, explore historic Cartagena, visit a beautiful island, enjoy cultural activities, and much more.



[Click for Full Itinerary](#)



Photos: Green turtle hatchling - Rene Perez Massola; Green turtle - Julia Azanza; Researchers - Rene Perez Massola



Trip Details

Price: \$2,495 per person
2019 Dates: July 27 - August 3
Duration: 8 days

Turtle Threats

Worldwide, six of the seven sea turtle species are classified as threatened or endangered due to human activity.

The biggest threats include:

- Entanglement in fishing gear
- Poaching and illegal trade of eggs, meat, and shells
- Coastal development
- Plastic and other marine debris
- Global warming
- Ocean pollution

Global Status:

The world's seven sea turtle species are classified as follows according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species:

Kemp's Ridleys: Critically Endangered

Hawksbills: Critically Endangered

Greens: Endangered

Loggerheads: Vulnerable

Olive Ridleys: Vulnerable

Leatherbacks: Vulnerable

Flatbacks: Insufficient Data

[Click to Learn More](#)



Costa Rica Leatherback Research

Assist researchers in an ongoing turtle conservation project at a remote location in beautiful Costa Rica. By night, you will walk a turtle nesting beach in search of leatherbacks. During the day, you can take boat rides on rainforest canals to look for wildlife including sloths, monkeys, caiman, and more.



Above: A volunteer shows off a moth. Right: Volunteers watch a nesting leatherback; Large Image: A baby leatherback crawls to the sea | Neil Osborne

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Trip Details
Price: from \$1,495 per person
2018 Dates:
May 19 - 25
June 9 - 15
(Private dates also available)
Duration: 7 days

Turtleshell Jewelry

SEE Turtles is leading a campaign to end the purchase of handicrafts made from the shell of critically endangered hawksbill sea turtles. These items are commonly sold at souvenir shops and artisan stands in Latin America and elsewhere (recent studies show 70% of shops in Cuba and 90% in Nicaragua sell these items).

Keep an eye out for turtleshell and refuse to purchase from shops that sell this product. It's illegal to bring turtleshell back to the US and it's illegal to sell in most countries.



Learn More About
Hawksbills



HOW TO IDENTIFY & AVOID HAWKSBILL TURTLESHELL

Endangered hawksbill turtles are **hunted** for their shells to make **souvenirs**. Help save this turtle by **avoiding vendors selling turtleshell products**.



Uniform pattern with markings



Brown on top, beige underneath



Heavy with black/white coloring



IMITATION

PLASTIC

Uniform pattern with markings



Brown on top, beige underneath



Heavy with black/white coloring

TURTLESHELL

COLOR

Browns, oranges, amber, yellow



PATTERN

Assymetric and irregular shapes



SURFACE

Color pattern visible throughout



VISIT WWW.TOORARETOWEAR.ORG

Photos: MurSadies-Etsy.com, Hal Brindley/Travel For Wildlife, Latin American Sea Turtles, RP Van Dam, Julie Suess

Costa Rica Green Turtle Research

Help researchers study green and hawksbill turtles in the Golfo Dulce - both of which are endangered. Spend 5 days on the incredible Osa Peninsula catching and releasing turtles, restoring mangroves, and more. On the sea turtle research days, you will help set nets in key turtle spots. You will have the opportunity to help bring in the turtles, measure them, and perhaps even tag them.



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Above: Hal Brindley;
Right: A sea turtle is returned to the water after being measured | James Richard; Large Image: Neil Osborne



Trip Details

2018 Price: \$2,195 per person

2018 Date: Dec 2 - 9

2019 Date: TBD

(Private dates also available)

Duration: 7 days

Did You Know? Top 10 Turtle Facts

1. Sea turtles can vary in size from the relatively small Kemp's ridley sea turtle (80-100 pounds) to the enormous leatherback, which can weigh more than 1,000 pounds.
2. Sea turtles migrate long distances to feed, often crossing entire oceans. Some loggerheads nest in Japan and migrate to Baja California Sur, Mexico to forage, then back again!
3. It was recently discovered that sea turtles communicate with each other before hatching, using chirps and other sounds to coordinate their run to the ocean.
4. Females nest every 2-5 years, and often multiple times in one year.
5. The temperature of a nest determines the gender of sea turtle hatchlings.
6. A temporary tooth on their snout, called a caruncle, helps baby sea turtles to hatch.
7. Leatherbacks can withstand temperatures as cold as 40 degrees F and are found as far south as Chile and as far north as Alaska.
8. Once out of the nest, hatchlings face many predators including ghost crabs, birds, and raccoons.
9. Hatchlings use sand temperature and light reflecting off the waves to figure out when and where to go towards the ocean.
10. Sea turtles have been on Earth for 100 million years and outlived the dinosaurs.



Cuba Nature & Culture Expedition

Join us for a unique exploration of Cuba! Travel to Guanahacabibes National Park, the island's westernmost point to look for green sea turtles and swim crystal blue waters. You'll explore the culture and history of Havana, and visit a beautiful countryside town, and learn about this fascinating country.



[Click for Full Itinerary](#)



Above & Right: Brad Nahill / SEE Turtles; Large Image: Sergio Romero Torras



Trip Details

Price: \$3,495 per person

2019 Date: Aug 3 - 10

Duration: 8 Days

10 Sea Turtle Watching Tips

- 
- 1 Maintain a respectful distance in the water and on nesting beaches.
 - 2 Clear beaches and water of plastic and other litter, even if it's not yours. Sea turtles often confuse plastic for food.
 - 3 Females like their nesting beaches dark and quiet; avoid using flash photography, strong flashlight beams, fires, vehicles, and even light-colored clothing, and avoid making loud noises.
 - 4 Hire local guides; they will know best where and how to spot turtles and to prevent causing them undue stress.
 - 5 Do not feed wildlife. It can make them ill and more vulnerable to humans.
 - 6 When boating in the ocean, slow down when wildlife is present and avoid anchoring in sensitive coral reefs and seagrass beds.
 - 7 Choose to eat local and sustainable food caught with environmentally friendly fishing gear - preferably troll or hook and line.
 - 8 For the best experience, look to travel with a turtle conservation tour or volunteer with a non--profit turtle research project.
 - 9 Reduce your carbon footprint while on vacation. Climate change affects ocean wildlife by altering their habitat and food sources.
 - 10 Help save sea turtle hatchlings through [Billion Baby Turtles](#).

Nicaragua Sea Turtle Volunteer Expedition

Join us for a unique volunteer vacation to a remote corner of Nicaragua. Spend a week in the small town of Padre Ramos, home to one of the most important hawksbill turtle nesting beaches in the America's. You will work to help the critically endangered hawksbill sea turtle while exploring a beautiful mangrove estuary by foot, kayak, and boat.

[Click for Full Itinerary](#)



Photos: Brad Nahill / SEE Turtles

Trip Details

Price: TBD

2019 Date: TBD

Duration: 8 days



Billion Baby Turtles | \$1 saves 5 hatchlings
Help Lead One to the Sea

Six of the seven of the world's sea turtle species are endangered or threatened. To reverse this decline, our Billion Baby Turtles program funds efforts to protect important nesting beaches. To date, we have helped save more than 1 million hatchlings at 15 beaches across Latin America and the Caribbean.

For every dollar donated, we can save at least five endangered sea turtle hatchlings!

[Donate Here](#)

Turtle-Friendly Diving Tips

Choose Sunscreen Carefully. Look for brands with zinc oxide and avoid sunscreens with oxybenzone and sprays that pollute sand where turtles nest. The best way to stay safe is to cover up!

Respect The Coral. Stepping on or touching coral polyps can damage or kill them so be sure to practice good buoyancy. Floating above the coral is more fun!

Be Hands Free. Never ride or touch turtles; circling, chasing, or harassing wildlife can stress and cause injury.

Keep Your Distance. Stay at least 10 from wildlife. If one approaches, be still and let the animal pass; don't follow them.

Record Respectfully. Keep selfie and Go Pro sticks out of the way and avoid using flash. No photo is worth disturbing or stressing an animal.



DiversFor
Turtles



Beaverton OR, USA

800-215-0378

Mon-Fri,

9am - 5pm Pacific

SEEturtles.org



SEE You Soon!

