



## NATIONALLY PROTECTED IN CABO VERDE

Sea turtles are strictly protected in Cabo Verde. Any disturbance of turtles, nests or hatchlings is illegal. Observing them on land or in the water is permitted only under specific rules, and violations may result in fines or legal action.

### Why protect sea turtles?

Sea turtles are vital for healthy ocean. By feeding on seagrass, jellyfish or crustaceans they keep ecosystems healthy for fish, reefs, and other marine life. Healthy turtle populations mean stronger oceans that support biodiversity, food security, and coastal communities. Their presence drives touristic activities, creating jobs and income for communities, making the protection of sea turtles essential for Cabo Verde's nature as well as economy.

#### Decree-Law n° 01/2018:

classifies sea turtles as vulnerable, protected species, and established the legal regime to protect them. Explicitly prohibits and criminalises activities such as disturbance, capture, possession, sale, transport, export or consumption of turtles, eggs or by-products.

#### Decree-Law n°50/2024:

regulates sea turtle observation activities in waters and on nesting beaches, establishing a licensing system for tours, limits on group sizes and behavior, and strict environmental and animal safeguards.

# OBSERVING SEA TURTLES

**touristic guidelines for observing  
Cabo Verde's endangered and protected  
sea turtles**



info@projectbiodiversity.org



@projectbiodiversitycv



@projectbiodiversity



@projeto biodiversidade



@projectbiodiversity

[www.projectbiodiversity.org](http://www.projectbiodiversity.org)  
[www.maa.gov.cv](http://www.maa.gov.cv)

MINISTÉRIO DA  
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AMBIENTE

Direção Nacional do Ambiente

GOVERNO DE  
**CABO  
VERDE**  
A TRABALHAR PARA TODOS.

**PROJETO  
BIODIVERSIDADE**

# Did you know?

Sea turtles are endangered worldwide and face numerous threats from poaching, accidental capture in fishing gear, plastic pollution, habitat loss, climate change and more. Sea turtles are highly sensitive animals, especially when they nest. Any movement, light or noise on or nearby beaches can disrupt this process and puts their reproduction at risk. People walking on the beach, alone or in groups as well as the use of light are the main reason why turtles fail to nest. If not carefully guided by trained professionals, such disturbance can reduce the species' chances of survival even further.



## How can you help?

Sea turtles need our help to survive, every effort counts to keep them safe.

- Follow the code of conduct
- Turn off beachfront lights & close curtains (during nesting season from June to October)
- Reduce plastic consumption
- Report illegal activities
- Support local sea turtle conservation efforts
- Visit our conservation hatchery to learn more

SEA TURTLE OBSERVATION

## CODE OF CONDUCT

|                                       |                                       |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <br>Join government licensed tours    | <br>Maximum guests per turtle on land | <br>Approach only from behind       |
| <br>Wear dark clothes                 | <br>Observe only with guide           | <br>Guides may use red light only   |
| <br>Do not access beach without guide | <br>Turn all lights off, remove flash | <br>Do not step on tracks or nests  |
| <br>Never put light in turtles face   | <br>Do not touch                      | <br>Do not feed                     |
| <br>Stay quiet & walk slowly          | <br>Do not smoke or drink             | <br>Do not step on dunes and plants |



### WILDLIFE EMERGENCY

Seen a turtle far from the ocean, during the daytime, hurt or upside down? Call immediately:

☎ 9746189 or 📞 132

### REPORT ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

Seen illegal activities and behaviour during your excursions? Scan here to report



### LEARN MORE

Want to learn more about observation guidelines, sea turtles and how to protect them? Scan here

**Your support is essential!**  
Responsible tourists help protect sea turtles.