

Sea turtle watching in Aruba:

Best places and tips to see them.





In addition to the colorful butterflies, pink flamingos, slippery geckos, and noisy Delaware gulls, sea turtles are among the species that enrich Aruba's animal kingdom. These creatures possess an enigmatic and serene aura that is unmatched and never fails to amaze those who visit this destination.

At Ocean Z Boutique Hotel Aruba we admire the graceful way in which they glide through the seaweed gardens at the bottom of the sea. That's why we've put together some valuable information to help you spot them during your time in the Caribbean.

Meet Aruba's sea turtles

Thanks to its **prime location and geographical features**, the Aruban coast is a mecca for water sports enthusiasts. Snorkeling and diving, in particular, **are the ideal activities for those who want to uncover the hidden treasures beneath the waves – one of them being the four species of local sea turtles.**

- **Green Turtles:** The largest species among the hard-shelled turtles, they usually have gray, brown or green accents on their caparaces.
- **Hawksbills:** You can recognize them by their oval shape and spotted shell, with colors ranging from yellow, orange, and red to black and brown.
- **Loggerheads:** As the name suggests, they are characterized by their large, block-like head, which is complemented by a slightly heart-shaped shell.
- **Leatherbacks:** These are the easiest to identify, as they are the only type of sea turtle in Aruba with a black, soft shell.



Best beaches to spot sea turtles in Aruba

According to data published by the local NGO TurtugAruba, **the nesting season occurs between March and September, while eggs hatch between May and November, when temperatures rise slightly due to the summer in the northern hemisphere.**

Although nesting happens every 2 to 5 years, the **Aruba Tourism Authority recommends visiting Dos Playas Beach and Boca Grandi for a chance to witness baby turtles crawling from the sand into the water.**

If you want to see them swimming, we recommend the following locations:



TRES TRAPI:

This beach is known for being one of the most secluded in the Noord neighborhood. Travelers claim that sea turtles often visit to feed on seagrass



BOCA CATALINA:

Located in the northwest of the island, this beach also features seagrass beds that attract many turtles year-round.

MANGEL HALTO:

In addition to some turtles, you'll be able to see coral reefs and a great variety of local fish, such as blue tang and parrotfish.

You can always go to tour operators like [Sea Turtle Aruba](#) and [Delphi Watersports](#) to book trips that include snorkeling in the spots where sea turtles are typically found.

Responsible encounters

Sea turtles are no strangers to appearing on endangered species lists, as stated by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF). That's why **it's crucial to do everything we can to protect them, including taking precautions when encountering them both on land and in the sea.**

- **Do not approach or touch them, as this can scare or stress them. Simply observe from a distance.**
- **Never shine artificial lights, flashlights, or torches at them. These can disrupt their vision and disorient them.**
- **When you see signs warning of a nest, respect them. Do not walk in the area or drive over it with motorized vehicles.**
- **Always clean up after yourself. If you don't, turtles may mistake items like bags or other debris for food sources and attempt to eat them.**

Now that you know where to find sea turtles in Aruba and the basic preventive measures to take, you're ready to dive into the Caribbean and marvel at their mystique.

When you're done, the comforts of one of our suites will be waiting for you. So, don't forget to check us out!





Enrich your experience even more

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Our team is trained to help you out with your planning and our ocean-view suites are equipped to make you feel like you're in your very own relaxing nook. Plus, you can even go for your own semi-private pool.

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