



Guidelines for visitors to the St Eustatius Sea Turtle Monitoring Program at Zeelandia Beach

St Eustatius National and Marine Parks Foundation (STENAPA) started its sea turtle monitoring program in 2001. In the Netherlands Antilles all sea turtles and their habitats are protected. The Statia National Marine Park is part of the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network and follows WIDECAST protocols to monitor female turtles nesting on Statia. As a visitor and guest of the program we ask that you please read these guidelines and sign the waiver below, PRIOR to participating in a beach patrol:

- A maximum of 2 guests are allowed on the beach per night because the patrols are conducted for research purposes not as a tour. You need to register at the National Parks Visitor Center so that researchers know when they have guests accompanying a patrol.
- Patrols are conducted nightly on Zeelandia beach between 9.00pm and 3.30am. You will need to make your own way to and from the beach, as the Foundation cannot organize transportation. Please arrive by 8.50pm so that the patrol can start promptly at 9.00pm.
- Visitors must remain with the group at all times and follow the advice of the patrol leader.
- NO PHOTOGRAPHY or VIDEO RECORDING is allowed. The Marine Park personnel may take photographs, but only if necessary for research purposes. You are welcome to leave your e-mail with the Marine Park and we will gladly forward pictures of sea turtles to you.
- NO WHITE LIGHT is used on the beach; visitors may only use flashlights that have a red filter attached (Please provide your own filters). Improper use of lights may deter a nesting female or disorientate hatchlings.
- A long-sleeved top and long trousers are suggested clothing, bring an extra layer as it often gets windy on the beach. Shoes, not sandals or bare feet, are recommended, as there are obstacles on the sand that can injure your feet. DARK CLOTHING ONLY!!!!
- You are advised to bring water, and possibly a snack for rest periods between patrols. Please note that alcohol is NOT permitted.
- During hatchling season be aware that hatchlings are emerging from nests and you will be asked to walk right behind researchers so that you do not disturb them. Note that hatchlings will only be handled if they are trapped or have flipped over on their back; this will be performed by Marine Park personnel.
- We ask that you closely follow any requests by Marine Park researchers. For instance, you will be asked to stand behind a nesting turtle and there will be no contact with the turtle until after she has finished laying her eggs.
- Anyone who disregards the wishes of Marine Park researchers during a patrol will be asked to leave the beach.

Finally, we would like to thank you in advance for observing these guidelines. Remember, Zeelandia beach hosts a low number of nesting sea turtles and you may not see any turtles while on patrol.

I would like to participate in the beach patrol on the night of _____

I have read and acknowledge these guidelines and will respect these regulations.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Public awareness turtle watches are neither commercialized (conducted for profit) nor exploited for commercial endeavor. Do not accept reservations made by commercial enterprises that may charge a fee for their services. There is no fee in place to join patrols, however donations are accepted! Thank you. Manager, Statia National Marine Park