



Tour de Turtles 2026



Travel to three South Carolina State Parks to learn about and *hopefully* observe three to four different species of sea turtles in the wild! Spot a leatherback or Kemp's ridley from the fishing pier at Myrtle Beach, see a nesting loggerhead at Edisto Beach, walk to the jetty at Huntington Beach to observe immature greens, and attend a sea turtle nest inventory at any of these three coastal parks.

Price: \$200 per person. Includes park admission for the programs, ranger-led programs, and a T-shirt, but does not include food, travel, or overnight accommodations.

Capacity: 20 people

Age: 15 and up- no exceptions

Myrtle Beach State Park- Leatherback Sea Turtles

Friday, May 1: 9am to 12:30pm **Meet:** Activity Center

Starting with an indoor presentation, we will use skulls, life-size models, and photos to discuss the differences between four different sea turtle species. Then we will use our keen observational skills as we head to the fishing pier to try and spot turtles coming up for air. We hope leatherbacks will be migrating off our coast preying on cannonball jellyfish and the pier can be an incredible place to spot them! Kemp's ridley and loggerhead turtles may also be observed.



Edisto Beach State Park- Nesting Loggerhead Sea Turtles

Tuesday, June 16: 8:45pm to midnight

Rain Date: Wednesday, June 17

Meet: Office Building at Beach Section of Park

Edisto Beach State Park is one of the few areas in SC that is permitted by SCDNR to lead educational sea turtle night walks. After a 45-minute indoor program on the loggerhead life cycle and conservation, we will take a **3-mile guided nighttime beach walk** with the *chance* to witness a nesting loggerhead.

No flash photography allowed. Red-light flashlights will be provided.

Edisto Beach State Park- Optional Morning Patrol

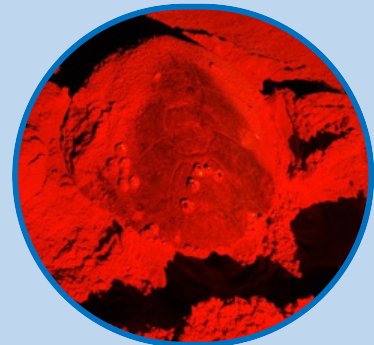
Wednesday, June 17: 6am to 8am (possibly later)

Meet: Office Building at Beach Section of Park

Walk the beach to search for crawls and nests from the night before. Learn how permitted staff protect nests, locate chambers, and relocate nests above the tide line if needed. Walking distance may be up to 3-miles depending on activity.



Edisto Beach
STATE PARK



Huntington Beach State Park- Immature Green Sea Turtles

Monday, July 20: 4pm to 7pm * Rain Date: *Outdoor* portion only: Tuesday, July 21

Meet: Nature Center

After a 45-minute indoor presentation, take a **3-mile round trip beach walk** to the jetty (an artificial, paved structure built by the US Army Corps of Engineers). The jetty offers a unique, rocky coastline where one would not normally exist and is an excellent site to look for juvenile green sea turtles. Other possible wildlife sightings include birds, sea stars, snails, crabs, mink, and dolphins.



Any of the Three Coastal State Parks- Sea Turtle Nest Inventory

Sometime in August/September during the mornings or evenings

Join permitted individuals to find out the success rate of a sea turtle nest. Three days after a nest emerges, the nest is dug up to count hatched and unhatched eggs. Occasionally, a live hatchling is still in the nest and you may get to witness its crawl to the ocean.



Due to SCDNR permit guidelines, notification of inventory time/location is only allowed 3 days in advance. Flexibility is required! Inventories are NOT exclusive to Tour de Turtle participants and will include the public.

Additional Notes and Requirements:

- * *Sea turtles are wild animals and sightings are not guaranteed.*
- * Liability waiver required.
- * No refunds for missed programs.
- * Overnight lodging at Edisto is limited— reserve early. Consider Edisto Beach State Park, Airbnb, Vrbo, Trivago, or Wyndham Resort.

Things to Bring:

Water, sunscreen, bug spray, comfortable walking shoes that may get wet, and optional binoculars at Myrtle Beach and Huntington.

Bring rain gear as programs continue in the rain, but will be delayed or rescheduled for thunder or lightning.

No pets allowed at any programs.

Registration:

Opens **December 9, 2025** and closes **March 31, 2026** (or when full).

Contact: Myrtle Beach State Park Interpretive Ranger Ann Malys Wilson

Email: awilson@scprt.com **Phone:** 843-238-0874

Register Online: <https://reserve.southcarolinaparks.com/register/tour-de-turtles>

