

AFAR

Finding sea turtles in Grand Cul de Sac, St. Bart's

By Anna Fiorentino February 24, 2023



Female sea turtles find their way back to Grand Cul de Sac's shores in April and May to lay their eggs.

The people of St. Bart's know how to wine and dine, throw opulent parties, and soak up the sun in style on its outstanding white-sand beaches. But among the island's super-yachts and designer stores, there are the sea turtles that have made their mark on Grand Cul de Sac Beach thousands of years before tourists. On this island, you never know where a turtle might turn up—and preserving turtle habitats has only become more vital after the island was hit by Hurricane Irma in 2017.

In the past, [Le Barthélemy Hotel & Spa](#) has made efforts, such as partnering with the Environmental Territorial Agency, to protect sea turtle nurseries that swim in on the island's nature reserve, located right on the hotel's beachfront. But starting March 2023, the hotel will also offer guided education and interactive coral planting experiences to locals and guests in partnership with environmental protection organization [Coral Restoration St. Barth](#). You'll learn about turtles and other marine animals that inhabit the coral reefs, as well as fish for invasive species like lionfish.

While you're on the island, don't forget to check out 650 acres of reefs, seagrass beds, and marine life at the rest of the nature reserve, which the Environmental Territorial Agency manages.