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# TURTLEWATCH<sup>2.0</sup> EGYPT



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# TURTLES IN TROUBLES



During your diving or snorkeling trips you may spot marine turtles displaying unusual behaviours or visible wounds.  
What should you look at and what should you do if that happens?

## how to tell?

### Observe the turtle:

- Do you see EVIDENT WOUNDS or TUMORS?



- Is the carapace CLEAN?



- How is the SHAPE of the PLASTRON?

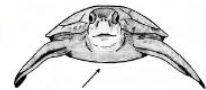
Concave: POOR body condition



Flat: FAIR body condition



Convex: GOOD body condition



- Look at the NECK and EYE area!



Thomson, Jordan & Burkholder, Derek & Heithaus, Michael & Dill, Larry. (2009). Validation of a Rapid Visual-Assessment Technique for Categorizing the Body Condition of Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in the Field. *Copeia*. 2009. 251-255. 10.1643/CE-07-227.

## what to do?

Do not touch, observe the turtle for 10-15 minutes (to make sure the animal is actually in distress), try to record its behavior/photograph any injury and report it to us!

**IMPORTANT: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TAKE THE TURTLE OUT OF THE WATER!!!**

If the turtle was taken out of the water for any reason, make sure it was placed in a right side up position! It should be out of the sun and kept moist.

## what to know?

Due to the absence of a rehabilitation centre, moving an injured turtle out of the sea is useless and it could harm the animal further.

We will be monitoring the animal with your help and the support of specialised veterinaries we are in touch with.

Remember! marine turtles are able to recover from injuries extraordinarily well in their NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

## Report a turtle in distress:

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# CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SPEEDBOATS



## SOME IMPORTANT INFO:

Marine turtles can often be found in shallow coastal bays and lagoons feeding, resting, cleaning or swimming. These areas are usually frequented by high numbers of divers and snorkelers. Therefore, when using a speedboat, it is essential to understand how to best drive it without injuring or affecting turtles and people!

- **GO SLOW!** In areas where you know turtles might be feeding, reducing speed is the **MOST EFFECTIVE WAY** to reduce the risk of collision.
- Make sure that there is a person on the **LOOKOUT** at the front sides of your boat. Ask your guests to help you avoid turtles.
- Do not **ANCHOR** in seagrass areas or in proximity of coral reefs as turtles may be resting or feeding at the bottom and could be hit by the anchor.
- Avoid going in very **SHALLOW AREAS** (i.e. less than 3 meters) to drop your guests. Instead, ask your guests to put their snorkeling and diving gears on and point them in the direction of the turtles from a distance.
- If you see an **INJURED TURTLE**, please report your sighting to us. We are in constant communication with specialised veterinaries that provide guidance on what to do in case of injuries.

**Remember to report your sightings!**

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# القواعد السلوكية للقوارب السريعة

بعض المعلومات المهمة:

يمكن العثور على السلاحف البحرية في كثير من الأحيان في الخلجان (المراسي) الساحلية الضحلة والبحيرات (اللجون) الشاطئية التي تتغذى أو تستريح أو تنظف أو تسبح. يتردد على هذه المناطق عادة أعداد كبيرة من الغواصين والسباحين. لذلك عند استخدام قارب سريع، من الضروري فهم أفضل طريقة لقيادته دون إصابة السلاحف والأشخاص أو التأثير عليهم

- سير ببطء!  
في المناطق التي تعرف أن السلاحف قد تتغذى فيها، فإن تقليل السرعة هي الطريقة الأكثر فاعلية لتقليل مخاطر الاصطدام
- تأكد من وجود شخص على الجوانب الأمامية للقارب الخاص بك للمراقبة.  
اطلب من ضيوفك مساعدتك في تجنب السلاحف
- لا تستخدم المرساة (البروسي) في مناطق الأعشاب البحرية أو بالقرب من الشعاب المرجانية لأن السلاحف قد تستريح أو تتغذى في القاع ويمكن أن تسقط المرساة عليها
- تجنب الذهاب في المناطق الضحلة جدًا (أي أقل من 3 أمتار) لإسقاط ضيوفك. بدلاً من ذلك، اطلب من ضيوفك وضع معدات السنوركل والغطس الخاصة بهم وتوجيههم في اتجاه السلاحف من مسافة كافية
- إذا رأيت سلحفاة مصابة، يرجى إبلاغنا بذلك. نحن على اتصال دائم بالأطباء البيطريين المتخصصين الذين يقدمون إرشادات حول ما يجب القيام به في حالة حدوث إصابات

تذكر أن تبلغ عن مشاهدتك!

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