



Beyin Beach Resort Volunteer Turtle Project

Beyin Beach Resort runs a Turtle Conservation Project, working alongside the fishermen and local community to raise awareness and give protection to nesting turtles and their eggs.

The main reason for putting this project in place is to safe guard the turtles and to help the local fishing community by reimbursing them for damage caused to their nest by turtle accidentally caught. By involving the community and educating them of the importance of the safe guarding the turtles for future generations to enjoy and what can be achieved through long term conservation and generate Eco tourism.

Through this programme we hope help the local community understand that killing the turtles and poaching the eggs needs to stop.

Marine Turtle Species

- Seven species of marine turtles survive on our planet, but only 3 of these survive in Ghana.
- Olive Ridley – the smallest- growing between 50 - 70cm
- The Green Turtle – the vegetarian – growing 80 - 120cm
- The Leather Back – the largest – growing between 120 – 210cm
- All 3 nest on the beaches in Beyin and neighboring beaches.
- Over the past 10 years, the Hawksbill and Loggerhead turtles were believed to be extinct from the shores of Ghana.
- A recent sighting of the Hawksbill at Ankobra has given us hope that this is not the case and the search continues....All are endangered.



For more information please contact Patrick or Nina

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Beyin Beach Resort

Supporting Turtle Conservation in Ghana



The Project

Volunteers are needed to help with the everyday protection and the important undertaking of data collation. The volunteer's role will be varied covering night time beach patrols, taking night time turtle walks, collecting eggs, hatchery monitoring, nest mapping, research, data collation and school education programme.

Beach Patrols and Night time 'Turtle Walks'

The project covers 10 kilometers of the beaches 5 kilometers East and 5 kilometers West of Beyin covering 10 villages. Only the female turtles come on shore with the sole purpose of nesting on the beaches they come from the ocean at night to make their nests on the beach. When the female is nesting she goes into a 'trance' like state and is very vulnerable. Our watchmen stay with the female so she is not disturbed, ensures her safe return to the ocean and the re-nesting of the eggs in our hatchery. The volunteer will be working along side our local watchmen.

The night time 'Turtle Walks' are for interested guests staying at the resort to join a beach patrol team on a night walk where they are given information about the marine turtles and the projects objectives also adding extra presence on the beach. The volunteer will have an important part to play bridging any potential language barriers. The money raised through these walks goes directly to aid community based projects.



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Protection, Egg collection and Hatchery



The nesting female is at risk of being killed as once she is actually in the process of laying she can not stop, the watchman and volunteer remain with her until she has finished and sees her safely back to the ocean.



The eggs are removed from the nest depending on the location and the nest is replicated on the beach front of the resort. The eggs are counted, the nest covered and labeled and a predicted hatch date is recorded and listed on a hatching timetable.



The nest locations need to be plotted on a map covering the protected area. The hatchery nests are monitored and when the eggs hatch volunteers will protect the hatchlings on their journey to the ocean, count them, photograph them, record gestation length and update computerized data files.

Research

The volunteer will complete data sheets following a turtle/nest observation and along with hatchling data compile information to record species type, numbers, sizes, nest locations and relevant information to use for yearly comparison

Education

Conservation of the sea turtles will only ever be effective if we get the community on side. Fishermen and villagers must be informed why they should not kill turtles and made aware of the long term benefits that turtle conservation could potential bring in way of an alternative income through increased numbers of tourists visiting the area attracted by the turtles.

Part of the volunteers' role will be to visit schools in the area to educate the children of the community on the importance of protecting sea turtles. There will be opportunity to be creative with a variety of projects.

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Tourism

You will be based on the beach at Beyin Beach Resort where tourists pay to partake in the night time turtle walks for a chance to see the female turtles nesting and the amazing experience of watching the hatchling turtles walk to the ocean. You will be on hand at this time to give information and answer the many questions that are asked. The money tourists pay goes directly into the Turtle Conservation Fund. This money is used for turtle conservation only. For example, money is used to pay the local turtle watchmen, to buy communication equipment or batteries for torches.

Skills and Experience

Conservation volunteers do not need to have any previous training or experience in the field. But you will need to be keen and motivated with an interest in conservation. All training and relevant information will be given on arrival for you to carry out your role with constant onsite support and advice.