

Best Environmental Practices: Snorkeling & Diving

Snorkeling and diving have given us the opportunity to explore one of the World's most spectacular ecosystems: coral reefs. This opportunity also comes with a responsibility to help protect these vulnerable habitats. Follow these easy guidelines to help preserve the reef and become a coral friendly diver or snorkeler.

As A Responsible Visitor:

- Choose to stay in an eco-friendly resort or hotel with sustainability practices in place.
- Choose travel operators that are actively involved in reef conservation efforts.
- Choose boat operators who use moorings and stow trash properly.
- Avoid purchasing souvenirs made from marine life, including shells and seahorses. This is often illegal and never environmentally friendly.
- Avoid sunscreens if possible, using a rashguard instead. Avoid all chemical bug repellent.
- Learn and follow the local laws and regulations.
- Support conservation efforts by making a donation or paying a user fee to local marine organizations.
- Get involved with friends by participating in local clean-ups, assisting with reef surveys or outreach efforts.

Continue to educate yourself on coral reefs! Knowledge is power.

While In The Water:



Never touch, rest, or stand on the reef; maintain a comfortable distance from the reef at all times.



Take nothing, living or dead, out of the water, with the exception of recent garbage.



Use a surface marker, and carefully select points of entry and exit that avoid the reef.



Practice proper fin techniques to avoid kicking coral or stirring up sediment.



Do not touch, chase, harass, or feed marine life.



Avoid using gloves and kneepads in coral environments.

Snorkelers:



Adjust your equipment before entering the water, and practice snorkeling skills away from the reef.



Swim in a horizontal position without using your arms.



Secure your equipment and maintain neutral buoyancy.



Avoid photography/video equipment unless you are experienced.