



# SEA TURTLE PATROL EXPERIENCE



Exclusive to guests staying at  
Sea Turtle Friendly Certified Resorts

**Thursdays & Sundays**  
**JUNE-AUGUST**  
**5:30am - 10am**

**For more information:**  
[stphhiexperience@gmail.com](mailto:stphhiexperience@gmail.com)  
[seaturtlepatrolhhi.org](http://seaturtlepatrolhhi.org)



Spend the morning  
shadowing  
**SEA TURTLE  
PATROL**  
on Hilton Head  
Island



## SEA TURTLE PATROL EXPERIENCE

Offered June-August

Join Sea Turtle Patrol HHI to shadow a morning patrol on the beautiful beaches of Hilton Head Island!! Sea Turtle Patrol HHI is the only organization permitted by SCDNR to protect and monitor sea turtle nesting on the 14 miles of Hilton Head Island. *This activity is only available to guests staying at a Sea Turtle Friendly Certified Resort.*

**What to expect:** You will be riding in a Sea Turtle Patrol HHI vehicle and doing some walking on foot in soft sand. Your morning will be spent shadowing the Sea Turtle Patrol HHI as they monitor Hilton Head Island's 14 miles of beaches for sea turtle nesting activities. Sea Turtle Patrol HHI is looking for turtle tracks which might lead to a nest. If a nest is found, Patrol will determine if its placement is safe or should be relocated. The nest will be documented and marked. Hatching season begins in mid-July when Patrol will also monitor pending nests for emergencies and perform nest inventories. Patrol inventories a nest three days post-emergence by opening the nest and removing all hatched and unhatched eggs to analyse the success of the nest. If live hatchlings are found during the inventory, they will be released to the sea.

After your STP Experience you will be sent a Nest Dedication (1 per family). Your STP Experience will continue by allowing you to follow along the life-cycle of a Hilton Head sea turtle nest. Your dedicated nest to include when it is laid, when it hatches, and the success of your dedicated nest.

*Nature is wonderful, nature is wild! Sea Turtle Patrol HHI can not guarantee that while participating in your STP Experience guests will observe a nesting female, a nesting site, sea turtle eggs or hatchlings. Please understand that flash photography is harmful to these and other nocturnal creatures and thus prohibited by South Carolina DNR.*

**Meeting Time:** At 5:30 am your Sea Turtle Patrol HHI guide will pick you up from your Sea Turtle Friendly Certified Resort beach. The STP Experience will last up to 4.5 hours (5:30-10AM) depending on sea turtle activity that day. However, you can be returned to your STFC hotel sooner if you desire.

**Cost:** Sea Turtle Patrol HHI is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The STP Experience is to help raise funds for the [NRU Loggerhead Genetics Project](#). A minimum donation of \$300 per person is required. Reservations are subject to availability. All guests are required to sign and return the STP Experience waiver prior to your scheduled STP Experience.

**Age Requirement:** Minimum age is 10. All guests aged 10-18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

**Scheduling and Cancellation:** The STP Experience operates on Thursday and Sunday from June through August. There are up to three seats available for each STP Experience. Reservations are subject to availability.

### Contact:

Sea Turtle Patrol HHI Auxiliary

Kathy Sierminski

Phone: 843-533-5312

Email: [STPHHIExperience@gmail.com](mailto:STPHHIExperience@gmail.com)

*Sea Turtle Patrol Hilton Head Island is a tax-deductible 501C3 organization that provides monitoring and support on Hilton Head Island beaches for sea turtle nesting and hatching activity annually. These programs, along with spreading awareness through public education and outreach, are essential to promote the continued existence of these endangered species. Our organization is comprised of volunteers under the direction of SCDNR (South Carolina Department of Natural Resources) permit holder for Hilton Head Island, Amber Kuehn, and we patrol the beach beginning May 1st until the end of hatching season, which is in October, protecting our local sea turtle population and helping in any way we can. Each morning, the patrol searches the beach for nesting loggerhead tracks, identifies nests, and marks them with poles. The nests are monitored for hatching after 45 days of incubation. When hatchlings emerge from the nest, the date is recorded and 3 days pass before the nest is inventoried. The contents of the nest will be counted and categorized.*