

LOOK, DON'T TOUCH!

How would you feel about being followed about your home all day? What if someone on the metro kept poking you? It is also not surprising that marine life finds these kinds of nuisances annoying. Approaching or touching marine animals, such as seals, otters, dolphins, sea turtles, or manta rays, too closely could result in serious harm, a flight, or hostile behavior, depleting the animals' limited energy for survival.



Photo: Olivia Williamson

The photographer in this picture stayed motionless and maintained an 8-foot distance from the interested sea turtle as she captured this amazing image.

RESPONSIBLE REEF PRACTICES.

It's a fantastic experience to snorkel over a vibrant coral reef, so help preserve it for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

When diving or snorkeling, always take photos and leave only bubbles behind! Corals can become unwell or even die if their outer layer is removed, infectious diseases are transferred, and they are exposed to foreign bacteria and oils on your fingers.

Observe your flippers! Stirred-up sediment can suffocate fragile, hard-bodied corals, which break and die at the slightest touch. Some of the most deadly animals on the planet can be found in coral reefs, including several that are known to release toxins that can irritate, kill, or paralyze people. You can get a rash or have to visit the hospital if you touch them. By keeping your hands to yourself, you may protect yourself and help to maintain this delicate ecology for future generations.

More info can be found on : Hands to yourself | Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. (n.d.). <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/wildlife-viewing/hands-to-yourself.html#:~:text=Attempting%20to%20closely%20approach%20or,to%20perform%20basic%20life%20activities>.

MARINE MAMMALS & ENDANGERED SPECIES ARE PROTECTED BY LAW.

You don't want your wildlife-related social media posts to garner negative press! In addition to possibly upsetting the regular feeding, breeding, and sheltering habits of wildlife, attempting to approach or touch it too closely may be prohibited and subject to legal repercussions if the animals are harassed or hurt. Numerous species are both revered in their communities' cultural history and protected under the Endangered Species Act. It is against the law to hurt, harass, collect, or capture them, and there may be legal repercussions.

Q1. What should we do when we spot a turtle while diving or snorkeling?

☐ Grab the turtle.

☐ Hit the turtle

☐ Watch from a distance

☐ Eat the turtle