



LEAVE NO TRACE

Seven Principles ON AND NEARSHORE

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

- Know the regulations and permit requirements for your activities.
- Check charts, tides, and weather.
- Leave a float plan with your onshore contact and use only a well-maintained vessel.
- Wear a Coast Guard-approved and serviceable PFD if boating.
- Bring a communication device and know emergency numbers.
- Be aware of rip currents and submerged objects.
- Hydrate before and on the water.
- Protect against sunburn and insect bites using reef-friendly products.

TRAVEL ON DURABLE SURFACES

- Focus activity where vegetation is absent.
- Durable surfaces include rock, gravel, and sand.
- Be aware of sensitive habitats such as tide pools and vegetated dunes.
- Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites. Do not camp below the high tide mark.
- Where camping is permitted, select a campsite large enough for your group.
- In undeveloped areas, disperse your activities to prevent the creation of new campsites and trails.
- Leave campsites clean and natural looking.

DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

- Pack it in, Pack it out. Trash is one of the greatest threats to marine wildlife.
- Arrange to pack out your waste (and other collected debris) to avoid overwhelming existing trash receptacles or recycle bins.
- Avoid single-use plastics and styrofoam. Choose reusable items and use fewer disposable ones.
- Properly dispose of fishing line and tackle by using available trash cans or packing it out.
- Know if your waterfront location offers restroom facilities. Plan your day accordingly if restrooms are not present.
- If pets are permitted, be prepared to pick up after them and dispose of waste bags in a trash can.

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

- Leave historical artifacts where and how you find them.
- Take only pictures and leave only bubbles while diving or snorkeling.
- When shell collecting is permitted, make sure shells are empty. Otherwise, do not remove shells or natural objects from the shoreline.
- Clean watercraft, tents, fishing equipment, and other gear after every trip. Water, mud, and soil may contain harmful seeds, spores, or tiny plants and animals.
- Never discard or release live bait.
- Fill any holes, trenches, or canals dug into the sand, unstack rocks, level sandcastles and other structures that can hinder the movement of wildlife across the terrain.

MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

- Minimize campfire impacts by using stoves.
- Where fires are permitted, use a fire pan or designated fire ring for open fires.
- Always have 2-4 gallons of water available to drown out your campfire.
- Elevate fire pans and use a fire blanket to catch embers.
- Use dead and downed wood no larger than an adult's wrist to keep the fire small.
- If bringing your firewood, purchase locally to avoid invasive species spread.
- Burn all wood and charcoal to ash. Carry out cold ashes with other garbage.
- Fill fire pit holes to prevent trapping or injuring wildlife.

RESPECT WILDLIFE

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Respect temporary barriers and/or markers indicating sensitive ecosystems (habitat restoration projects), nesting sites (shore birds/sea turtles), etc.
- Practice sustainable fishing methods and know the local regulations.
- Never feed wildlife; it damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife by securely storing food, trash, and anything with a scent.
- When pets are permitted, control them and keep them on a leash.

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Respect the experience of others by being mindful of your group's noise level.
- Move quickly off of boat ramps and launches to make space for others.
- Adopt your favorite launch site or shoreline section and regularly visit to help clean up.
- Encourage others to join you in beach/shoreline clean-up events.