

Sea-Turtle Adventures in Costa Rica

Hotel Punta Islita encourages travelers to slow down and spot the turtles.

Guanacaste, Costa Rica. June, 2015

September through November bring about a fascinating yearly ritual when female sea turtles swim along hundreds of kilometers to return to the Costa Rican beaches that once saw them swim out as hatchlings. Hotel Punta Islita celebrates this 150 million year event with guided evening turtle-watching adventure in nearby Camaronal Wildlife Refuge.

Globally endangered sea turtles are the quiet heroes of marine and beach environments. Some species are sea grass grazers (like manatees), helping to optimize the living habitats of key food chain populations. Egg laying and hatching on the beach provide essential nutrients for the sand dune vegetation that helps prevent erosion. These functions, essential to the health of coastal ecosystems, have prompted aggressive conservation and recovery efforts.

A guided nighttime adventure lets travelers observe the entire egg-laying ritual, from the moment a specimen is spotted reaching the shore. Graceful and acrobatic in the water, their girth transforms sea-turtles once on land. Impossibly slow, but determined, they carry their massive weight (up to 700 pounds) to find the perfect nesting spot. The heavy sound of dragged friction gives credence to their effort. Muscular hind flippers dig the nest by gently wiping away the sand in a process akin to a Tai-Chi session. After positioning themselves over the hole, the egg-laying process begins. Between 50 and 200 eggs are usually deposited. Perfectly round and white, they glisten in the night like moist ping-pong balls. Once the last egg drops, the Tai-Chi resumes, this time to carefully refill the nest with sand, tapping and sculpting the upper layer to hopefully disguise the site from poachers and predators. Finally, the sea turtle retraces its steps, slowly returning to the surf line and completing a uniquely peaceful and mesmerizing ritual.

“The current living pace is frantic with status updates, chats, and tweets. Occasions that let us completely break away from this unrelenting pace are to be cherished, especially while on travel”, says Estuardo del Valle, Hotel Punta Islita’s General Manager. I have seen even jaded teens transfixed in quiet broad smiles at witnessing something primal and special. Perhaps every spectator will eventually tweet or post about the experience, but they will have enjoyed a few hours of bonding and undisturbed connection with Mother Nature. Hopefully, their musings will also help to raise awareness to foster the protection and recovery of global sea turtle populations.”

For more details, please contact: reserve@hotelpuntaislita.com.

Or visit : <http://www.hotelpuntaislita.com>

Hotel Punta Islita is an upscale beachfront destination set along the open ocean coastline of Guanacaste, Costa Rica. It is ideal for savvy travelers who seek impressive natural landscapes, friendship-based hospitality, cultural authenticity, pampered wellness, and thrilling eco-adventures.

###

Maria J. Barquero
Outreach Manager

Grupo Islita

outreach@grupoislita.com

Country code: 506 Cell Phone: 8-842-6870