



# Playa Matapalo

Proyecto de conservación de tortugas marinas

A collage of four photographs: a wooden shelter on a beach, a person holding a large turtle, a person working with blue buckets, and a large sea turtle on a beach.The ASVO logo, which includes the text "ASVO ASOCIACIÓN DE VOLUNTARIOS PARA EL SERVICIO EN LAS ÁREAS PROTEGIDAS" and a small graphic of a person holding a torch.The ASVO logo for the sea turtle project, which includes the text "ASVO PROYECTO DE CONSERVACION DE RECURSOS MARINO COSTEROS" and a graphic of a turtle.

## Volunteer Program

### Description

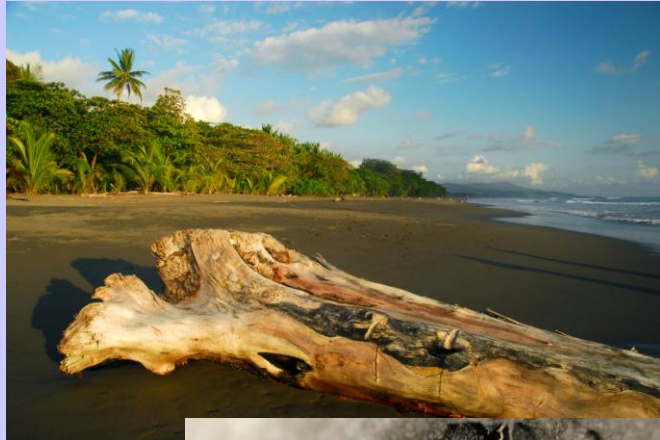
The Sea Turtle Conservation Project in Matapalo Beach was created with the purpose of protect the female sea turtles, their nests and hatchlings laid in Mata Palo beach (in a long term) against poachers and natural and introduced predators, using a man-made shelter called "vivero".

- ASVO-

*Environmental volunteer programs with social commitment in Costa Rica*

At the same time the project team collect enough information about the nesting activity so it can be used to improve the next season techniques and be shared with the community and local and regional authorities in the search of a change of conscience.

The sea turtle conservation program is a scientific based conservation activity in which we try to increase the amount of sea turtle hatchlings to give higher survival possibilities to this beautiful reptiles. The



Project was created with this conservation purpose and help of this conservation area to preserve the sea turtles and the associated ecosystems.

Sea turtles are a wonderful legacy from the prehistoric times lets help them to survive.



## Location

Playa Matapalo is a 10 kilometer stretch of grey sandy beach that lies between the Hatillo and Portalón Rivers in the central pacific side of Costa Rica, famous because of their beautiful sunsets. The station facilities are 2 kilometers away of the town's main road and 200 meters away of the beach. Behind the house there is an stational lagoon and around 3 kilometers in both directions are mangroves, stands with all his diversity, including several kinds of birds, mammals and reptiles like iguanas, garrobos and crocodiles.



In Matapalo you can find a small supermarket, public phones, internet, laundry and a few restaurants, services like banks and hospitals, restaurants, internet among others can be found in Quepos 22 km away from Mata Palo.

## How to get there

Public transportation in Costa Rica is quite inexpensive and you can get almost everywhere by bus. When you are sure where you are going we will give you the bus schedule and the final tips to get to the project.

## Accommodation

The project has a big house; there are rooms with bunk beds. There is electricity, running water and in the special place of the house there is a common area with a kitchen.



## Food

Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be supplied by the project. The food is Costa Rican typical food so you will be eating a lot of rice and beans and they are mainly served with some type of meat and sometimes you can enjoy tropical fruits. If you are vegetarian or have any special dietary restrictions let us know. In most of the

- ASVO-

*Environmental volunteer programs with social commitment in Costa Rica*



cases there is a cook in charge of the meal preparation but if not you may have the chance to learn how to prepare Costa Rican food.

## Free Time

You can choose your free day but if you go out of the project you have to be back before 6:00 pm.



## General Tasks

These tasks are:

- Participate in nightly beach patrols for the protection of marine turtles.
- Assist in cleaning the immediate surrounds of nesting zones.
- Identify and account for turtle tracks on the beaches.
- Search for turtle nests.
- Count numbers of eggs found in each nest and relocate the eggs to a secure egg nursery.
- Monitor relocated turtle nests; monitor nest temperatures.
- Assist in freeing baby turtles for their initial journey to sea.
- Take biometric measurements of turtles.
- Work in the trail building activities.



- ASVO-

*Environmental volunteer programs with social commitment in Costa Rica*



- Assist in a variety of maintenance activities.

The tasks described above will vary according to the amount of turtles and the season: when is not turtle season the maintenance tasks are very important as well as beach cleaning and information signs.



## What to bring

- \* High quality Rain gear (it can really rain in the tropics).
- \* Good quality shoes for walking (in turtle projects walks can be very long) and sandals
- \* Flashlight and batteries (headlamps are a very good idea as well as rechargeable batteries).
- \* Alarm clock (battery powered) and a wristwatch.
- \* Swimsuit
- \* First-aid kit (if you have special medication let us know, anti itch cream is a good idea tropical ,mosquitoes can be vicious )
- \* Insect repellent.
- \* Towel (fast drying ones are ideal).

- ASVO-

*Environmental volunteer programs with social commitment in Costa Rica*



\* Waterproof Sunscreen (bring a lot, sun rays are very strong).

\* Sunglasses.

\* Camera and film (water proof can be a good idea for baby turtles in the water)

\* Journal (it will be an unforgettable experience)

\* Light clothing (it dries fast)

\* Bring a jacket it can get a little chilly

\* Rubber boots (is not compulsory)

\* Mosquito net and bed linen (sleeping bag is an option as well)

\* Personal hygiene items

\* Snacks (you will be provided with 3 meals per day)

\* Entertainment things like: books, music, guitar, paints, cards, jenga are nice to socialize.

\* Pocket Spanish dictionary (may be useful)



## FAQ's

**Are male volunteers preferred over female volunteers?**

No.

**What level of Spanish is needed?**

Basic.

**Is there a minimum age requirement?**

Yes, 18 years old.

- ASVO-

*Environmental volunteer programs with social commitment in Costa Rica*



### **What is the daily schedule like?**

Generally, volunteers are on duty from 8am to 4pm.

However, our principle work takes place during the nightly patrols for marine turtle protection and collection of information.

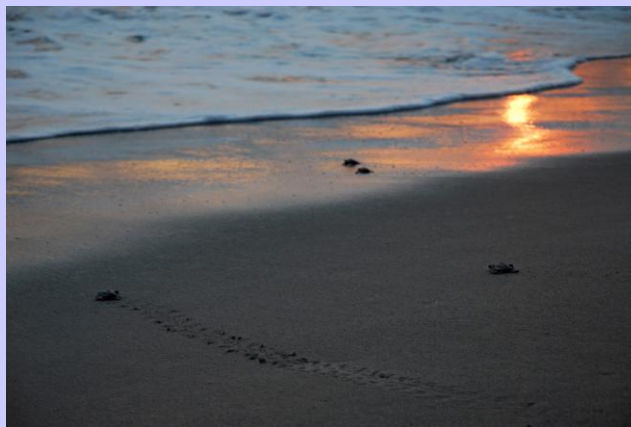
### **Is experience necessary?**

No prior experience is necessary, however you must have the ability to adapt to a tropical environment, be in excellent health, and willing to help in the conservation of marine turtles and other natural resources.

## **Recommendations**

Please keep your belongings in order, maintain your personal hygiene (due to tropical weather conditions it is highly recommended to shower everyday), do not seat at the table without a shirt and keep good manners. Every project has specific behavior rules so please follow them.

It is prohibited to drink alcohol and to use illegal drugs.



### **Contact Us**

[info@asvocr.org](mailto:info@asvocr.org)

[www.asvocr.org](http://www.asvocr.org)

- ASVO-

*Environmental volunteer programs with social commitment in Costa Rica*