ENVIRONMENTAL RULES AND ETIQUETTE TO CONSIDER DURING YOUR STAY

Welcome to Turks and Caicos, a nation Beautiful by Nature. In order to preserve this beauty, please take some time to read through this brief brochure.

Beach/Snorkel Etiquette:

- **DO** remove all your trash including cigarette butts. Be mindful of the wind blowing trash into the sea.
- **DO** stay on the walkways to avoid walking on sand dunes and watch out for iguana burrows on the uninhabited cays.
- **DO NOT** feed the wildlife including fish, birds, and reptiles.
- **DO** use biodegradable suntan lotion whenever possible and allow time for all lotions to soak into the skin before going into the ocean. Suntan lotion is toxic to the reefs.
- **DO NOT** touch, stand on or kick the coral; it is a living animal and you will harm it.
- **AVOID** kicking sand with your fins when snorkeling so that fine particles do not smother and choke living coral.

Coastal Regulations:

- **A permit issued by DEMA (refer to map) is required for any bonfire or social function on the beach.**
- **DO NOT** remove corals, sand, shells and wildlife, whether dead or alive, from the Protected Areas. It is illegal.
- **All individuals who wish to export more than three queen conch shells must apply for a CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) export permit through DEMA. Please allow 3-5 business days for applications to be processed.**
- **For your safety, please swim within the “swim zone” (within 300 feet of shore).**
- **DO NOT** fish in protected areas such as National Parks and Nature Reserves. It is illegal to do so. This includes ‘catch and release’ fishing or hunting for conch and lobsters.
- **For fishing licenses, please apply through DEMA.**
- **Use of jet skis, hovercrafts, and water skis are permitted only in demarcated ski zones (refer to map).**
- **Visiting a Sanctuary is only allowed with the written permission from the Director of DEMA.**

Guided Tours:

- **Please report to DEMA if you witness your boat captain anchoring on coral reefs or sea grass beds.**
- **Please make sure your “fresh conch salad” does not come from the National Park!**

Department of Environment & Maritime Affairs
National Environment Centre (NEC)
Lower Bight Road, Providenciales
Phone: 1-649-941-5122
Email: environment@gov.tc