

# Sea Turtles

*Experience the endangered and the beautiful at The Fortress Resort and Spa*





KANDAKULIYA

Represented in yellow are the  
Sea Turtle Nesting areas in Sri Lanka

INDURUWA

YALA

KOGGALA

## THE SEA TURTLE WORLD

There are seven species of sea turtles in the world today, and six are in danger of extinction. All over the world, historical nesting beaches are being encroached upon, leading to fewer nests and fewer eggs laid. Fortunately, many countries, like Sri Lanka, are doing their best to protect sea turtles and ensure that they continue to live for future generations.





## THE MAGICAL CREATURES OF THE DEEP

During your time at The Fortress Resort and Spa, visit our Turtle Hatchery to learn about Sea Turtles and why they are special to us.





### IMPACTS ON HATCHLINGS

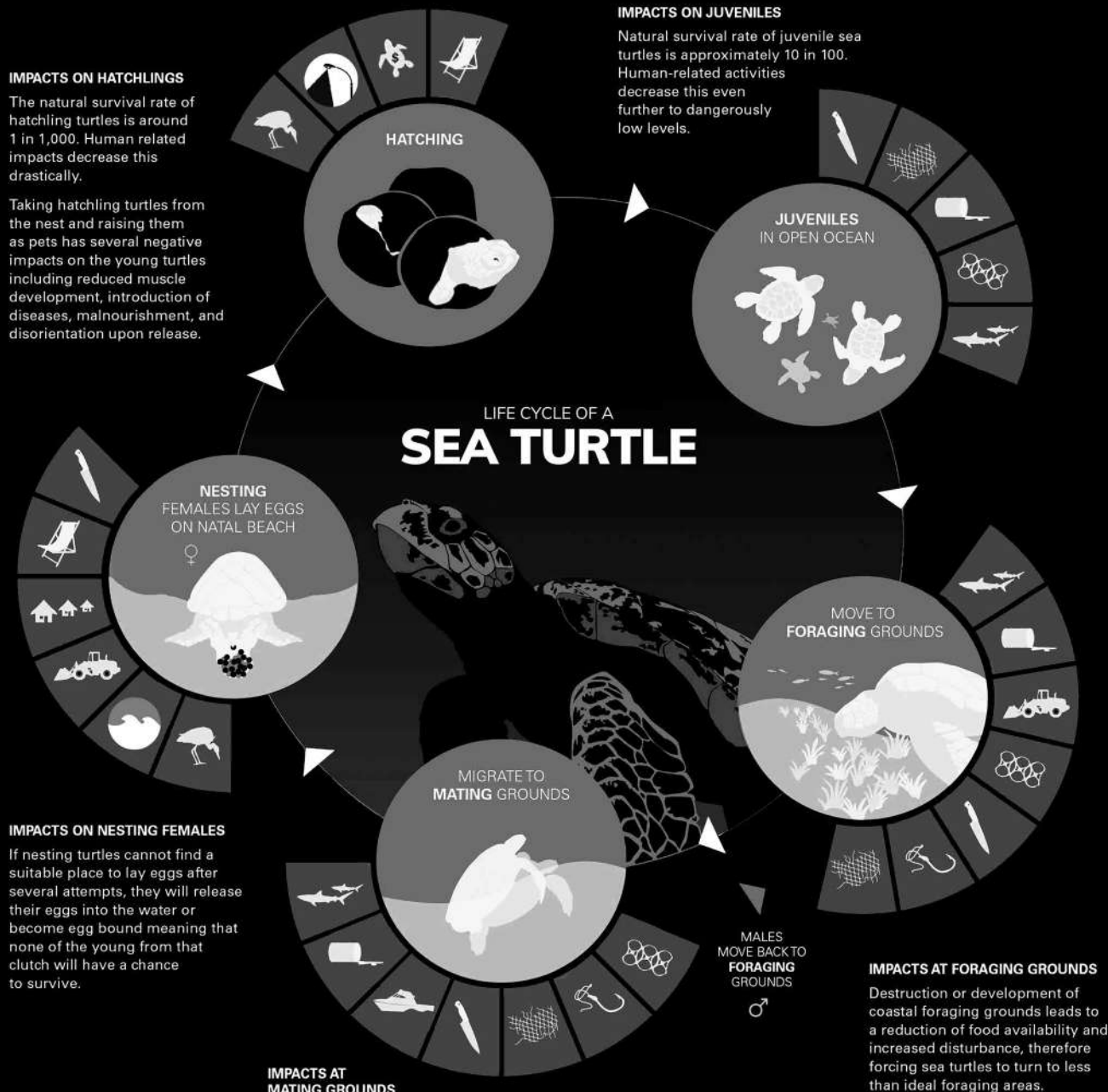
The natural survival rate of hatchling turtles is around 1 in 1,000. Human related impacts decrease this drastically.

Taking hatchling turtles from the nest and raising them as pets has several negative impacts on the young turtles including reduced muscle development, introduction of diseases, malnourishment, and disorientation upon release.

### IMPACTS ON JUVENILES

Natural survival rate of juvenile sea turtles is approximately 10 in 100. Human-related activities decrease this even further to dangerously low levels.

## LIFE CYCLE OF A SEA TURTLE



### IMPACTS ON NESTING FEMALES

If nesting turtles cannot find a suitable place to lay eggs after several attempts, they will release their eggs into the water or become egg bound meaning that none of the young from that clutch will have a chance to survive.

### IMPACTS AT MATING GROUNDS

Turtles reproduce infrequently (every 1-3 years) and their young have a naturally low survival rate; therefore, every mating and nesting attempt is incredibly important to the local population.

### IMPACTS AT FORAGING GROUNDS

Destruction or development of coastal foraging grounds leads to a reduction of food availability and increased disturbance, therefore forcing sea turtles to turn to less than ideal foraging areas.

## NATURAL THREATS

- Predation at sea.
- Predation on the beach.
- Predation on the beach.

## HUMAN THREATS

- Bycatch in fishing gear.
- Ingestion of plastic or other debris.
- Direct harvest.
- Poaching of juveniles for pet trade
- Contamination (oil spills, chemical spills, etc).
- Entanglement in fishing gear and marine debris.
- Boat strikes.
- Destruction or modification of foraging areas and nest grounds.
- Disturbance caused by increased human activities on beach.
- Obstacles on the beach.
- Disorientation due to light pollution.



# TURTLES AND TORTOISES OF SRI LANKA

## SEA TURTLES

Green Turtle  
(*Chelonia mydas*)



Hawksbill Turtle  
(*Eretmochelys imbricata*)



Olive Ridley  
(*Lepidochelys olivacea*)



Loggerhead  
(*Caretta caretta*)



Leatherback  
(*Dermochelys coriacea*)



## FRESHWATER TURTLES

Parker's Black Turtle  
(*Melanochelys trijuga pakeri*)



Sri Lankan Black Turtle  
(*Melanochelys trijuga thermalis*)



Flapshell turtle  
(*Lissemys punctata punctata*)



## TORTOISES

Star tortoise  
(*Geochelone elegans*)

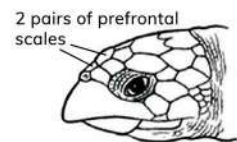




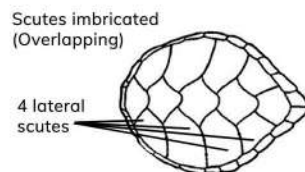
# IDENTIFYING SEA TURTLES THAT VISIT SRI LANKA

Hawksbill Turtle  
(*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

HEAD



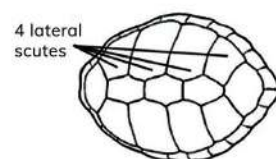
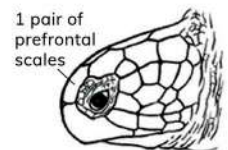
CARAPACE



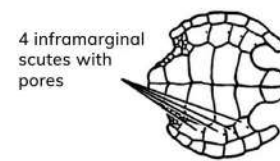
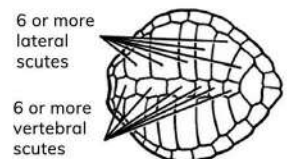
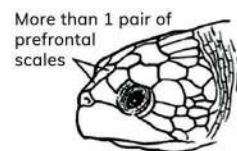
PLASTRON



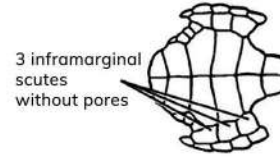
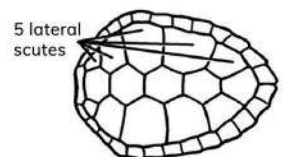
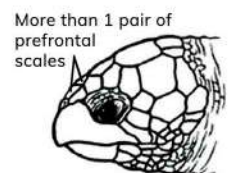
Green Turtle  
(*Chelonia mydas*)



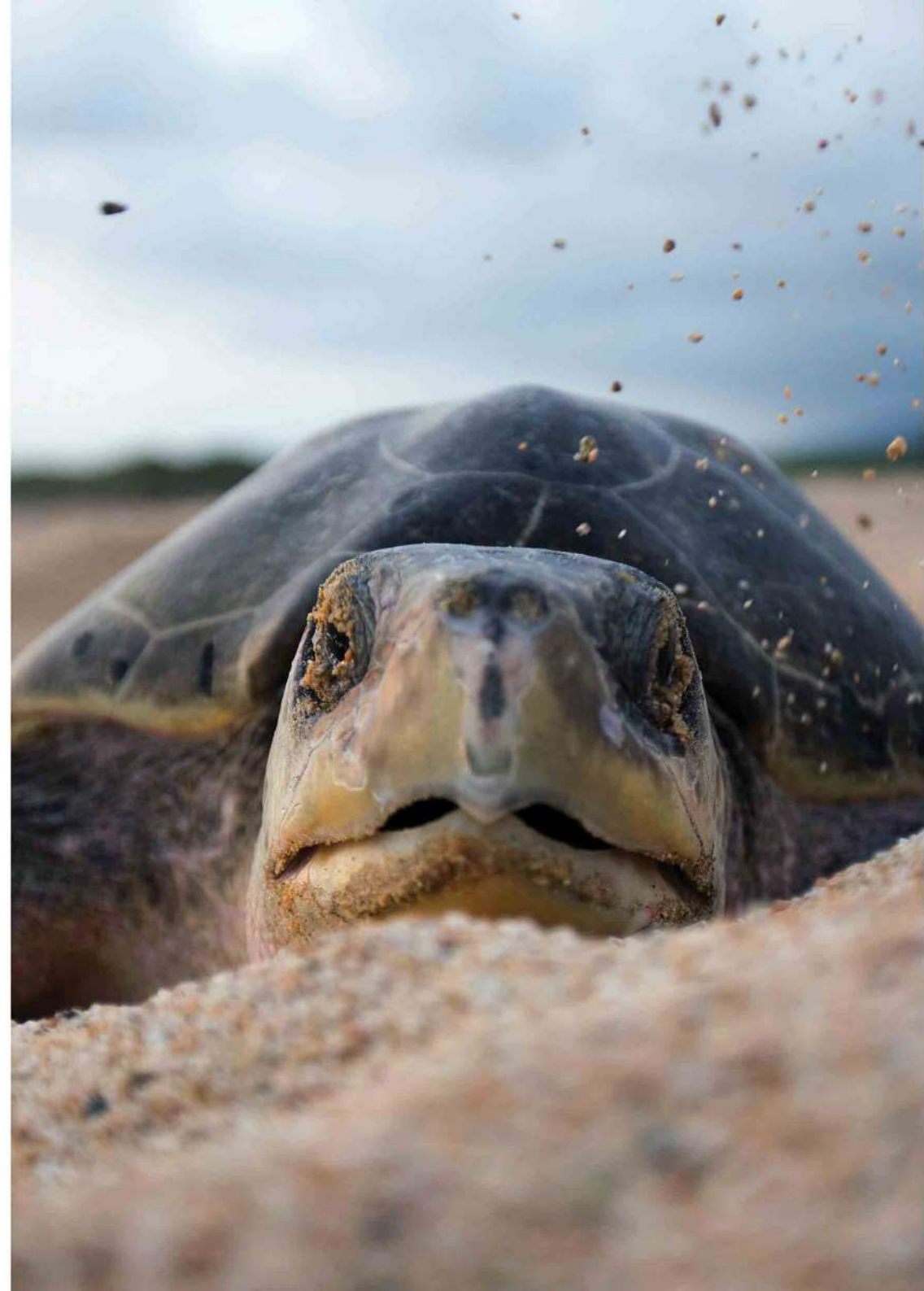
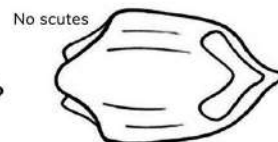
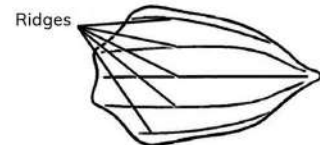
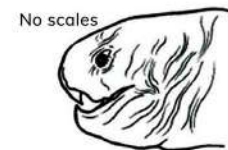
Olive Ridley  
(*Lepidochelys olivacea*)



Loggerhead  
(*Caretta caretta*)



Leatherback  
(*Dermochelys coriacea*)

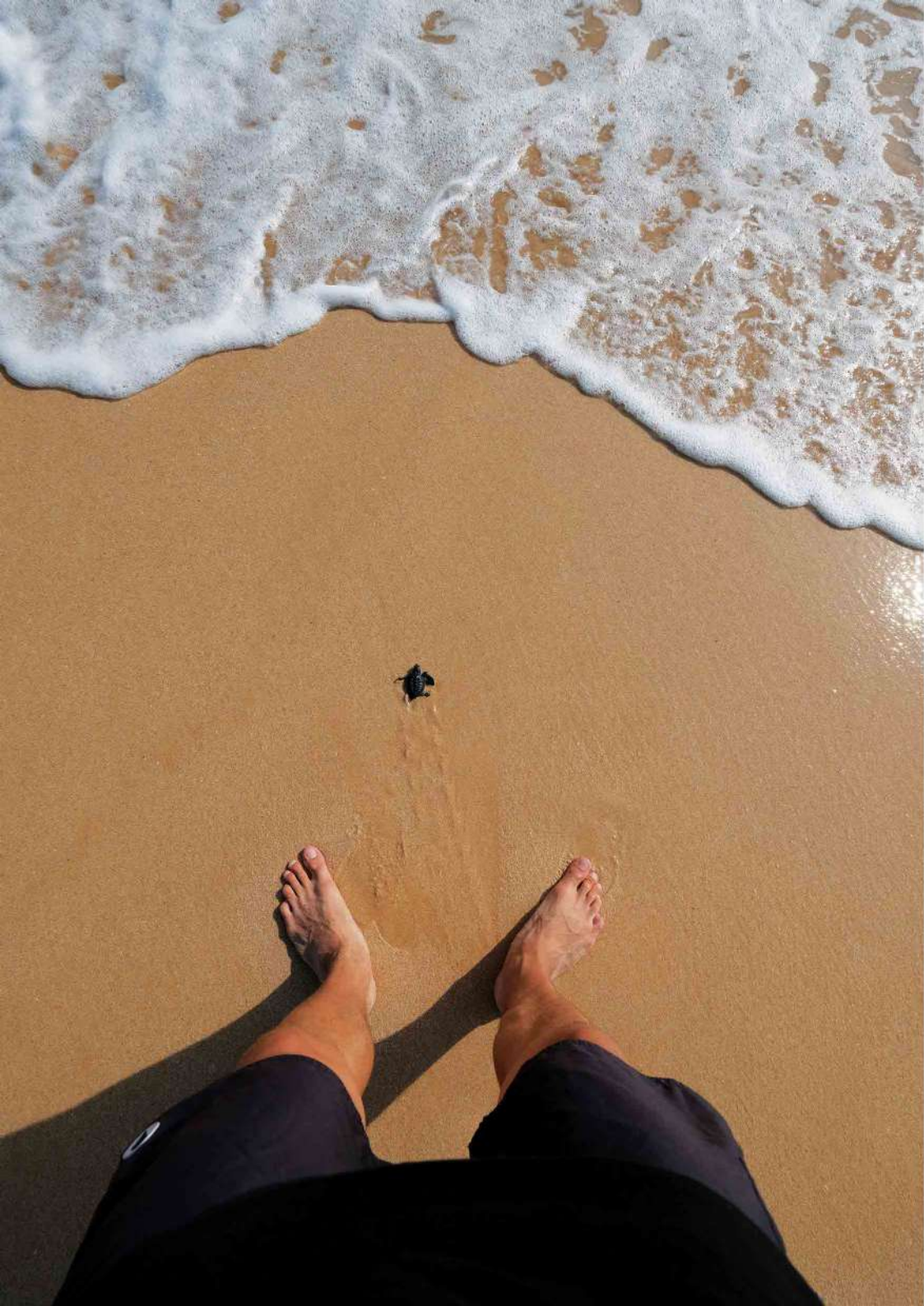




## RARE AND BEAUTIFUL

Six of the seven Sea Turtle Species are labelled as 'Endangered'. Learn what you can do save these magnificent creates from extinction during your stay at The Fortress Resort and Spa.





## SEA TURTLES AT THE FORTRESS



### THE SPECTACULAR SOUTHERN COAST

Five of the seven sea turtle species (Green Turtle, Leatherback, Hawksbill, Loggerhead, and the Olive Ridley) visit Sri Lanka every year for the sole purpose of nesting, which occurs during October and April.

At The Fortress Resort and Spa, you will find our very own turtle hatchery, which we built to help protect sea turtle eggs from human and natural threats. If you are lucky, you might stand the chance to experience hatchlings swimming in our ponds or even better, release them to the ocean.

The Fortress is always committed to serving as good stewards of the environment, ensuring that all activities respect local traditions and culture, restores natural habitats, conserves biodiversity and manages waste, water, and energy.

To help save sea turtles from extinction, The Fortress team founded the Relax and Release community project where funds are raised for local sea turtle hatchery and farm owners to be better equipped when it comes to aiding and protecting sea turtles. You can learn more about our project during your stay with us.









## OUR TURTLE RANGER

The resort's dedicated Turtle Ranger, Laksiri (many call him Lucky), grew up in Koggala – a small fishing village just along the coast from our resort.

He has been taking care of turtles for many years and now patrols our beaches at night to ensure that mother turtles are able to nest in peace and their hatchlings make it to the sea.

For more information, you can meet Lucky during the day time by the pool.

For more information, please call our reception at "0". We can let you know when any turtle activity is taking place as well,











THE FORTRESS RESORT & SPA  
Sri Lanka

*Your luxury beach experience*

# SEA TURTLES

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