

Environmental Mission

The Beach Club is proud to lead the conservation efforts that will affect generations of residents and visitors to the Fort Morgan area. We work closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to sustain and uphold our irreplaceable Alabama Gulf Coast resources. Our contributions towards this end include designating land for protected nature areas and funding continued environmental studies. It is our sincere hope that by protecting the dune ecosystem, we will ensure its continued existence in perpetuity.

To help keep our environment looking beautiful and remaining safe for the wildlife, The Beach Club proudly participates in the International Coastal Cleanup each September as well as the Alabama Adopt-A-Beach program.

Inside this guide, you'll find information about the wildlife that exists at The Beach Club and the habitat in which this wildlife lives. As a resident or guest of The Beach Club, you'll learn what you can do to help us preserve our precious environment.

US Endangered Species Act of 1973

Any person who knowingly violates any provision of this act may be assessed a civil penalty up to \$25,000 or a criminal penalty up to \$50,000 and up to one year imprisonment.

For more information, contact
US Fish & Wildlife Service
2001-A Hwy 98, Daphne, AL 36526
251-441-5181

Helpful Links

Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge
www.fws.gov/bonsecour

Share The Beach
www.alabamaseaturtles.com

Alabama Coastal Birding Trail
www.alabamacoastalbirdingtrail.com

Alabama Coastal Birdfest
www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Daphne, AL Office
www.fws.gov/daphne

Alabama Coastal Cleanup
www.alcoastalcleanup.org

THE
Beach Club
GULF SHORES

925 Beach Club Trail, Gulf Shores, AL 36542
www.beachclubal.com • 888-260-7263 (SAND)



The Beach Club Wildlife & Habitat Guide

Your guide to understanding
and preserving our environment

GULF SHORES
The Beach Club



Alabama Beach Mice

The Alabama Beach Mouse is considered an endangered species and is protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act. One of the species' remaining recognized native ranges is located on the Ft. Morgan peninsula.

Beach mice have small bodies, haired tails, large ears, protuberant eyes, and hide colors that blend with the sand types in their native environment. Their native range is small since they do not tolerate a wide variety of habitats or conditions. The favored environment is the dune ecosystem lying upland next to the Gulf of Mexico.

Being a nocturnal species, beach mice spend most of the daylight hours in burrows that are made up of an entrance tube, a nest cavity, and an escape tube to avoid predators. Burrows are typically located at the base of a shrub, clump of grass, or near some other cover of vegetation. Feeding almost exclusively on another important, protected plant species, Sea Oats, they are also known to eat some insects and the fruits of several indigenous herbs.

The Beach Club understands and embraces the fact that we are located in a very unique and special place within the local dune ecosystem. Because of this setting and its importance to the beach mouse, a conservation plan requiring permitting from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service was required before we could build our resort.

How Can You Help?

- No cats are allowed on property; if you see a cat, please let us know.
- No pedestrians are allowed to walk directly on sand dunes. Always use dune walkovers for access to the beach.
- Floodlights are prohibited on the beach.
- Keep all trash and garbage in covered containers with lids tightly closed.
- Immediately report any sightings of injured beach mice to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Sea Turtles

Three species of sea turtles, all of which are protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act, use our beaches as a critical component of their nesting process: loggerhead, green, and Kemp's Ridley. Nesting season runs from May 1 through October 31.

Beginning in May, mother sea turtles come ashore at night to lay an average of 100 leathery, ping-pong size eggs and return quietly to the sea. A short 55 to 75 days later, hatchlings emerge together in an "eruption" of babies from the nest and attempt to find their way to the Gulf waters by using moonlight or starlight. Sadly, only a few turtles from each nest actually make it to adulthood.

How Can You Help?

- Avoid using flashlights or flash photography on the beach at night.
- Turn off outside patio lights and shield indoor lights from shining onto the beach at night by closing your drapes or blinds.
- Do not disturb sea turtle nests, eggs, or hatchlings.
- Leave sea turtle tracks undisturbed.
- Do not leave trash on the beach.
- Remove chairs, umbrellas, and other gear from the beach at night. This is one of the main reasons The Beach Club does not permit tents on the beach.
- Report nest or hatchling sightings by calling 1-866-SEA-TURTLE.

Alligators

Alligators are occasionally sighted on property. Alligators can be between 6 and 12 feet and can move at speeds up to 20 mph on land.

How Can You Help?

- For your safety, do not approach or attempt to feed these wild animals.

Birds

The Ft. Morgan peninsula serves as an important stopping point for neotropical migratory birds each spring and fall, as well as a year-round home for numerous species of resident birds.

For more information on the birds you can find in our area, visit the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail's website at alabamacoastalbirdingtrail.com.

How Can You Help?

- Take care not to disturb nesting birds. Doing so exposes eggs and young to extreme temperatures and predation.
- Disturb wintering wildlife as little as possible, particularly during critical feeding and resting periods. They need all of their energy reserves to withstand the stresses of harsh weather and migration.
- Do not litter. Many birds die when they become entangled in fishing lines, 6-pack rings and other trash, or when they mistake garbage for food.

Habitat

The wildlife that lives on the Ft. Morgan peninsula depends on the preservation of our precious environment for survival. The beaches, sand dunes, marshes, and swamps are their home.

How Can You Help?

- Stay off the dunes. Use provided walkovers for beach access. When taking photos on the beach, please be respectful and stay off the dunes. You can still get great pictures with the dunes in the background without walking on the dunes.
- Do not put up tents on the beach. Beach chairs and umbrellas are available for rent.
- Do not litter. Trash receptacles are located throughout the property for your convenience.