



Going Green on Florida's Gulf Coast

South Walton, Fla. – As the largest full-service beachfront resort on Northwest Florida's pristine Gulf Coast, Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa is naturally committed to protecting the environment through a variety of activities that conserve natural resources.

In 2009, the resort earned the Florida Green Lodging Program Designation from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for its ongoing use of green practices such as recycling, water conservation and energy reduction. In 2013, Hilton Sandestin Beach was recognized with the TripAdvisor GreenLeader Bronze certificate and ConventionSouth magazine Green Meetings Approved certificate for its efforts to decrease their carbon footprint and make the resort a more eco-friendly property. And in 2016 Hilton Sandestin Beach was recognized again by TripAdvisor as a Silver GreenLeader.

Hilton Sandestin Beach has made a number of enhancements to decrease their carbon footprint further and protect the natural wildlife that surrounds the beachfront property. Hilton Sandestin Beach installed more than \$250,000 in "turtle safe" LED lighting, specially designed to minimize disturbances to nesting sea turtles, their hatchlings and other coastal wildlife. The lighting on the 20,000-square-foot pool deck, gives off a warm, orange glow so guests can enjoy beachside dining and evening swims, without distracting turtles from the moonlight. The resort also planted more than 30,000 new sea oats to protect the shoreline dunes.

In addition, the beachfront deck area has been upgraded to MoistureShield™, an environmentally-friendly decking that is cooler for barefoot guests hopping from the pools to the beach or to Picnix for a quick snack. Throughout the resort, electrical upgrades to LEED lighting and A/C enhancements totaling \$2.5 million resulted in a \$50,000 rebate check from

Gulf Power to Hilton Sandestin Beach, in recognition of their extreme conservation efforts. Their largest to date, the check marked Gulf Power's first rebate on their commercial customized incentive program for customers who undertake environmentally friendly improvements. The resort hotel also partners with local affiliate South Walton Turtle Watch to help promote turtle awareness through videos on in-room channels and messaging on to-go bags from Barefoots.

With more than 40 percent of South Walton preserved for nature – guests are encouraged to explore the four state parks, 15 coastal dune lakes, state forest, and more on the water, on foot, on bike, or horseback. All activities are available either from the resort's front and back doors or just minutes away.

For reservations, contact Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa by calling toll free 800-559-1805 or 850-267-9500, or visit HiltonSandestinBeach.com.

- Hilton Sandestin Beach -

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