Turtle Watching Code of Conduct

1. **Emerging Turtle**
   - Crawls from ocean towards nesting area.
   - Estimated time 5-20 mins
   - Keep your distance.
   - Low risk of disturbance

2. **Digging Body Pit**
   - Lots of sand flicked into the air using front flippers only. Turtle may move and repeat this process until finding the correct spot.
   - Estimated time 20-40 mins
   - Low risk of disturbance

3. **Excavating Egg Chamber**
   - Sand stops being flicked as turtle scoops out egg chamber with rear flippers only. Rocking motion side to side.
   - Estimated time 10-20 mins
   - Medium risk of disturbance

4. **Laying Eggs**
   - Turtle remains very still, with a gentle heaving motion. If her flippers are moving and sand is being flicked she is NOT laying.
   - Estimated time 3-10 mins
   - Low risk of disturbance

5. **Covering Nest**
   - Turtle covers egg chamber with sand using rear flippers then gradually moves forward, camouflaging nest, flicking lots of sand into air.
   - Estimated time 20-40 mins
   - Low risk of disturbance

6. **Returning Turtle**
   - Crawls back from beach to ocean. May stop to rest at water's edge to restore energy.
   - Estimated time 20-40 mins
   - Low risk of disturbance

7. **Emerging Hatchlings**
   - Around 60 days after laying eggs.
   - Stay below the dunes to avoid trampling on nests and emerging hatchlings.
   - High risk of disturbance

**RISK OF DISTURBANCE**

- **Low**
  - Move slow: To avoid disturbing turtles, walk along the water's edge.
  - Stay low: Out of sight of nesting turtles – sit, crouch or lie in the sand.
  - Let them flow: Let hatchlings make their own way to the ocean, they take an imprint of that beach so they can return to the same area when they are ready to mate and lay eggs. Try not to get between hatchlings and the water’s edge.

- **Medium**
  - No flash photography at any time
  - No dogs on turtle nesting beaches
  - No dogs on turtle nesting beaches

- **High**
  - No dogs on turtle nesting beaches
  - No dogs on turtle nesting beaches
  - No dogs on turtle nesting beaches

**NO GLOW:** Nesting turtles and hatchlings are easily disturbed by lights, use the moon to light your way.

**NO GLOW:** No flash photography at any time

**NO GLOW:** No dogs on turtle nesting beaches

**NO GLOW:** Don't drive on turtle nesting beaches

**NO GLOW:** Stay below the dunes to avoid trampling on nests and emerging hatchlings.