



ESTRELLA DEL MAR

Golf and Beach Resort
Mazatlan

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Endangered Sea Turtles Hatching at Estrella del Mar Golf and Beach Resort!

Early Winter is Ideal Time to Visit Estrella del Mar, Witness Sea Turtle Release

December 5, 2006, Mazatlan, Mexico, ... As they have every year for thousands of years, endangered Olive Sea Turtles have laid their eggs on the white sand beaches of Mazatlan and Estrella del Mar Golf & Beach Resort. Today, instead of being subject to the danger of natural predators, these eggs are being gathered, cataloged, relocated for safe incubation and released back to the sea by the Estrella del Mar Sea Turtle Sanctuary.

At the end of every summer, the Olive Sea Turtles return to their native Mazatlan beaches to lay their eggs. The turtles come from hundreds of miles away to the same location every year to participate in a ritual that has been taking place for thousands of years. Once the turtles arrive, volunteers at the Estrella del Mar Sea Turtle Sanctuary labor around the clock to locate the turtles' trails left in the sand. The volunteers are then able to locate the nests, excavate and catalog the eggs. The eggs are relocated and buried in a safe location at the exact depth that the mother laid them. This year, more than 71,000 eggs have been collected.

After 45 days of incubation, the shiny, precious, newly-hatched little creatures dig their way out of the nest, shake off the bits of sand and open their eyes for the first time. Normally, the hatchlings would immediately return to the sea; however the Estrella del Mar Sanctuary allows the baby turtles time to get accustomed to their new world before releasing them to the sea.

“Beginning the first week of November, we place tens of thousands of baby sea turtles back on the sand where they were found as eggs, allowing them to imprint their birth place and then make a dash for the water – as their mothers and fathers have done for thousands of years,” said Eréndira Gonzalez Diego, Estrella del Mar’s resident marine biologist and coordinator of the sea turtles’ release. “It’s a great time to visit Estrella del Mar and witness this release, an amazing effort in wildlife conservation that I’m proud to be part of.”

Turtles are the last living representatives of the “Jurassic Period” and scientists can trace these creatures to the days of the dinosaurs. Unfortunately, because many of the world’s beaches

are now full of developments and man continues to encroach on the turtle's habitat, the reproductive success of turtles has been significantly reduced to such an extent that sea turtles are in danger of becoming extinct.

There are currently eight existing sea turtle species in the world, and all of them are listed on the Endangered Species list. Mexico is home to seven of these species and has made protecting the turtles a top priority.

Established in 1998 with the sole purpose of protecting the sea turtle, Estrella del Mar's Sea Turtle Sanctuary offers the ideal location to protect these creatures in their natural environment. Estrella del Mar has made a concerted commitment to protect the Olive Sea Turtle, native to the beaches of Mazatlan, and the results from these efforts have encouraged the resort's owners and developers to become an example for future developments to follow.

Since 1998, the efforts of Estrella del Mar have resulted in more than a five-fold increase in both the number of eggs being collected and the number of hatchlings being released back into the sea. The Estrella del Mar Sea Turtle Sanctuary recovered and released between 45,000 and 60,000 sea turtles in 2005.

During the off-season, the sanctuary is used to heal injured turtles and serves as an educational source for visitors and most importantly, local children. The facility offers a number of seminars throughout the year and works closely with both the local government agencies and area schools.

Estrella del Mar developer Pat Butler prides himself on his commitment to the native environment and being ecologically responsible; the Sea Turtle Sanctuary is just one of the ways Estrella del Mar protects and serves the environment.

Estrella del Mar is the only gated, American master-planned resort community in Mazatlan. It is owned and operated by Denver-based Club Acquisition Company, and also features whole-ownership homes and condominiums. Call 303-705-1999 or visit www.estrelladelmar.com for more information on visiting Estrella del Mar and the Sea Turtle Sanctuary.

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Club Acquisition Company (CAC) is a 12-year-old resort and second home development company committed to its strong and expanding corporate presence in the region. A leading residential and resort development and management company, CAC's holdings are located in Mexico and Colorado.