

wildlife

of Kiawah Island

DOLPHINS



Kiawah Island is the first place on earth where dolphins were spotted "strand feeding," a cunning technique of herding fish onto sandbars and mudflats. Go to **Captain Sam's Inlet** during the two hours on either side of low tide for your best chance to witness strand feeding!

LOGGERHEADS

Every May-August, Kiawah Island goes turtle crazy as loggerhead hatchlings begin their long journey from nest to sea. Human volunteers watch over the turtle's progress and keep them safe. Thanks to these efforts, most hatchlings (75%) safely complete their odyssey every year.



ALLIGATORS



Alligator sightings are common on Kiawah, thanks to the island's 150 brackish, alligator-friendly ponds. One common spot to see them sunning? By the ponds outside of **Cherrywood BBQ & Ale House**, on the Golf Resort greens. Just remember to give them plenty of space. Fore!

BIRDS

Eagles and egrets and herons - oh my! From the shoreline to the wetlands to the forests, over 200 species of birds call Kiawah "home." Watch them flit between the palmettos, perch serenely beside marshes, pluck small creatures from wet sand at low tide, and soar dramatically overhead.



DEER



Your eyes don't deceive you! On Kiawah, white tailed deer really do hang out on the beach. You may also spot them grazing in the low vegetation near the beach's access points. Deer overpopulation can be a problem on Kiawah, but the island's bobcats do their part to keep the population in balance.

BOBCATS

Though deer probably don't like it, the healthy bobcat population (numbering about 30-35) is an essential part of Kiawah Island's ecosystem. Sightings are rare. They are at their most active from dusk to dawn and pose no threat to humans (Cars, on their other hand, are a threat to them. Please be careful when driving at night.)

