







## A Beautiful Rare Diamondback Terrapin Turtle

The diamondback terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*) inhabits the coastal brackish and saltwater marshes of the eastern and southeastern U.S. It is a medium-sized turtle, with males reaching about 5 inches in carapace length and females significantly larger at 9 inches. Generally, the carapace and skin coloration of a terrapin is gray to whitish, with varying patterns of black spots and streaks. Some even have black “mustaches.” Occasionally, yellow blotches are found on the carapace scutes, and an orange tinge may be present on the marginal scutes of some individuals.



Kurt Buhlmann

When being handled, terrapins aren't usually known to bite. Still, be careful if handling large females due to their big heads and powerful jaws.



