

Mon Repos Turtle Encounters tours

Things to know before you visit



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A turtle's arrival can't be predicted

1. Turtles are wild marine animals—unlike people they don't watch the time!

- A turtle's arrival can't be predicted—some nights multiple turtles arrive early, sometimes only a few arrive at a time, and some turtles arrive after midnight.
- On nights where multiple turtles arrive early, there are enough turtles for multiple tour groups to go onto the beach at the same time for an early night experience. When individual turtles arrive throughout the night your tour might begin as late as midnight.
- Expect to wait for your Turtle Encounter tour's turtle and be prepared—pack a favourite book or similar activity that is easy to carry.
- Your total visit time for Mon Repos Turtle Encounter tour can be up to six hours.
- Occasionally turtles do not arrive or hatch. While this is unusual, we can't guarantee you will see nesting turtles or hatchlings.

2. Before you book your ticket

- Turtle Encounter night tours can be a rewarding experience, but they come with certain challenges that may affect your ability to participate comfortably and safely.
- Accessing the turtle event requires walking in the dark—once on the beach, you'll encounter uneven dunes, vegetation, and soft sand, which is physically demanding.
- The walk and time on the beach can be strenuous.
- The wait period can be challenging for families with young children.
- A good level of fitness is required; the tour may not be suitable for you if:
 - you are uncomfortable in the dark
 - you have difficulty walking on uneven, sandy terrain with steep sections
 - you have limited mobility or flexibility or rely on crutches or other mobility aids
 - you may struggle to keep pace with a large tour group over a 1.6km walk in the dark
 - you find it challenging to wait for extended periods if turtles arrive late.

If any of these concerns apply to you, it's worth considering whether this type of tour aligns with your needs and abilities.

3. Due to the sandy beach, conventional wheelchair beach access is not possible for Mon Repos Turtle Encounter tours.

- Some all-terrain wheelchair users may be able to access this tour.
- Please contact the Park Rangers to learn more about beach wheelchair access.

Turtle Encounter group allocation

Turtle Encounter group allocations are finalised on the day of the tour, to account for any customer cancellations or booking adjustments. When booking your ticket, you can view availability to get an indication of the turtle watching group you may be placed in.

Please note:

- Groups are large—up to 60 people.
- Groups are allocated based on booking date.
- Group requests and personal preferences can't be accommodated.

Plan ahead!

1. For the best Turtle Encounter experience please bring:

- suitable walking shoes for the sandy environment, including rocky and shelly areas
- a jumper or a windcheater
- a rain jacket (umbrellas are not permitted on beach)
- water bottle (a water refill station is provided at the Turtle Centre), snacks and insect repellent.

2. Know the light restrictions. It is essential that you pack to follow light restrictions:

- Light up shoes and glow sticks are not permitted.
- When permitted, only torches of 100 lumens or less can be used.
- During the designated photography time periods only, limited flash photography, videoing without constant light, and use of devices that do not emit an external light, such as GoPros, are permitted.
- Place all mobile device screens and smart watches on theatre mode and store phones safely in your bag before departing on your guided Turtle Encounters tour.



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