



Green Turtles are arriving

Let's enjoy them...responsibly

The months between July and September are a very special time in Tortuguero, as the Green Sea Turtles nests in our beach. Although Tortuguero witnesses the arrival of 4 out of the 7 sea turtles in the world, these other species are in such extreme danger of extinction that the National Park does not promote tours to see them nesting. With this in mind, and abiding to the regulations set by the Tortuguero National Park, we present you with this little pamphlet to let you enjoy the Green Sea Turtle Night tour...responsibly.

¿HOW IT WORKS?

Between July and September visitors to T.N.P. are welcome on the optional turtle night tour. To sign up, you must register before 3 pm of the day you want to go and pay the fee of \$ 30.00 USD per person in cash at reception. Children 3 and younger are free of charge***.

The National Park sets two hours for turtle observation: 8 or 10 pm and departure is from one of the 5 different bases located along the beach. The park will raffle schedule and the base from which you will depart from and we will post the information in reception at 5:30 pm each day. Mawamba Lodge will provide round trip transportation to your departing base (There is one base right in front of Mawamba and 4 other bases along the beach. Our boat will drop you off the closest we can to your base, but from there you will need to walk to arrive to the base). Once again, we have no control over which schedule or base you are assigned.

Upon arrival to the base, you will be instructed by your leader to wait until the beach tracker indicates it is safe to go out to the beach and enjoy witnessing the process.

The tracker won't let anyone on the beach until the turtle is laying the eggs, and thus, not scared by human presence.

Because this is a natural phenomenon we can't guarantee you will see a turtle, and there are no reimbursements in case turtles are not observed, or if you decide not to participate in the last minute. Bear in mind that although the tour provides a unique possibility to see the turtles and the nesting procedure, the main concern of the National Park is to continue protecting this endangered species and won't compromise the nesting process or the safety of the turtles for us, humans.

***Before signing up a child on the tour please thoroughly read the regulations and make sure this is the appropriate tour for your little one.

REGULATIONS:

1. All visitors must wear dark clothes, preferably black. (Reflection affects the turtles).
2. Smoking, drinking or drug usage is absolutely prohibited during the tour. The Park reserves the right to expel anyone who is under the influence from the beach.
3. Tour guides and participants must follow the Park Rangers' instructions at all times.
4. No cellphones, smartphones cameras, video cameras or similar electronic device is allowed on the beach. Tour guides use a special flashlight to guide the group.
5. The use of flip flops, sandals or strap sandals is not recommended.
6. If you are using insect repellent, please use one in cream, or spray it on your clothes 20 minutes before departing on the tour and don't wear any perfume.
7. Group maximum size is 10 and is allowed to stay for a maximum of 2 hours on the beach, but can only approach a turtle when permitted by the tracker. The Park Ranger may ask participants to leave the beach before the allowed hours have concluded if he considers the process has already been observed.
8. All tours are led by a certified local guide who has been trained by the National Park to perform the tour. Guide's instructions must be followed at all times.
9. Visitors must refrain from talking, shouting, laughing or making noises of any kind during the tour.
10. You are not allowed to touch or manipulate the turtles or the eggs at any point.
11. In case the group doesn't adhere to these regulations it will result in the immediate removal from the beach, and will risk the guide's permit to continue performing the tour.

Once you sign up for the tour at the Lodge, our Mawamba Lodge representative will hand you out our GREEN TURTLES ARE ARRIVING pamphlet that provides historic and current information about the turtles, as well as nesting habits and also some interesting details about how the future is looking for the turtles. There is also more insightful information on how our actions on the beach may affect the turtle.

Don't forget that all the regulations set by the Tortuguero National Park (TNP) (have the sole interest of protecting the turtles, and while you are granted the permission of participating in this tour, you must, at all time, abide by the indicated regulations. The turtle tour cost includes: Handling of all logistics (reservations, transportation back and forth, logistical operation and insurances), local certified tour guide, contribution to the STC (turtle seeker program) and National Park fee.

Thank you for your participation in the turtle nesting tour and we wish you happy sightings.



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