

# 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 turtles arrive later, your tour might begin as late as midnight.
- Expect to wait for your Turtle Encounter tour's turtle and be prepared for a longer wait if turtles are arriving late—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 five hours.
- Occasionally turtles do not arrive or hatch. While this is unusual, we can't guarantee you will see nesting turtles or hatchlings.

### 2. A moderate level of fitness is required for the Turtle Encounter tour—for some of the evening you will be outside on the beach. Visitors need to be able to:

- Walk through sandy conditions for up to 1.6km (return journey) at night in natural light or with limited light in some sections.
- Stand on uneven, sandy surfaces for approximately two hours.
- Traverse sandy surfaces, including short steep sandy sections on vegetated dunes, and boardwalk ramps.

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

- Beach wheelchair access is possible when accompanied by support people.
- Please contact the Park Rangers to learn more about beach wheelchair access.

## Turtle Encounter group allocation

When you book on a Turtle Encounter tour you will be allocated to a group for the entire evening.

### Be aware that:

- Turtle Encounter groups comprises of up to 60 people.
- Allocation of a Turtle Encounter group is predetermined when you make a booking. To ensure your family or social group are in the same Turtle Encounter group, please make one booking for your family and/or social group.
- Turtle Encounter groups will be guided to the beach by Rangers and turtle guides when turtles arrive. Each group must stay together during the event.

## Plan ahead!

### Bring and wear what you need for the best Turtle Encounter experience.

- The Mon Repos beach includes rock and shell areas. Protect your feet by wearing shoes suitable for walking in a sandy environment.
- Bring a jumper or a wind cheater as it can be cold and windy on the beach at night.
- Pack rain jackets as shelter is limited and umbrellas are not allowed on the beach.
- Bring your own water bottle (a water refill station is provided at the Turtle Centre), snacks and insect repellent.
- Be prepared for a longer wait if turtles are arriving late—pack a favourite book or similar activity that is easy to carry.
- Know the light restrictions—it is essential that you pack to minimise light impacts on turtles and follow light restrictions:
  - Light up shoes and glow sticks are not permitted on Turtle Encounter tours.
  - 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.
  - Dim all mobile device screens and smart watches and store them safely in your bag before departing on your guided Turtle Encounters tour.