Welcome to our ancient country

The Port Curtis Coral Coast region encompasses the traditional estates of four identified First Nations groups—Taribelang, Gooreng Gooreng, Gurang, and Byellee. As traditional owners our identity is tied to caring for places on country and being actively involved in looking after animals and plants on country. Our ancestors have hunted and fished in this sea country since time immemorial and there are many important cultural sites in our region that we cherish, some of them here, at Mon Repos. For us it is a special place. Taribelang, Gooreng Gooreng, Gurang, and Byellee peoples.

Welcome to Mon Repos Conservation Park

Mon Repos is special! Located in the Southern Great Barrier Reef region, it supports the largest concentration of nesting marine turtles on the eastern Australian mainland and has the most significant loggerhead turtle nesting population in the South Pacific region. The success of the nesting and hatching turtles at Mon Repos is critical for the survival of this endangered species. At this globally significant breeding site you can have a unique up close and personal turtle encounter.

Mon Repos Volunteers

For over 50 years Mon Repos has been supported by a large number of community volunteers. Volunteers fought to have the area declared as a park in 1981 and since that time have been an integral part of the programs focused on turtle conservation, ecotourism and revegetation.

“Mon Repos is a quiet retreat rich in wildlife and history. Come and sink your toes into the sandy beach which comes alive in the summer months with nesting and hatching marine turtles. Enjoy this little coastal gem. Gary, Diane and John.

Mon Repos Turtles Volunteer Leaders 2019

Mon Repos Turtle Centre

The Mon Repos Turtle Centre is dedicated to marine turtle research, protection and education. Here you can learn about the special journey turtles and people have taken at Mon Repos.

Spend an inspiring hour or more exploring Turtle Tales, browse through our gift shop and pop back in for a bite to eat at the café, after a walk through this peaceful conservation park.

Turtle Tales

Submerse yourself in the lives of marine turtles, researchers and rangers in our new immersive theatre and interactive displays.

Relax in the theatre and enjoy the story of loggerheads told through film, light and soundscapes.

Kids, have fun exploring the tools and techniques used to look after our turtles in the Junior Discovery zone.

Discover the details, the big picture and the people protecting these ancient mariners.
The redevelopment of the Mon Repos Turtle Centre has been supported by:

- Mon Repos is a quiet retreat rich in wildlife and history. Come and sink your toes into the sandy beach which comes alive in the summer months with nesting and hatchling marine turtles. Enjoy this little coastal gem. Gary, Diane and John. Mon Repos Turtles Volunteer Leaders 2019

Further information
- qld.gov.au/MonRepos
- qldnationalparks
- @QldParks; #QldParks
- This brochure is available online at qld.gov.au/ParkBrochures

Opening hours and fees
Mon Repos Turtle Centre
7 days-a-week 9am–4pm. The centre gift shop is open until 3pm (both closed 25 December and 25 April).

Turtle Tales
7 days-a-week 9am–4pm (closed 25 December and 25 April). Purchase tickets at Centre reception—ticket sales close 3pm.

Turtle Encounters
7 nights-a-week during turtle tour season from November to late March (closed 24, 25 and 31 December). Bookings are essential and can be made through the Bundaberg Visitor Information Centre:
- online at bundabergregion.org
- by phone 1300 722 099
- over-the-counter at 36 Avenue Street, Bundaberg East Qld 4670
- visit facebook.com/visitbundaberg

Turtle Encounters ticket holders have access to the Centre, Turtle Tales (7pm till late) and the gift shop (7pm to 11pm) during the evening of their Encounter.

Admission fees
Entry to Mon Repos Turtle Centre is free. For Turtle Encounters and Turtle Tales admission fees visit qld.gov.au/MonRepos

Getting there and around
- Mon Repos Turtle Centre is about a 4.5hr drive north of Brisbane, 15min east of Bundaberg and 10min from Bargara.
- Bundaberg Regional Airport has daily flights to and from Brisbane.
- Queensland Rail has several daily services that stop at Bundaberg.
- If you don’t have your own vehicle, contact Bundaberg Visitor Information Centre on 1300 722 099 for taxi and transfer options.
- From Bargara, Mon Repos can be reached easily by bike or on foot.

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Explore
Grab your bike and take a relaxing ride, shaded by seaside forests and flanked by a pristine beach, or take a short walk to discover the park’s natural and historic features. The shared trail and walking track within the park are easy grades and are open during daylight hours.

**Turtle Trail**
Winding along the Woongarra coast and passing through the leafy Mon Repos Conservation Park, this 7.7km Bundaberg Regional Council walking and cycling trail links Bargara to Burnett Heads. The trail passes by the heritage listed stone wall built by South Sea Islanders.

**Mon Repos coastal track**
4.5km return allow 2hr
Explore the park along this coastal path passing by salt pans, mangroves, pandanus forests, and coastal scenery. The path is accessible from the Mon Repos Turtle Centre. Take drinking water with you and wear sunscreen. Insect repellent is recommended.

**Beach recreation**
Mon Repos is a peaceful beach fringed by the Great Sandy Marine Park. The basalt slabs and reefs that form much of this coastline provide an ideal canvas for colourful displays of corals, sponges, barnacles and shellfish. This stunning diversity of sea life so close to shore has made the Woongarra coast one of Australia’s popular shore-diving areas.

**Keep in mind**
Turtle breeding season occurs from mid-October to April. Mon Repos Beach is closed to the general public from 6pm to 6am during this time.

- Please keep off the sand dunes—in and out of turtle season. The dunes are critical habitat for nesting and hatching success.
- Dogs are prohibited on park (including tracks and trails) and on the beach.
Our turtle encounters

Witness an ancient life cycle of the animal kingdom, as majestic marine turtles make their journey to the shore to lay their eggs. Delight at the sight of their young, hatching a few months later, and making their tenacious journey to the sea.

Every year, from November to March, you can join Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Rangers at the Mon Repos Turtle Centre on a guided tour to watch nesting (November to January) and hatching (January to March) marine turtles.

Turtles are wild marine animals and occasionally they do not arrive. While this is unusual, we can’t guarantee you will see nesting turtles or hatchlings.

Our turtles are precious

To protect nesting and hatching turtles, during this time, public access to Mon Repos beach is restricted from 6pm to 6am. Turtle viewing is only available through Ranger-guided tours from the Mon Repos Turtle Centre. The Centre opens at 7pm for tour participants to explore the displays and prepare for their turtle encounter.

Check your fitness

Moderate level of fitness required. Visitors need to be able to:

- Walk up to 1.6km at night in natural light or with limited light in some sections.
- Stand on uneven surfaces for approximately 1 hour.
- Traverse sandy surfaces including short steep sections on vegetated dunes, and boardwalk ramps.

Be prepared

For some of the evening you will be outside on the beach. To ensure you have an enjoyable visit:

- Wear footwear suitable for walking along a sandy beach.
- Pack rain jackets as shelter is limited and umbrellas are not allowed on the beach.
- Bring a warm jacket as it can be cold.
- Bring a refillable water bottle and insect repellent.
- Cold and hot food and drinks are available for purchase at the cafe or bring your own.

On the night

- Arrive at the Mon Repos Road car park from 6.30pm. From here a free shuttle bus will take you the short distance to the Mon Repos Turtle Centre, which opens at 7pm. Here you will be placed in your turtle encounter group for the night.
- Once the turtles arrive, Rangers will call your group and guide you onto the beach—where the adventure truly begins.
- Sometimes the turtles don’t come on cue! Please be aware that you may need to wait for several hours before going onto the beach. Your total visit time at Mon Repos can be up to 6 hours.

Be turtle friendly

- If you see a nesting turtle coming ashore to lay her eggs, stay still.
- If you see a hatching turtle on the beach, watch and enjoy, but do not touch.
- Turtle nests are dug and eggs laid in the dunes, keep off them.
- Make it as easy as possible for turtles, don’t leave obstacles on the beach or dig holes in the dunes.
- Always take all your rubbish with you.

Cut the glow

Artificial lights interfere with a turtle’s natural habits and instincts. You can make a difference by cutting the glow of lights affecting beaches.

Find out more at qld.gov.au/MonRepos