

Marine Turtles in Ningaloo Marine Park

Ningaloo Marine Park, off the Norwest Cape of Western Australia offers a fantastic opportunity for visitors to view marine turtles in the natural environment. Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) and hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), three of the world's seven species of marine turtles, nest on mainland beaches adjacent to Ningaloo Reef during the summer months from November to March. The West Australian coastline boasts turtle rookeries which are vital to the sustainability of world wide turtle populations.

The Ningaloo Turtle Program, a community volunteer conservation project, was established by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), the Cape Conservation Group and WWF Australia and collects valuable information on turtle species, nests, tracks, disturbance and predation during nesting season. This information helps to educate the public and scientists alike and ensures the ongoing protection of these ancient mariners.

The Jurabi Turtle Centre is an interpretive educational facility located 13km from Exmouth Township. It was constructed in recognition of the urgent need to manage turtle-visitor interaction and minimise the impact of human disturbance on nesting marine turtles along the Ningaloo coast. The centre provides a focus for marine turtle conservation and education and facilitates a sustainable turtle observation program. Educational displays and signage inform visitors about turtle biology and behaviour, threats, appropriate observation techniques and conservation strategies. This material is accessible to the public at all times.

If you would like to view nesting marine turtles DEC strongly recommends that you visit the JTC and encourages you to participate in a guided experience. By participating in guided turtle experiences, you are actively helping to conserve marine turtles and will have a better opportunity to view marine turtles nesting in the natural environment. Please ensure you read the [Turtle Watchers' Code of Conduct](#) prior to heading to the beaches.

For more information on marine turtles in Ningaloo Marine Park and the Jurabi Turtle Centre visit the [Ningaloo Turtle Program website](#) or contact DEC Exmouth District office (08) 9947 8000 or the DEC Milyering Visitor Centre (08) 99492808.