



Information Pack

Welcome prospective volunteers!!!!

Before applying to become a volunteer with the Ningaloo Turtle Program (NTP) please read the following information and submit the 'NTP Volunteer Application Form' via the NTP website (<http://www.ningalooturtles.org.au>) by the 20th September 2010.

Ningaloo Turtle Program

The aim of the NTP is to promote the long-term survival of turtle populations. Volunteers are the key to the success of the NTP; your time will help our efforts to conserve marine turtles, which are threatened with extinction world-wide.

Being a Volunteer

You will spend 4-5 hours every morning (starting at sunrise) walking designated sections of beach recording important turtle nesting information such as the number of successful nests, the number of unsuccessful nesting attempts and evidence of nest disturbance and predation. Volunteers often see adult female turtles returning to the sea and are sometimes lucky enough to see hatchlings emerge from nests and run to the sea. Volunteers are also required to participate in data entry and may be required to assist with turtle rescues.

Volunteer Requirements

- No previous experience is necessary to participate in the NTP. Volunteers are trained in all required techniques.
- Volunteers are required to pass a competency-based assessment in the field to become a certified "Turtle Tracker".
- You must be **18 years old** or supervised by an adult to participate.
- All volunteers are required to participate in the program for the **full five week duration**.
- A **moderate level of fitness** is required to participate in the program. You must be able to walk up to 5.5km, sometimes over rocky terrain and sand dunes in very hot weather (temperatures range between the high 30's to the mid 40's during summer in Exmouth).
- You are required to **make your own way to Exmouth and home again**
- A participation fee of \$1000 is required upon successful acceptance into the program
- Volunteers must be prepared to work approximately **30 hours per week**
- All volunteers are required to participate in early morning monitoring activities and data entry. Some volunteers will be required to participate in remote camping.

Groups

There will be a maximum of 12 volunteers accepted into the program with each volunteer required to stay for the full five weeks that the program is in operation. All participants accepted into the 2010-11 NTP will need to arrive no later than the 12th of December 2010 and be ready to commence training on the 13th of December 2010. Volunteers will finish monitoring on the 21st of January 2011, and accommodation will only be provided up until the 22nd of January 2011.

These dates are not flexible and it is asked that volunteers arrive and depart on the agreed dates, even if you have previously participated in the program. If you wish to arrive earlier or depart later then please organise your own accommodation for that period.

Successful applicants will be notified of acceptance into the program by Friday 8th October 2010 and will be required to pay a deposit of \$200 within 14 days (before close of business on Friday 22nd October 2010). Full payment will be required before close of business on Friday the 12th of November (AWST).

Applicants who do not make the first round of offers will be put on a waiting list and will be notified if they are successful in the second round of offers no later than Monday the 15th of November 2010.

Volunteer Arrivals

Volunteer accommodation will be available from the 12th of December 2010. A bus will be organised to transport volunteers from Exmouth Township to the research station at Cape Range National Park on Sunday the 12th of December.

Accommodation and Living Conditions

- Conditions can be very hot: 35-45 degrees.

Accommodation is provided on a rotation at DEC's exclusive research station and a remote camp both within the Cape Range National Park. Please note these facilities are approximately over 50km from Exmouth and therefore quite a distance from shopping facilities. Volunteers will camp under the stars in tents and swags provided by NTP. Sleeping bags and pillows are also provided but volunteers are required to bring their own linen (a sheet and pillow case is recommended).

The research station facilities include:

- Toilet and shower facilities
- Cooking facilities
- Microwave Oven
- Gas Cooker BBQ
- Laundry facilities
- 3km from beach

The remote camp facilities include:

- Toilet and solar shower facilities
- Camping cooking facilities
- Note only 3 days at a time will be spent on a rotational basis at this camp
- 500m from beach

- Food is provided and volunteers will cook meals on a rotational basis.
- Luxuries are not provided and adequate money should be brought to cover these costs.
- The total participation fee including the cost of accommodation is \$1000. You will be required to pay this in full upon notification of acceptance into the Ningaloo Turtle Program and prior to arriving in Exmouth.
- There is no phone reception within the National Park and only Optus and Telstra networks work in Exmouth Township. A pay phone is located approximately 2km from the research station within the National Park.

Monitoring

Training

Training will be provided in track monitoring, data entry, turtle biology and ecology, and turtle-visitor interaction protocols.

Training takes one week and is primarily a combination of field-based exercises and informal competency assessments. On completion of training volunteers become certified "Turtle Trackers" and have a basic understanding of interaction protocols.

For more information and to download monitoring manuals please see 'Turtle Training' on the NTP website.

Monitoring

Volunteers spend approximately 4-5 hours every morning (starting at sunrise) walking designated sections of beach recording important turtle nesting information such as the number of successful nests, the number of unsuccessful nesting attempts and evidence of nest disturbance and predation. Volunteers often see adult female turtles returning to the sea and are sometimes lucky enough to see hatchlings emerge from nests and run to the sea. Volunteers also may be required to assist in turtle rescues and will assist with data entry.

Your first monitoring day will be approximately one week after your arrival (providing you are found competent in 'Turtle Tracking'). From here you can expect to be rostered on for monitoring most days of the week. The rest of the day will include NTP official social activities within Cape Range National Park and Ningaloo Marine Park. There will also be free time set aside for you to do as you please. NTP staff are open and supportive of any ideas for these activities.

Walking

Volunteers are asked to monitor sections of beach varying from 500m to 6km. This will require you to walk over uneven ground and sandy beaches and occasionally to walk up and/or down steep slopes. Volunteers will need to have a reasonable level of physical fitness to walk these distances. If you have any concerns about this or any health conditions that may adversely affect your capacity to perform these duties, please discuss this with NTP Staff before commencing duties. For non-local volunteers, it is essential that your health conditions are considered before signing up to the NTP.

Suitable footwear must be worn during turtle monitoring activities. Enclosed footwear such as sandshoes or sturdy sandals are best suited to this form of work. Although the monitoring sites are primarily soft sand, there are rocks, shells and glass on the beaches. Suitable footwear will help you avoid injuries therefore volunteers are not permitted to participate in monitoring unless they are wearing enclosed shoes.

Lifting and Handling

The handling of items such as camping equipment, and occasionally turtles, will be required from time to time during the monitoring season. Handling of heavy items should be undertaken by more than one person. Turtle monitoring is a team activity, so share the load with your team-mates. If you have any doubt about how to lift an item, seek assistance from NTP Staff before attempting to proceed.

Communication

GSM or CDMA mobile phone reception is not available at most of the monitoring sites or within the Cape Range National Park. There is access to a pay phone approximately 2km from the research accommodation facilities. Volunteers are trained in the correct use of UHF radios. Once deemed competent to monitor allocated sections of beach alone, each volunteer is provided a handheld radio in their monitoring backpacks. If any kind of assistance is required volunteers are to communicate with a team leader or fellow volunteers via the radios.

Jurabi Turtle Centre

There will be opportunities for NTP volunteers to visit the Jurabi Turtle Centre at night to witness turtle nesting activities.

What will be provided?

- Accommodation within the Cape Range National Park.
- Food; meals will be prepared by volunteers according to a rotational roster.
- Training in: Track monitoring techniques, GPS and radio use, data entry and the loan of course books and materials.
- Transport to and from all official NTP activities carried out during the program, excluding travel from home to Exmouth and return.
- Transport from Exmouth Township to the volunteer accommodation will be provided on the 12/12/10 along with occasional trips to Exmouth Township.
- Limited NTP merchandise.

What to Bring

- Enclosed shoes must be worn for all field work – they may get wet! Therefore it may be useful to bring two pairs. Sandshoes or hiking sandals work well.
- Surprisingly Exmouth can be quite cold at night in summer especially when out on the beaches so be sure to bring some warm clothes – beanies and jumpers do not go astray!

- On the other hand bathers and clothing for very hot day-time weather is a must! Be sure to remember your sunglasses, hats (broad-brimmed is best), a long-sleeved shirt and sunscreen.
- 1L or 2L water bottle/s
- Fly net
- Sheets, towels and a pillow case
- Moisturiser and other toiletries

Optional:

- Personal spending money for luxuries and recreational activities
- Snorkelling/Dive gear
- Camera – Always good to have photos!!!
- Torch with a red filter
- Entertainment such as a book and music player

Other Important Information

- Volunteers find it an advantage to have their own transport while they are here as it enables them to explore the wonderful local surroundings that the Ningaloo Marine Park and Cape Range National Park provide. Exmouth Township is located on the eastern side of the North West Cape and is located approximately 50km from the volunteer accommodation.
- As mentioned previously mobile phone reception is not available at most of the monitoring sites or within the Cape Range National Park. There is access to a pay phone approximately 2km from the research station accommodation. In the town of Exmouth Telstra is the main mobile service provider but Optus also has services in Exmouth now. "Pre Paid" SIM cards and recharges are available in Exmouth for compatible mobiles.
- As previously mentioned Exmouth gets very hot in summer (up to mid 40's). Please be aware of this and your own physical limitations before signing up for the program.

Information on Exmouth Township

Location

Exmouth is located on the North West Cape approximately 1270km North of Perth and has a population of approximately 2500 people.

Climate

Exmouth is blessed with a fantastic climate. With no wet season, it's dry and warm all year. Summer daytime temperatures range from high 30's to mid 40's (average 37 degrees). Water temperatures vary from 18 – 28 degrees.

You will be required to work outdoors for a number of hours during the day. To avoid sunburn, long sleeve shirts, a hat and sunscreen are essential items while monitoring turtles. You should drink a minimum of 2-3 litres of water each day. It is a good idea to start drinking before reaching the site and not allow yourself to become thirsty.

Recreation Activities

Exmouth has a fantastic variety of outdoor recreational opportunities that can be taken advantage of in your spare time while you participate in the program. Just to list a few:

- SCUBA diving, snorkelling
- Fishing
- Bush walking in the Cape Range National Park or the canyons to the south of Exmouth
- Camping
- Joy flights
- Relaxing on the beach and
- Coral Bay is less than two hours drive away

Getting Here

AIRLINES

Skywest Airlines operates daily return flights from Perth to Learmonth Airport, 37kms from Exmouth and 120km from Coral Bay. A shuttle bus meets each flight and for a fee you can catch a ride into Exmouth. The flight takes between two and four hours depending on the number of stop-off points along the way. You can either book over the Ph: 1300 66 00 88 or on-line: www.skywest.com.au

ROAD ACCESS

Travelling from the south to Exmouth along the North West Highway, drive 152km North of Carnarvon and turn left at the Minilya Roadhouse – the Exmouth townsite is another 200km. Travelling from the North, turn off the North West Highway 110km South of Nanutarra Roadhouse onto Burkett Road. From here's it's 80km to the Exmouth Minilya Road. At this junction turn right to Exmouth (89km).

The drive up from Perth usually takes around 13 hours and is best split up for safety, we suggest stopping at Kalbarri. Where possible this drive is best shared with other drivers.

COACH SERVICES Greyhound Australia travels from Perth to Exmouth Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. This journey takes around 19- 24 hrs. The bus departs Perth and heads to Minilya, where you swap buses and continue on to Exmouth, where you arrive at the Exmouth Visitors Centre. Bookings can be made via Greyhound Australia phone 1300473946 or on-line: www.greyhound.com.au. It can be cold on the bus so be sure to take a jumper and a rug.

Transport While You Are Here

Turtle nesting beaches are located about 40 - 60 km from Cape Range National Park. A minibus is used to transport volunteers to these beaches.

Please note: Using your vehicle during volunteer work is at your own risk and the program cannot be held responsible for any damages that may occur. All drivers are encouraged to drive safely, obey all laws relating to motor vehicles and operate vehicles in a responsible manner.

Vehicles are not provided for recreational activities other than official NTP social outings.

Driving

Access to and from each of the monitoring sites is by car or bus. Some beaches require a 4WD. Extra care should be taken when driving on unsealed or unfamiliar roads. Slow down when driving in conditions you are not used to.

Wildlife Wise

Wildlife often crosses country roads, particularly at night and in the early morning. Being aware of this and taking care could save an animal's life and avoid damage to your car. If travelling at night, drive slowly and scan the sides of the road for wildlife (this will also help you keep alert). Remember that animals are very hard to see against a black bitumen road, particularly when it is wet. Take note of wildlife warning signs. They are there to advise you of known 'hot spots'. Animals react differently to approaching cars and it is best to let the animal move off first before passing.

Additional Information on Exmouth Township

Visit the Exmouth Visitor Centre web site on <http://www.exmouthwa.com.au/afrontpage.asp>

Any Questions?

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us (email is the preferred method) and we will get back to you as soon as is possible.

Contacts

- Ningaloo Turtle Program email: ningalooturtles@dec.wa.gov.au
- Postal Address: PO Box 201, Exmouth, WA 6707 (please print “Attention: NTP Volunteer Coordinator”)
- D.E.C. Reception, Exmouth: +61-08-9947 8000
- D.E.C. Exmouth Fax: +61-08-9947 8050 (please print “Attention: NTP Volunteer Coordinator”)

Thank you for taking the time to apply for the NTP program.

Once successful applicants are finalised we will be in contact with all applicants.

We are looking forward to the upcoming season and to meeting new volunteers with a keen interest in turtle conservation!

Kind regards

Ningaloo Turtle Program
Department of Environment and Conservation
Ph: (08) 9947 8032
Email: ningalooturtles@dec.wa.gov.au

