



TURTLES ARE ARRIVING

LET'S ENJOY THEM RESPONSIBLY

Every year, between July and October, Green Turtles come to the beach in Tortuguero to nest. Although Tortuguero witnesses the arrival of **4 out of the 7 sea turtle species in the world**, these other are in such danger of extinction that we do not promote tours to observe them. With this in mind, and abiding to the regulations by the Tortuguero National Park, we present you with this informative bulletin to let you enjoy the Green Sea Turtle night tour, responsibly.

About the tour:

1. Register at Mawamba's reception before 2 p.m. on the same day you want to go and pay the \$ 30 USD per person fee in cash. Infants 3 or younger, are free of charge.
2. The tour bought is valid only for that day, no change of dates available.
3. The National Park sets two schedules for observation (8 or 10 p.m.) and there are 5 observation bases located along the beach. The schedule and base you will be assigned to, is provided by the Park by raffle, no one can choose departure time nor base.
4. Mawamba Lodge will provide round trip boat transportation (when needed), as close as possible, to your departing base. There are some bases that will require some walking from the drop off point.
5. All tour leaders are people from our community. They play an important role in the conservation and sustainability efforts of Tortuguero.
6. Upon arrival to the base, you will be instructed by your guide to wait until the turtle tracker tells him it is safe to go out the beach and observe the process. Tracker wont allow anyone on the beach until the turtle has started laying eggs, and thus, not scared by human presence.
7. We can't guarantee you will see turtles, as this is a natural phenomenon. There are no reimbursements in case no turtles are observed or if you decide not to go in the last minute.
8. Please bear in mind that although the tour provides an unique possibility to see turtles and the nesting process, the main concern of the National Park is to continue protecting this endangered species and wont compromise the nesting process or the safety of the turtles for us, humans.
9. 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:

- a. All visitors must wear black clothes, or very dark.
- b. Smoking, drinking or drug use is absolutely prohibited during the tour. The park reserves the right to expel anyone who is under the influence from the beach.
- c. All excursions are led by a local certified guide trained by the National Park.
- d. Tour guides and participants must follow the Park Rangers' instructions at all times.
- e. No smartphones, mobile devices, cameras nor video cameras or any electronic device is allowed on the beach. Tour guides use a special flashlight to guide the group (you can bring your flashlight to illuminate the path before arriving at the base).
- f. Use closed, strapped shoes (no flip flops nor sandals).
- g. Don't wear perfume and use odorless repellent.
- h. Group maximum size is 10 and each group has the right to stay a maximum of 2 hours at the beach, but may only be able to approach the turtle when its allowed by the tracker. Park rangers may ask participants to leave the beach before the allowed hours are completed if he considers the process has been already observed.
- i. Participants must do this tour as silently as possible and speak in low voice when needed.
- j. You are not allowed to touch or manipulate the turtles or the eggs at any point.
- k. In case the group doesn't adhere to these regulations it will result in the immediate removal from the beach, and will put the guide's credentials at risk.

Don't forget that all the regulations set by the Tortuguero National park have the sole interest of protecting the species, and while you are granted the permission of participating on this tour, you must, at all times, abide by the indicated regulations. The tour cost includes: Handling of all logistics (reservations, round trip transportation, logistical operation and insurance), local certified tour guide, contribution to the turtle seeker program, and National Park fee.