

# Volunteer Information



Welcome prospective volunteers!!!!

Before applying to become a volunteer for 5 weeks (10<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018) with the Ningaloo Turtle Program (NTP) please read the following information.

## Ningaloo Turtle Program

The Ningaloo Turtle Program (NTP) is based in the amazing Ningaloo Marine Park, part of the recently listed Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area. 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 6km in soft sand, 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 \$1300 is required upon successful acceptance into the program including a non-refundable deposit of \$500.
- Volunteers must be prepared to work approximately **35 hours per week**
- All volunteers are required to participate in early morning monitoring activities, data entry and remote camping (volunteers on rotation, each doing approximately five nights during their stay).
- Possession of a full manual driver's license and senior first aid qualification are highly desirable.
- International volunteers are not covered by the Department of Parks and Wildlife's personal insurance so must have appropriate travel insurance to cover any medical costs and provide Parks and Wildlife a copy of this.
- Volunteers must present fit for work each time they are on duty and act in accordance with the Department of Parks and Wildlife Code of Conduct. Breaches of the Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary action, which may include eviction from the program, in which case no refund of volunteer participation fees would be offered. Random breath testing may be carried out through the course of the program and failure to comply or pass tests may lead to eviction from the program.
- Volunteers must not let any other activities or other forms of employment affect their participation in the NTP and completion of duties. Second employment must be approved by Parks and Wildlife in accordance with the Parks and Wildlife Code of Conduct.

## Groups

There will be a maximum of 12 external 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 2017 -18 NTP will need to arrive no later than 5:00pm on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 and be ready to commence training the following morning.

Volunteers will finish monitoring on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2018, which will be the last night of accommodation provided and an end of season social gathering.

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 and will be required to pay a deposit of \$500 before 3:30pm (GMT+8) on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. Full payment of the remaining \$800 will be required before 3:30pm (GMT+8) on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2017.

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 Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2017.

Note: there are various scholarships and funding available to undertake projects like this if you are studying science or environmental studies. Information about the Bayerboost scholarship is available online [www.bayerboost.com.au](http://www.bayerboost.com.au), alternatively contact your University.

## Volunteer Arrivals

Volunteer accommodation will be available from the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 in Exmouth. A bus will be organised to transport volunteers from the airport to their accommodation only on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December. If you arrive any earlier a shuttle bus into Exmouth is available at your own expense. If you have your own vehicle a meeting point will be arranged to show you to your accommodation. Likewise on departure, transport will be provided on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January to the airport. If you decided to depart any later then a shuttle bus to the airport is available at your own expense.

- Conditions can be very hot: 35-45 degrees.
- Two types of accommodation are provided. On a rotational basis you will stay at a remote camp within Cape Range National Park and the remainder of your time will be spent in accommodation provided in the town of Exmouth.

**\*\*Please note the Cape Range National Park is remote, located 40 - 90km from Exmouth and is not accessible by public transport so volunteers find it useful to have their own car whilst in Exmouth so as to access the snorkelling spots and best beaches in their own time\*\***

Shared accommodation in Exmouth is within walking distance to the town centre. Up to 5 people will share a self-contained villa containing three bedrooms (most people will have to share with others), one bathroom and one kitchen. Accommodation costs will be covered in your participation fee for the 3<sup>rd</sup> December – 8<sup>th</sup> January; if you wish to stay longer you will need to organise and pay for additional accommodation yourself. All other expenses are also at your own cost e.g. food, any activities outside the Ningaloo Turtle Program.

While camped in the National Park you will be 50km from Exmouth. Swags, sleeping bags and pillows are provided. The remote camp facilities include:

- Long drop toilet and very basic cold shower facilities
  - Camp style cooking using BBQ and gas cooker
  - Basic food is provided while camping and meals will be cooked by volunteers on a rotational basis
  - 200m from beach
  - No phone reception within the Cape Range National Park
  - Note only 3-5 days at a time will be spent on a rotational basis at this camp
- The total participation fee, which includes the cost of accommodation, is \$1300. You will be required to pay this in full upon notification of acceptance into the Ningaloo Turtle Program by the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017.
  - Exmouth District is subject to periodic cyclone events. The Ningaloo Turtle Program falls during cyclone season and therefore heavy rain and cyclonic weather may affect the activities of the Program. In previous years it has meant that monitoring has been cancelled for a few days until the weather has passed. Adequate cyclone shelter/accommodation will be provided in Exmouth.

## 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 the ‘Turtle Training’ section 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 every morning. The rest of the day may include hanging out in Exmouth or taking part in NTP official social activities within the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area. There will also be free time set aside for you to do as you please. **Please note official NTP social activities are limited so volunteers find it very useful to have their own car in Exmouth to go to the beach, visit iconic spots, and to access Cape Range National Park as no public transport is available and distances can be far.**

### 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 applying for the program** or commencing duties. It is essential that your health conditions are considered before signing up to the NTP.

Enclosed footwear must be worn during turtle monitoring activities. Sandshoes or reef shoes 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

Mobile phone reception is not available at most of the monitoring sites or within the Cape Range National Park. 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 for communication whilst on the beach.

## Jurabi Turtle Centre

There will be an opportunity 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 and Exmouth between the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 and 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018. This includes linen and towels, however bring your own beach towel.
- Food is only provided while camping at the remote camp (approximately 4 or 5 of the 36 nights).
- 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.
- Limited NTP merchandise.

## What to Bring

- You must bring money to purchase your own food and be prepared to share cooking facilities. Note Exmouth tap water is quite hard with a lot of calcium so people with sensitive stomachs may want to purchase water whilst they are here – if so factor this into consideration for your budget. 10L water blocks are available for ~\$11 from the supermarkets. Note, food prices for many items, especially fresh produce, are higher than city prices.
  - 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 sometimes be cool at night in summer, especially when out on the beaches, so you might want to bring one or two items of warm clothing.
  - 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, sunscreen and a beach towel.
  - 1L or 2L water bottle/s
  - Fly net
  - Beach towel
  - Toiletries
- Optional:
- Personal spending money for luxuries and recreational activities
  - Snorkelling/Dive gear – you can hire it in town but recommend you bring your own if you have space
  - Camera and battery chargers
  - Torch (ideally with a red filter). Head torches are recommended for use whilst camping.
  - Entertainment such as a book and iPod that you can use whilst waiting for the NTP bus after monitoring

## 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 Coast World Heritage Area provide. Exmouth Township is located on the eastern side of the North West Cape and is located at least 40km from good snorkelling and exploring sites within Cape Range National Park.
- As mentioned previously mobile phone reception is not available at most of the monitoring sites or within the Cape Range National Park. In the town of Exmouth Telstra is the main mobile service provider but Optus and Vodaphone also work. "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 and Climate

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

Exmouth has a fantastic climate being primarily 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 (tours or snorkel self-guided from the beach)
- Fishing
- Bush walking in the Cape Range National Park or the canyons to the south of Exmouth
- Camping
- Kayak hire
- Microlite flights
- Horse riding
- Glass bottom boat tours, Yardie Creek cruise
- Relaxing on the beach and
- Coral Bay is less than two hours drive away and also has manta ray tours, quad bike tours etc

## Getting Here

**AIRLINES** Qantas operate return flights from Perth to Learmonth Airport (37kms from Exmouth). A shuttle bus meets each flight and for a fee you can catch a ride into Exmouth. The flight takes roughly between 1.5 – 2.5 hours.

**ROAD ACCESS** Travelling from the south to Exmouth along the North West Highway, drive 152km North of Carnarvon and turn left after the Minilya Roadhouse – the Exmouth townsite is another 200km. Travelling from the North, turn off the North West Highway 110km South of Nanutarra Roadhouse right 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, somewhere like Kalbarri/Geraldton/Carnarvon etc. Where possible this drive is best shared with other drivers.

**COACH SERVICES** Check Integrity Coach Lines or Greyhound Australia for current bus schedules between Perth and Exmouth if they are operating. The journey takes around 19- 24 hrs via bus and the air conditioning can be cold so take a jumper and 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 monitor these beaches. Vehicles are not provided for recreational activities other than limited official NTP social outings so you may wish to bring your own so you have more freedom exploring the wonderful local surroundings that the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area.

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.

## 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 cross 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>

## **How to Apply**

Please see the Ningaloo Turtle Program website: <http://www.ningalooturtles.org.au/vacancies.html>

## **Any Questions?**

Visit the Ningaloo Turtle Program website at [www.ningalooturtles.org.au](http://www.ningalooturtles.org.au). Alternatively 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@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:ningalooturtles@dpaw.wa.gov.au)
- Postal Address: PO Box 201, Exmouth, WA 6707 (please print "Attention: NTP Volunteer Coordinator")
- Ningaloo Turtle Program Coordinator +61-08-9947 8032 or Parks and Wildlife Reception, Exmouth: +61-08-9947 8000

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

