

Oaxaca Nature & Culture Adventure



Welcome Letter

Welcome to the Oaxaca Nature & Culture Adventure! We're excited to offer this trip, a chance to see the incredible *arribada*, the mass nesting of olive ridley sea turtles that only happens in a few places around the world. During this trip, we will visit local artisans, beaches, lagoons, and more. We will spend time patrolling a leatherback nesting beach and Escobilla, one of the top 2 beaches in the world for this event.

This trip will be led by our Latin America Director Adriana Cortes, who lives here locally and has worked on several beaches in her career as a researcher who focuses on sea turtles.

With the help of travelers like you, we have generated more than \$1 million for turtle conservation and local communities and have helped to save more than 9 million baby turtles at important nesting beaches. For these efforts, we received the prestigious Changemakers Award from the World Travel & Tourism Council.

Please join us on this action-packed volunteer trip. We hope to SEE you in Oaxaca!



Brad Nahill
President, SEE Turtles
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Right: Neil Osborne

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Trip Information

Join our first adventure to experience the incredible arribada, a mass nesting of olive ridley turtles that can be hundreds of thousands of turtles. The state of Oaxaca Mexico offers incredible opportunities to experience their unique culture, food, and beautiful coastal areas. Over a week, we will visit two nesting beaches looking for olive ridleys and leatherbacks, visit local artisans and families, explore mangroves, lagoons, beaches, and the ocean, and much more. This trip will be led by our Latin America Director Adriana Cortes who lives in the region. Profits from this trip will help to save at least 1,000 hatchlings at a turtle nesting beach per participant.

Is This Trip Right For Me?

Oaxaca is a safe region in Mexico to visit. On this trip, you'll be staying in basic (Escobilla) to mid-level accommodations (Barra & Mazunte), but air conditioning is rarely available. You'll be eating authentic dishes with local families and in restaurants, and participating in fun activities. Activities may be modified due to wind, weather, and other conditions. We don't guarantee wildlife interactions, but this trip is scheduled at the most likely timing for the arribada. There will be various physical activities that require some exertion including kayaking and beach walks though all activities are optional.

Conservation Impact Pricing:

SEE Turtles is the first and only operator to provide transparent pricing that shows the economic impact of each trip on turtle and wildlife conservation and benefits to local communities.

- **Turtle Conservation:** \$850 of the trip price supports partners who work to protect sea turtles
- **Local Communities:** \$665 of the trip price stays in communities around sea turtle habitats
- **Travel Costs:** \$480 of the trip price covers, transportation, accommodations, insurance, and other costs

[Register Here](#)

2024 Dates:

- **Nov 16 - 23**
- **Dec 1 - 8 (full)**

Price: \$1,995 pp

Includes:

All in-country transportation, hotels, most meals (as indicated in the itinerary), activities as listed, round trip airport pickup, guides, tips for meals, and a donation to turtle conservation.

Excludes:

Airfare, personal items, tips for the guides, and travel insurance.

Discounts & Notes:

- \$50 discount for paying by check.
- Maximum group size of 8, minimum of 6.
- Minimum recommended age is 10 years old, under 18 needs to be accompanied by an adult.

Worry-Free Cancellation Policy

Book with us and you'll have peace of mind about your booking. If we cancel a trip, we'll refund 100% of the money paid or put it towards a future trip, your choice. If you cancel, all cancellation fees are usable for future trips with no penalty, except for within 60 days of travel. Check out our terms and conditions for full details.

Detailed Itinerary

DAY 1 - ARRIVE TO PUERTO ESCONDIDO

Fly into the Puerto Escondido Airport (PXM) by 3 pm to meet the group in time to transfer to Escobilla, one of the most important arribada beaches for olive ridley turtles in the world with up to 500,000 nesting turtles in one event (over a few days). After a 30 min drive we will settle into our accommodations upon arrival. That afternoon, we will get an introduction to this extraordinary beach and these fascinating turtles. That night following dinner, we will walk the beach to look for turtles. (Overnight at Hotel Escobilla (2 nights). (D)

DAY 2 - BIRDWATCHING, BEACH TIME, & NESTING TURTLES

Today we will get up early for an optional birdwatching walk (6:30 am). We will have breakfast during our walk. We may see up to 50 species of birds. We will have lunch at Agua Blanca (15 minute drive) followed by some beach time. We will have some time off in the afternoon and meet again for dinner at 7:00 pm. We will walk Escobilla beach again to look for nesting olive ridleys. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 - TRANSFER TO BARRA DE LA CRUZ, BEACH TIME & NIGHT PATROL

After breakfast, we will head to Barra de la Cruz, which is a significant nesting beach for leatherbacks, olive ridleys, and black turtles (2 hour drive). Once we arrive, we will have some time to settle into our accommodations. We will then head to the beach, which is a very famous surfing spot. We are having lunch at the community restaurant and then some time to relax at the beach. This evening, we will have a presentation with the lead biologist of the station about leatherbacks and the work they do. After the talk we will have dinner in a local restaurant. This evening, we will visit the local conservation project station and hatchery. If there are hatchlings, we will release them. We will also patrol the nesting beach looking for nesting turtles. When we find one, we will help the local researchers collect data on the turtles and move the eggs to the hatchery.

DAY 4 - COCONUT FARM & BEACH PATROL

After breakfast, we will visit an organic coconut farm to learn about how this ubiquitous fruit is used for beauty products. We will learn the whole process of this family production and make our own coconut-based soaps. We will also have a presentation regarding the history of the traditional dresses from this region (known as Istmo), one of the most beautiful traditional dresses in Mexico. We are going to have a traditional lunch here and then have some time off to rest and be ready for our second night walk in Barra looking for nesting turtles. (B, L, D)



DAY 5 - WATERFALL TOUR, FREE TIME, & NIGHT PATROL

After breakfast, we will head to San Miguel del Puerto to visit part of the mountains and a beautiful waterfall, which we will have time to explore and jump in and swim. We will have lunch there and then visit a local plant-based products store. Then we head back to Barra de la Cruz. We will have rest time before dinner and then we go to the station for our last night of beach patrol to look for turtles. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 - MAZUNTE, MANGROVE TOUR, & HANDICRAFTS

After breakfast this morning, we will head to Ventanilla (1.5 hour drive), the first community in the coast of Oaxaca to offer ecotourism activities. We will tour a mangrove lagoon by boat to look for crocodiles, birds, iguanas, and more. During the tour, we will visit a small island home to a deer rescue center and small museum that we will visit. We will also visit some local handicraft stands to shop for souvenirs and have lunch in this community.

After this activity, we will take a 10 minute ride to the coastal town of Mazunte. In the afternoon, we will have free time to explore this "Pueblo Magico," named for its charming beach town and the local material used in its constructions. Dinner will be on your own tonight to choose from one of several excellent options. (Overnight at Cabinas Amaia or similar). (B, L)

DAY 7 - BOAT TOUR, SNORKELING, & SUNSET WALK

Today starts with an early morning boat ride (7:30 am) to look for animals including turtles, dolphins, whales, and rays as well as visiting several beautiful beaches. We will stop for breakfast at the beach of Estacahuite, have some beach time, and go snorkeling. We then return to Mazunte for lunch and some rest. In the late afternoon we will visit Punta Comenta, the westernmost point on Mexico's mainland coast, a great spot to catch beautiful sunsets. We will wrap up the day with a celebratory dinner together in Mazunte. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 - DEPARTURE

After breakfast, we will transfer the group to the Puerto Escondido Airport. Or feel free to extend your stay and explore this beautiful region.

*** Itinerary Note:** We will adhere to this schedule as closely as possible, but participants should be aware that due to the unpredictability of the timing of the arribada, our itinerary can change to take advantage of that, though we will aim to include all of the listed activities if possible.



Sea Turtle Research Information

Escobilla

Playa La Escobilla is one of the most important turtle nesting beaches in the world. In the months between June and December, huge numbers of turtles arrive on this beach to nest in large groups known as an "*arribada*." Each year approximately 2 million olive ridley turtles come to nest. The Mexican Turtle Center is the institution in charge of this beach monitoring and protection. They work along with the local communities of this 16 km (10 mile) long beach. These persons, most of them that once had an important income selling turtle eggs or meat, are now working on their protection and with the ecotourism that has been growing the past decade at this beach.

During the *arribada* season there are two important events: first, after more than a thousand turtles are on the beach, they start doing "transects," a standardized method used to calculate the number of nests per event. They count the number of nesting females every 50 meters (164 feet), every two hours until the total numbers drop below 1,000 turtles. Second, around 45 days after an *arribada*, they will have a massive hatching event. During those days, these community groups will go at the beach from dawn and dusk to help the hatchlings to get to the ocean.

Barra de la Cruz

Over the last few years this beach has become one of the most important nesting beaches for critically endangered Pacific leatherbacks which nest on this beach between November and March. This 9 km beach (5.5 miles) has strong waves and white sand. This station has between 200 and 300 nests per season. This beach operates every night during the nesting season; biologists patrol the beach with ATVs every 2 hours throughout the night. When they find a nesting turtle they will wait until they start laying their eggs to work with them: they take measurements, check for PIT tags and tag it if it doesn't have one. Once the turtle finishes, they take the eggs and transport them to the hatchery where they will incubate them until they hatch. The illegal collection of the eggs still a common practice in this area, so nests cannot stay *in situ*. They also take care of the hatchery to release the hatchlings as soon as they are ready after hatching. They excavate the nests following hatching to take data about how many eggs hatched. People from the surrounding communities are also involved in all these activities.



Background Information

Leatherback Sea Turtles

The largest of all sea turtles, and one of the largest reptiles on earth, the leatherback turtle ranges in size from 4-8 feet in length (1.2 - 2.4 meters) and weighs between 500-2,000 pounds (225 - 900 kg). The average adult measures in between 4-6 feet (1.2 - 1.8 m) and weighs 600-800 pounds (270 - 360 kg).

The oldest of all sea turtle species, it has been around for more than 150 million years! They survived the extinction of the dinosaurs and thrived until the last several decades when human interactions have taken a major toll. Leatherbacks are considered vulnerable according to the IUCN Red List, upgraded in 2013 from critically endangered due in large part to efforts around the Caribbean to protect important nesting beaches. [Learn more about leatherbacks on our website.](#)



Olive Ridley Sea Turtles

The second smallest after the Kemp's ridley, olive ridleys weigh between 75-100 pounds (34 - 45 kg) and reach 2 - 2.5 feet (roughly .6 m) in length. They are named for their pale green carapace, or shell, and are the most abundant of sea turtle species. Like the Kemp's ridley, olive ridleys nest in mass groups referred to as arribadas, where tens of thousands or more turtles nest at one time, several times a year.

Adults reach sexual maturity around the age of 15 years. Olive ridleys occur globally and are found mainly in tropical regions of the Pacific, Indian, and Southern Atlantic Oceans. They are primarily pelagic, spending much of their life in the open ocean, but may also inhabit continental shelf areas and venture into bays and estuaries. Arribadas occur in Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Australia, parts of Africa, and India. Worldwide, they nest in approximately 40 countries. [Learn more about olive ridleys on our website.](#)



Accommodations

Posada Blanca (Barra de la Cruz)

Good waves, nice hammocks, and clean rooms with a local family. At Posada Blanca you will find a little paradise between palm trees. All rooms have AC and their own bathroom. This place is only a 5-minute walk to the beach and break of Barra de la Cruz, where you will be able to walk one of the most important beaches in Mexico for Pacific leatherbacks but also one of the best surf spots in Latin America.



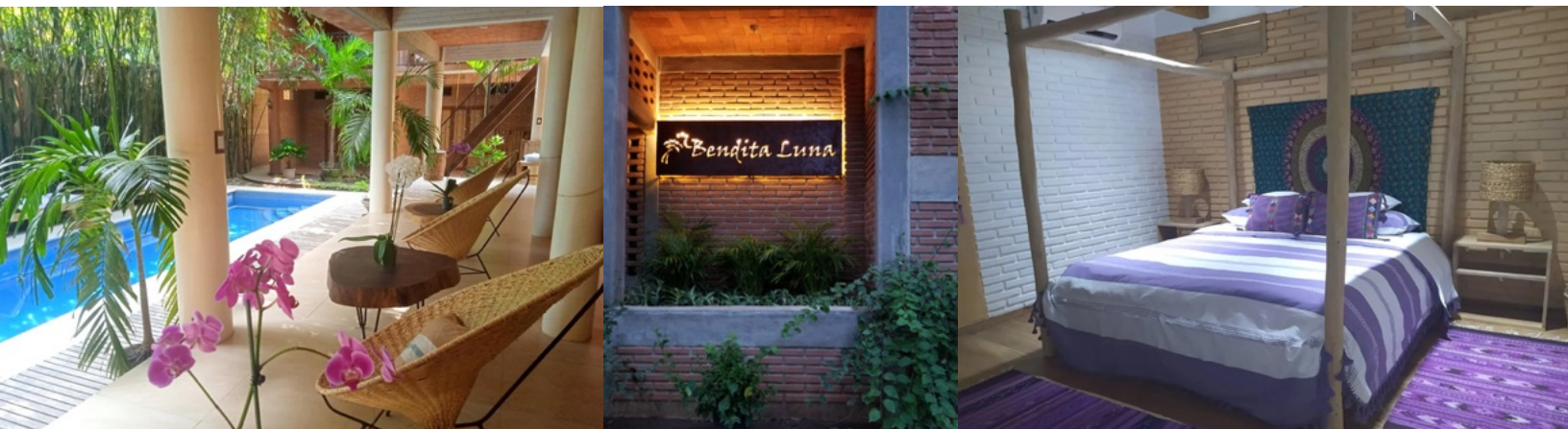
Hotel Escobilla

The hotel at La Escobilla is a family-owned hotel with basic rooms just in front of this great beach. Rooms are equipped with 2 or 3 beds and fans. Bathrooms are shared between two rooms with an internal lock. On the top of the hotel is a "palapa" (thatch roof), which will be the place to spend time and rest during the day with shade, a fresh breeze, and a nice view over the beach.



Bendita Luna (or similar) (Mazunte)

This is a small hotel with a pool where the peace and tranquility you are looking for will accompany you on your tropical rest. Rooms are equipped with single or double beds, private bathrooms, and fans. .



Frequently Asked Questions

Wildlife Issues

Am I guaranteed to see a sea turtle?

We will see olive ridley turtles in the water as well as hatchlings and we have great chances to see nesting olive ridleys. We are also likely to see a nesting leatherback turtle though it will be too early to see leatherback hatchlings.

How does this trip benefit turtle conservation?

SEE Turtles runs sea turtle trips as a way to help save these incredible animals. To participate in the work, we pay a fee to local partners which helps to cover the costs of the conservation and research efforts, so the research is funded by the tour. This trip also supports local communities in growing tourism as an alternative to fishing, which can affect sea turtles. Finally, every tour saves an average of 1,000 hatchlings through a donation to important turtle nesting beaches around the world through our Billion Baby Turtles initiative and also provide support for our Sea Turtles & Plastic and Too Rare To Wear programs.

Will I get to do every volunteer job on the trip?

We are not able to guarantee you'll get to do every job in the volunteer program. We hope to give every participant the opportunity to do each job but it depends on the number of participants, the number of turtles encountered, and the individual circumstances with each animal (sometimes more complicated situations require the researchers to do specific jobs). Tagging is done only the biologists. If there is one specific job you really want to do, let your guide know and they will do their best to accommodate your request.



Logistical/Travel Questions

How much money should I bring?

We suggest bringing at least US \$150 for tips and more for personal needs/shopping. Only in Mazunte a few places accept cards, in the rest of the communities they are not accepted. Mexican pesos (mxm) is the only currency accepted, we recommend to change your dollars at the airport in Mexico City, since they have the best rates you will find or you can take cash from the ATM's at the airport, where you can withdraw funds in pesos. No dollars are accepted anywhere during the trip.

Are ATMs available?

Only at the Huatulco Airport and in Mazunte. In Mazunte, there are no guarantees they will work during your stay. There are no ATM's in Barra de la Cruz or Escobilla.

How much should I tip?

We recommend tipping at the hotels around \$10 per night / \$20 (400 mxm) total per group. For activities, we recommend ~ \$5 per tour per person (100 mxm pp). In total, that would average around \$60 for hotels and \$30 for the activities.

Will I have cell service or internet access on this trip?

Calling home from Mexico can be expensive and challenging, please check with your provider about international coverage and cost. In Barra de la Cruz you can get a cell signal in some parts of the community. In Escobilla, there is no cell service or internet. In Mazunte, you will have cell service and WiFi.

How should I handle medications I need to bring?

If you plan to bring personal medicine, please consider the following:

- Carry just the necessary quantity
- Have the medicines labeled or properly identified.

Do I need any vaccinations before going?

Since we are not doctors, we cannot give you advice on vaccinations. We recommend speaking with your doctor or visiting a travel clinic. You can also check the [CDC website for Mexico](#) for the most up-to-date information.

What is the weather like in Oaxaca?

This region in December is very pleasant. Temperatures average 85 - 90 degrees F during the day and 75 degrees at night. This is the dry season so every day will be sunny.



Conservation Travel

SEE Turtles strives to reduce the environmental impact of our trips wherever possible. Sometimes we need help from you, the traveler, so here are some ways that we (and you) can help.

Tortoiseshell Jewelry

Did you know that tortoiseshell is actually hawksbill sea turtle shell? This is a major threat to hawksbills, which are critically endangered. Souvenirs made from their shells include bracelets, earrings, guitar picks, and combs. Below is a photo to recognizing these items and we encourage our travelers not only to not purchase these items but also to refuse to purchase from stores that offer them and to alert your guide when you see these items for sale. Learn more at SEEturtles.org/TooRareToWear and [download our SEE Shell App to identify these products here](#).

Reducing Plastic Use

Another major threat to sea turtles is plastic in the ocean, which can be confused for jellyfish. SEE Turtles is a member of “[Travelers Against Plastic](#),” an organization that reduces plastic waste created on vacation. We encourage travelers to bring reusable water bottles to refill; you can go through as many as 15-20 bottles on one trip per person. Another suggestion is to ask for no straws with your drinks. Souvenirs can be stored in day packs instead of disposable bags.

Reef-Friendly Sunscreen

Did you know that sunscreen can damage coral reefs? The ingredient “oxybenzone” has been found to cause harm in even very small quantities and an estimated 4,000 - 6,000 tons per year. Look for sunscreen without this ingredient (zinc oxide or titanium oxide are both safe), or wear a shirt while swimming to reduce the need for sunscreen. [Check out this great resource from our friends at Oceanic Society to learn more](#).

Reducing Carbon Emissions

Travel by its nature is very carbon-intensive. Some ways you can reduce your emissions include leaving electronic devices at home, using fans instead of AC, by turning of AC, fans, and lights when not at hotels or cabins, and by using public transportation when possible. For sites with limited electricity, you can purchase a solar powered charger to recharge small electronics. You can also purchase carbon offsets. One we recommend is “[Seagrass Grow](#)” a program with our former organization The Ocean Foundation. The offsets are used to restore important seagrass beds, which are important habitat for green sea turtles.



HOW TO IDENTIFY & AVOID HAWKSBILL TURTLESHELL

Endangered hawksbill turtles are hunted for their shells to make souvenirs. Help save this turtle by avoiding vendors selling turtleshell products.

IMITATION		TURTLESHELL	
	PLASTIC Uniform pattern with markings	 COLOR Browns, oranges, amber, yellow	 PATTERN Assymetric and irregular shapes
	COCONUT Brown on top, beige underneath	 SURFACE Color pattern visible throughout	
	HORN Heavy with black/white coloring		

Download our SEE Shell App



Apple



Android

Conservation Impact Pricing

We believe in transparency and that travelers should know how much their trips are helping, so we now list the impact of every trip on our conservation partners and local communities. Your participation on these trips makes a big difference to the work on the ground and in the water.

We break up the impact into three categories:

- **Conservation:** For this trip, an estimated \$850 of the trip cost supports conservation efforts. This includes funds that go to local partners to protect nesting beaches and conduct in-water research, as well as support for our Billion Baby Turtles and Too Rare To Wear programs and general operations. We also list the amount of volunteer opportunities in each trip. Since our launch, we have generated more than US \$1 million for turtle conservation and our 1,000+ travelers have completed nearly 5,000 volunteer shifts for an additional \$50,000 in in-kind benefits.
- **Local Communities:** For this trip, an estimated \$665 of the trip cost is spent in local communities. We believe that money spent communities around turtle hotspots is as important as direct funding. When communities benefit from turtle watching, they are more likely to support protecting sea turtles and less likely to participate in activities like illegal egg harvesting. This category includes tour costs going towards staying in local accommodations, eating in local restaurants, and paying local staff (including local guides for tourist activities.) We have pumped more than US \$300,000 into coastal communities near sea turtle sites since our launch.
- **Travel Costs:** For this trip, an estimated \$480 goes towards travel costs. Every tour involves costs to get you to places to see the sea turtles, hiring a guide and driver to get you there safely, airport transfers, credit card fees, as well as profits and administrative costs of our local operators and partners.



Recommended Packing List

Pack in a duffel bag/suitcase/backpack that you can carry yourself and a day pack.

*** Indicates required items.**

Clothing

- Shorts & t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- **Polarized sunglasses***
- **Water-friendly sandals or shoes***
- Long-sleeve shirts and pants for patrols
- Socks, underwear
- Tennis or walking shoes
- Hat (with a tie for the wind)

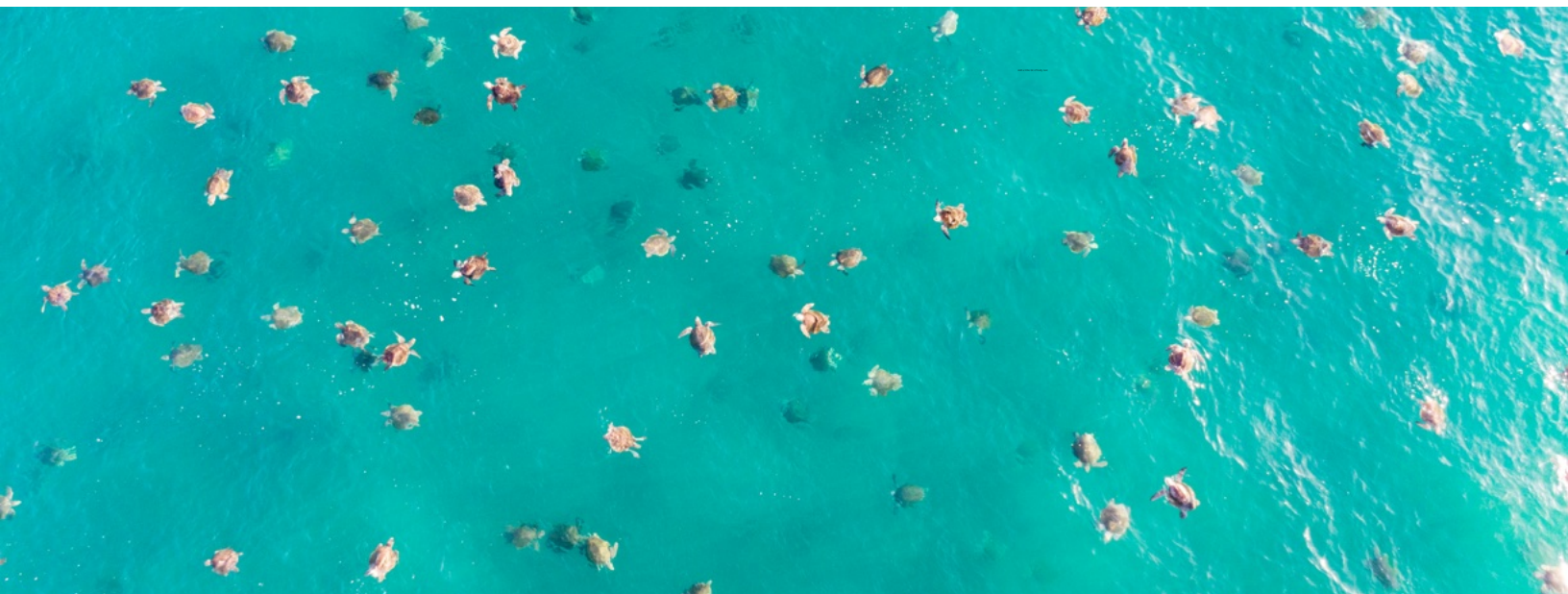
Miscellaneous Gear

- Camera, batteries, battery charger, underwater camera
- Dry-bag for camera and gear
- Day pack
- Bath towel and wash cloth
- Small first aid kit with personal prescriptions
- Binoculars (some may be supplied)
- Flashlight or headlamp (with red setting) & extra batteries
- **Reusable water bottle***

Toiletries & Health

(Please try to bring biodegradable products)

- Toothbrush, toothpaste
- Soap, shampoo, brush, comb
- **Waterproof, reef-friendly sun screen (SPF 30 or higher)***
- Bug repellent
- Skin lotions/ lip balm/ aloe
- Antibiotic cream & band aids
- Snacks for between meals
- Medicine for upset stomachs/diarrhea
- Electrolyte packets (like vitamin C packets)
- Headache medicine
- Personal medicines



About Us

SEE Turtles was launched in 2008 as the world's first effort to protect these species through ecotourism. Since then, we have expanded to include our Billion Baby Turtles, Too Rare To Wear, Sea Turtle Inclusivity Fund, and Sea Turtles & Plastic programs.

To date, we have brought more than 1,500 people to visit turtle projects around the world, generated more than US \$1 million for turtle conservation and local communities, saved 10 million+ turtle hatchlings at more than 60 nesting beaches, and cleaned over 100,000 lbs of plastic from turtle habitats. SEE Turtles is an independent 501c3 organization based in Portland, Oregon.



www.SEEturtles.org
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Photo: Juan Ma Gonzalez

Terms & Conditions

Payment Policies

Full payment of the total price of the expedition is due no later than 60 days (2 months) before departure. Travelers can choose to do monthly payments (the balance of the trip cost after deposit, divided evenly between the remaining months before the final payment is due) or pay 50% of the balance at 120 days before the trip with the remaining balance due 60 days before the trip. Monthly payment plans are not available within 4 months of trip departure. We reserve the right to cancel a reservation if payment is not made on time. In such cases, all payments are non-refundable.

Cancellation Policy

If you cancel your space, it must be in writing and is effective the day we receive it in our office. Your cancellation will entitle you to a refund of any deposit or payment made to us, less a cancellation fee, according to the following schedule:

- 120 or more prior to departure: \$300
- 60 to 119 days prior to departure: 50% of expedition cost
- 59 days or less prior to departure: 100% of expedition cost

Cancellation fees can be used towards one future SEE Turtles trip with no penalties or expiration except in the case of cancellations within 60 days prior to departure, when payments to local providers has already been completed. Any fees paid can be deducted from a future trip, based on available dates for cancellations made before 60 days prior to departure. Trip credits can be transferred one time only, if a second trip is cancelled by the traveler, all fees will be forfeited with the exception of extreme circumstances, which is up to the discretion of SEE Turtles staff.

Transfers

Depending on availability, you may transfer from one trip to another at least four months prior to departure at no charge. If you transfer less than four months prior to departure, you may be subject to the cancellation fees. Registration fees paid may be transferred to another traveler up until 2 months before departure with prior notice provided. In some cases, transfers may be made less than 2 months before departure.

Cancelled Trips

We reserve the right to cancel any trip prior to scheduled departure due to not meeting our minimum number required or logistical problems (vessel breakdown, strikes, etc.). You may transfer to another expedition or we will refund all payments made to SEE Turtles in full. In no event, however, shall our liability exceed the obligation to refund the amount you paid to us. Trip cancellation due to too few registrations normally occurs at a minimum of two months prior to departure. Refunds will not be given for individual hotel rooms, meals, sightseeing trips, or expedition arrangements for any reason. Expedition costs are quoted as a package; credits are not given for services not used.

Trip Cost Includes

Accommodations, airport transfers as specified in the trip itinerary, excursions, entrance fees, local guides, most permits, and meals, unless otherwise indicated in the itinerary. SEE Turtles reserves the right to make any changes in the itinerary or to substitute hotels, modes of transport, or guides, for those mentioned in the literature if circumstances require it.

Trip Cost Does Not Include

The cost of international air to the tour starting point (unless otherwise indicated in the itinerary) airport taxes, passport and visa fees, immunizations, insurance of any kind, alcoholic beverages, laundry, tips, excess baggage, items of a personal nature, medical costs, costs of hospitalization, additional expenses arising from the delay or extension of a trip due to weather, political disputes, illness, failure of transportation, or other causes beyond our control.

Children on Trips

Some SEE Turtles trips are suitable for children, depending on the child's age and experience. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please see the trip information for each trip for minimum recommended ages.

Unexpected Trip Costs

We reserve the right to raise the trip fee if there are cost increases beyond our control. These cases are extremely rare and would only occur where unforeseen cost increases from suppliers would result in a financial loss for the organization. In these cases, registered clients are given the option to transfer or cancel with no penalties.

Accommodations

Land accommodations are based on double occupancy unless otherwise indicated in the trip description. We can try to match single travelers of the same gender but some trips require a single supplement if single rooms are preferred or there is no match available.

Single Travelers

If you are a single traveler wishing to share accommodations, we will try to match you with a roommate. If no roommate becomes available, you may be required to pay the Single Supplement Fee listed in the trip description if applicable. If you request a single, private room you must pay the Single Supplement Fee listed in the trip description regardless of sign-up date. Please note that single accommodations are not always available.

Budget Airfare Caution

We recommend against buying non-refundable airline tickets until your trip departure has been confirmed (usually a minimum of 60 days before departure). Budget air tickets often carry restrictions and penalties in the event of itinerary or date changes or trip cancellation. Please await confirmation of the trip before purchasing non-refundable airfare.

Withdrawal

SEE Turtles reserves the right to require any participant to withdraw from an expedition at any time if the expedition director deems their acts or conduct to be detrimental to or incompatible with the interest, harmony, comfort, or welfare of the expedition. In such cases, no refunds will be given.

Medical Issues

Although SEE Turtles trips are not generally very physically demanding, you must be in general good health to participate. It is the passengers' responsibility to judge the appropriateness of their physical capabilities to these travel activities. Anyone with medical problems or restrictions must make them known to us well in advance of the trip and should have a personal supply of any special medications they may need. The trip leader has the right to disqualify any member from the group at any time if considered medically necessary; no refund will be made under such circumstances. SEE Turtles and its affiliates take no responsibility for special arrangements required by passengers physically unable to complete a trip and assume no liability regarding provision of medical care or medical evacuation.

Release Forms

On some trips you may need to sign an additional release form by our local partners and/or tour operators.

Suppliers of Services

SEE Turtles is performing a nonprofit service by informing potential participants of worthwhile expeditions. However, SEE Turtles is acting independently and has no business association as partner or joint venture with any boat owner, resort, hotel, carrier, SCUBA operation, or other services. Any claims for inadequate performance or non-performance of services may be made against the supplier of those services but shall not be made against SEE Turtles.

SCUBA Diving

SEE Turtles does not offer SCUBA diving as part of any of our trips. Participants may participate in diving while on a trip but acknowledges that SEE Turtles has no responsibility for the actions, performance, or equipment of any SCUBA services offered by hotels or dive shops. We recommend that any travelers planning to dive while on a SEE Turtles trip research the safety record of the operators and obtain additional divers insurance.