

Turtle Watching Code of Conduct

NESTING SEASON: OCTOBER TO MARCH

Ningaloo's beaches are important nesting areas for marine turtles. Please follow these simple rules to keep turtles and hatchlings safe.



01 NO GLOW

Use the moon to see by. No white torches, flash or phone screens near the beach. Red light only, hand partly over it.



02 MOVE SLOW

Walk slowly along the water's edge, stop often and never run towards a turtle or a hatchling.



03 STAY LOW

Sit, crouch or lie in the sand, and stay behind her, out of her line of sight.



04 LET THEM FLOW

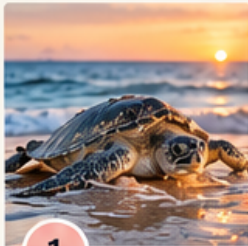
Never stand between hatchlings and the sea. Do not pick them up or carry them. Keep still and let them go.

Keep your distance 15 metres back

While she is crawling up the beach, digging or returning to the water, stay at least 15 m back. Only once she is laying eggs can one person quietly approach from behind.



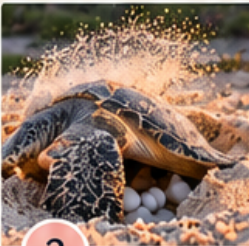
The nesting sequence and when you can get closer



1 EMERGING

Crawls up from the water, may rest.

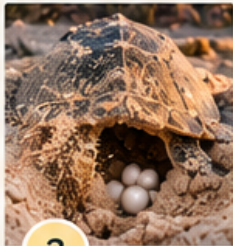
HIGH RISK
Stay back



2 BODY PIT

Front flippers, sand flying everywhere.

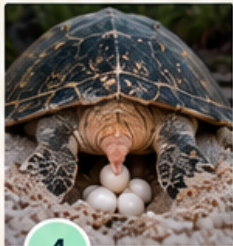
HIGH RISK
Stay back



3 EGG CHAMBER

Rear flippers only, gentle rocking.

MEDIUM RISK
Wait



4 LAYING

Very still, slow heaving motion.

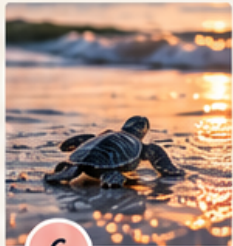
LOW RISK
One person behind



5 COVERING

Fills and disguises the nest.

MEDIUM RISK
Back to 15 m



6 RETURNING

Crawls back to the sea.

HIGH RISK
Clear path



No dogs.



No vehicles.



No lights.

ningaloostation.com.au