

How to Prepare for JTP

What to know:

Turtles nest here starting in March and April, peaking in June July August, and then finished by November.

Tioman is a semi-remote Island, so you need to be especially careful and safe while here.

We want you to **research about Sea turtle conservation before you come here** so you can be familiar with the conservation issues sea turtles face here on Tioman and world-wide. It will help put your trip here in context.

JTP is different than a hostel, as we have activities and work which **we expect you want to get involved** in. However JTP is different than an all-inclusive program, as we don't plan activities for your whole day- we need your help.

We have a minimum stay requirement of 4 nights ...otherwise the time is too fast to be very useful.

Tioman has only one ATM which is in Tekek, on the other side of the island from Juara and JTP so plan ahead.

When you arrive to Tioman via ferry, get off at the Tekek stop. The flights only go to Tekek. Don't get a taxi from the airport; get one in the street it will cost less (rm60-70). Take the taxi to Juara, all the drivers know us.

It is common to feel some culture shock for at least a couple days. It's happening because life is different here when you're living and working, and it takes some thought and acclimation.

The project facility and volunteering program is very free and open. There is lots of work to do, but take your time to get comfortable with the location, materials and methods before trying to save all the sea turtle.

When you arrive we give an orientation that explains most everything about the project and your time here, at that time we will also go over our liability papers and operating procedures. If you're under 18, you must come with a friend, and you must bring our "JTP Understanding of Risk" form with you, signed by your parents or guardian.

What to bring:

Pack your clothes as if you are going camping for an extended period. Expect to get wet any time of day.

If you looking to be generous please bring outdoors items, kitchen items, garden or shop tools, and you can leave them here when you leave! Check out our volunteer wish list to see the various things we need or want, whether its tools, supplies or food.

Bring torch-lights with red light, but if you cannot we can provide some for you.

If you bring nice clothes, please bring work clothes as well because you're going get dirty at some point.

Strap on sandals, or tennis shoes that you don't mind getting wet are very useful. Sometimes we have to walk over incredibly slippery and wet rocks to reach certain beaches and other areas. Not thongs/ flip-flops.

Feel free to bring anything that you can share around or donate when you leave. For example; foods, candy or coffee, DVDs and books too. Any types of books within a range of subjects are appreciated: sea turtles, biology, novels, how-to, field guides, etc. Also anything for education, crafts, cooking, tools, garden

Volunteer Activities: (list on next page. .)

If you are a **long-term volunteer** here (from a few weeks to a couple of months) it's possible for you to conduct your own project while here. If this is something you are interested in please let us know before you come so we can start to develop your idea(s) together. We want to facilitate your ideas as much as possible. Beginning a dialogue with us about what people have done in the past, as well as looking through photos and resources online will help a lot. You don't have to come up with your own project if you don't want to, and you can simply become involved with everything else we do on a daily basis.

If you are a **short-term volunteer** here (few days to a few weeks) then you can just help us out in whatever is needed to get done on a daily basis. In addition to the conservation work this can include: taking care of our resident blind Green turtle, keeping our facilities clean, gardening, maintenance, construction, giving turtle talks to the general public, and more. Or if you are ambitious and have a project idea, that is ok as well.

To see what people really do while here.:

Please take a look through the photos and videos we post online on our website, You Tube and Facebook,

Basic idea for activities is to help the staff by handling jobs, also enjoy yourself, and be on standby to help more is needed...

Basic Volunteer Activities are:

Night beach patrol
Morning beach patrol
Morning boat patrol
*Putting eggs in the hatchery
*Releasing babies
*Taking data on nesting turtles
Help clean-up visitor area etc
Turtle talks for visitor information
Feeding disabled turtles (JO)
Cleaning turtle tanks
...and be on standby for helping staff
(*= only if there are turtles!)

Other activities may be:

Food gardening
Composting!!
Repair or Maintenance inside or out
Making Info signboards
Working on boat or motorbikes
Paperwork like data, or graphs
Helping to lift, dig, or clean
Construction work.. Malay style
Talking conservation concepts and plans
Making education materials

Recreation activities can be:

Snorkeling
Small Kayaks
Trekking
Jetty Jumping
Reading/ talking about turtles etc.
Rock climbing
Exploring town

What else:

We cannot guarantee Sea Turtles! If you want to easily see and photograph turtles please go snorkeling, scuba diving, or go to the aquarium. Or you can help here and possibly see a turtle, but maybe after 30 years of hard work the natural population will rejuvenate and we can all just go stand on the beach to see turtles all summer long.

We love turtles where they are, and **we love to leave them alone**. Conservation is about protecting nature and its various ecosystems, to give it the opportunity to live and grow (evolve) on its own. Conservation has nothing to do with people seeing animals and plants, but seeing these things is great, and we agree it's a wonderful side effect of conservation!

Costs and Fee's:

The 'cost' to be involved is really support for the project... we need your effort and money to keep this place going. We have a minimum stay requirement of 4 nights because of involvement and the learning curve.

Costs: All cost are per night/ per person:

Turtle Season Cost: (March – November)
Rm 120 per night/ per person
Rm 700 per week/ per person
Rm 2,500 per month/ per person

Off Season Cost: (December – February)
Rm 80 per night/ per person
Rm 2,000 per month/ per person

Malaysian Residents: (Because it is great to have in-country involvement)
Discount can be discussed **if necessary only please**.

Staying with JTP costs **more than a usual hostel**, but **less than an average volunteer program**.

Your stay here includes:

Accommodations on site. Full size breakfast and Lunch. Drinks (coffee, tea, juice). Laundry (do it yourself). Recreation equipment (snorkel, kayak, camping,). Kitchen. Plenty of work to do. Program and guidance. Supplies for projects. Internet WiFi. Cats. Motorbike lessons. Rakes.
(Dinner is not included: you can either cook here or go to town and support local business)

Rooms:

Sleep 6-7 people with two Western bathrooms in each. Normally there are 1-4 people in one room. We will auto-separate boys and girls unless requested and all are comfortable otherwise. Each room also has one queen-size bed availability.

Couples and Families get priority for private rooms.

Photos of the rooms and facilities are on the website and FaceBook

