
Juara Turtle Project

Group program information

15 December 2019



How to Prepare for JTP

What you should know **BEFORE COMING**:

- The Sea turtle nesting season here starts in **March/April, peaking in June, July & August**, and then finishes by November. The monsoon season typically starts in late December and finishes in February, and it varies slightly every year in recent times partly due to rapid climate change that is occurring all over the world.
- Pulau Tioman is a **semi-remote island** that lies off the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia, in the South China Sea. It is a nature reserve, ringed by beaches. The island is covered in tropical rainforests, home to many different and exotic animals. On the east coast is Juara Turtle Project which is located in Juara village.
Note: **JTP is located next to the jungle and beach**, therefore please be ready to encounter animals like snake, rat, lizard, bat, monkey, mosquito, sandfly, scorpion, cockroach, spider, butterfly etc. We also have some resident animals living in and around JTP - 7 cat, 6 chicken, several huntsman spiders and occasional dog visit.
- JTP is a **people's project!** It operates an information centre for visitors to come visit and get an educational tour to learn about the work that is being done to help the sea turtle population. Throughout the year, volunteers come in to support and contribute to the sustainability of the project. The volunteer program offer people a glimpse into conservation and a chance do things they do not normally do.
- We want you to do some reading or research about sea turtle conservation and Tioman Island before you come here so you can be familiar with the **conservation issues sea turtles are facing on Tioman and other parts of the world**. It will help put your trip here in context. If you are coming from another country with different culture, it is common to experience some "culture shock" when just arrive. It happens because life here is different from where you are living or working and it is normal to take some time to adjust and acclimate.
- **JTP is NOT a hotel or guesthouse**. We have tasks and work which we expect you to get involved in. JTP programs is different from an all-inclusive program, as we do not plan activities for your entire day. During the day, you will help out at the project for anywhere between 3 to 4 hours and you will get free time for the other half day. The project facility and volunteering program is very free and open. There is a list of work to do, but take do take some time to get comfortable with the location, materials and methods.

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- **Shops in Juara village are basic** and sell less than half the variety of things you find everywhere else. They are located 5 to 15 minutes walk from JTP.
 - Between 2017 and 2018, JTP started 4 new initiatives:
Coral Restoration Project, Juara Animal Welfare, Juara Plastic-Free.
Volunteers will spend anywhere between 1 to 2 hours or more to support the daily operations of Juara Animal Welfare and Juara Plastic-Free each day.
The Coral Restoration Project tasks will vary depending on the time of the year.
 - **Volunteers must be able to swim and tread water in the ocean.**
This is because due to the nature of the in-water tasks, volunteers will need to be confident or at least comfortable being in the ocean.
 - We have a **minimum stay requirement of 4 nights for group program.**
Otherwise the time is too short for volunteers to learn to do tasks and be up to speed and efficiency.
 - **Accompanying school teacher or leader will be responsible for all students or group.**
The minimum number of teacher/ leader to student/ volunteer ratio is 1:7.
JTP can only accommodate up to a group size of 14 students/ volunteers and 2 teachers/ leaders.
 - Students/ volunteers **under the age of 18 are required to print out a copy of the “JTP Memorandum of Understanding” form, which will need to be read and signed by the parent or guardian, then brought to JTP and submit to JTP staff upon arriving at the centre.** Failure to do so, he/she will not be allowed to stay at JTP and participate in any program.
 - A good initiative from School/ University/ Group programs is to **raise money for their trip to JTP or for JTP.** Everyone has potential to start a fund raiser in their school or club. It is a very good way for them to spread the word about sea turtles and JTP. We really appreciate these initiatives as they contribute greatly towards the success of the conservation work for sea turtles and also Tioman Island.

What **TO BRING**:

- Cash to pay us and extra cash (Malaysian ringgit RM) to buy items at the local convenience store or souvenirs at JTP.
There is **NO ATM services in Juara village**. The whole Tioman island has only one ATM which is in Tekek village, where you get off the ferry to go to Juara Village. Please take note and plan ahead!
- **Pack your clothes as if you are going camping** for 4 nights or longer. Please also **bring your own towel** as we do not provide any. If you bring nice clothes, **please remember to bring clothes for working that can get dirty/ wet** because you will be involve in some manual/ outdoor work at some point.
- **Strap-on sandal, or tennis shoe 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 during boat patrol. Trekking/ sport shoes is important if you want to do some trekking while you are here.
- **Bring torchlight or headlamp that has RED LIGHT function** for beach patrol at night and when there is power cut, but if you cannot we can provide you with one.
- Insect repellent, reef-safe sun-protection cream/ spray, a hat or cap, personal medication if any. **There are no hospital/ emergency services in Juara village**. Anyone seeking medical help/ medication or emergency service will need to go to Tekek village which is 30 to 45 minutes by car.
- **If you are feeling generous, you are welcome to bring working equipment/ items/ tools for the outdoors, kitchen, garden, rooms, boat etc and donate to the project.**
For example; computer, camera, plant seeds, water-proof notebooks, food, coffee, tea and books too. Any type of books within a range of subjects are appreciated: sea turtles, biology, novels, how-to, field guides, education etc.

Note: We understand many things come in plastic packaging or are made of plastic etc. Please know that we are striving and doing our best to reduce the amount of plastic coming to the island or being produce. We do not encourage single-use plastic items in general and we do not mind skipping all the snack food that are individually wrapped in plastic. So please think before you purchase anything for us or even yourself. Thank you!

General packing list:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clothes for 4 nights stay or longer (at least 1 pair of long pants)• Shoe/ sandal for hiking and water• Towel• Water bottle• Waterproof garment (it can really rain in the tropics)• Swimwear• Waterproof bag/ sack• Basic personal first-aid kit | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Insect repellent/ Anti-itch cream (if insect repellent does not work)• Biodegradable personal hygiene items• Sunglasses• Electronic devices; Laptop, camera, phone etc (we have electricity for charging and internet but it is not fast and reliable)• Waterproof watch• Torchlight/ headlamp with RED LIGHT• Books, music etc |
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*If you are unsure about something that you are bringing, please communicate with us prior to coming so that we are able to advise you accordingly.

What to know **UPON ARRIVING:**

- When you arrive to Tioman via ferry, **get off at the Tekek village stop**. To get across the island from Tekek to Juara, we encourage you to take a taxi car. On the street it will cost around RM50-70/ person or RM30-35 per person if sharing with more people.
- When you arrive, you will be showed to your accommodation and then a JTP staff will give an **orientation that will take roughly about 30 - 45 minutes**. The orientation will explain about the project and your time here, during that time we will also go over our liability papers and operating procedures. During the orientation, volunteers will be brief on the currently on-going tasks which can be anything related to research, community work, outreach programs etc. Lastly, you will be brought around and get introduce to the project centre area and facilities.
- The project centre will have **volunteers and staff from many different countries**. Take your time to get to know everyone and have an open mind to the new environment.

VOLUNTEER TASKS:

- **Group program differs from the normal volunteer program** in terms of tasks and activities. Depending on the stay duration, tasks and activities will be planned such that all volunteers will make the best of their time here. During your time here we will be giving **presentations about sea turtle conservation, coral reef restoration, nature and plastic pollution** to help you understand our work here better.
- **Teacher or leader in charge will need to discuss with JTP program coordinator** to plan an itinerary for the group.
- The basic idea is to **help the staff and project by taking on tasks and be ready to help whenever needed**... But of course enjoy yourself, your time here and participate in recreational activities too!

General volunteer tasks:

• General upkeep of project area	• Help at Juara Animal Welfare
• Night/ morning beach patrol	• Recyclables collection and recycling
• Morning boat patrol to remote nesting beaches	• In-water sea turtle Photo Identification
• *Assist in relocating sea turtle eggs to the hatchery	• Research/ discussion about conservation issues
• *Releasing sea turtle hatchlings	• Beach clean up
• *Assist in performing nest excavation	• Village clean up
*Only if there are nesting sea turtle(s) or eggs	• Working in the gardens
• Giving sea turtle information talk to visitors	• Coral block construction
	• Painting

Recreational activities you can do during your free time and outside JTP:

• Swimming/ snorkelling	• Local agriculture farm visit
• Kayaking	• Exploring village/ town
• Trekking	• Campfire/ barbecue night
• Beach volleyball	• Local dinner in village

Example of Group program schedule for 4 nights:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5:30AM - 7:00AM	Morning beach patrols				
7:00AM - 9:00AM	Boat patrol to remote nesting beaches				
8:15AM - 10:00AM	Breakfast/ Morning chores/ Juara Animal Welfare				
10:00AM - 12:30PM	Arrival/ Orientation	Sea Turtle Photo I.D	Trekking to waterfall	Beach Clean Up	Departure
12:30PM - 2:30PM	Lunch/ Swim Assessment	Lunch/ Free Time			
2:30PM - 5:00PM	Coral Restoration Talk/ Coral Block Making	Plastic Pollution Talk/ Documentary	Recycling	Round-table Discussion/ Info Talk	
5:00PM - 6:00PM	Board meeting/ Evening chores				
6:00PM - 10:00PM	Dinner time/ Free time				
8:00PM - 5:30AM	Night beach patrols (Timings depend on high tide)				

*Program/ tasks are subjected to changes due to weather, logistics or ad hoc activities



WHAT ELSE TO KNOW:

- **We cannot “*guarantee sea turtles*”! We do not keep any sea turtles** because they belong in the ocean which is their natural habitat and there they are able to fulfil their roles & responsibilities in maintaining a balance ecosystem.

Volunteering and helping at JTP is contributing towards all the hard work that is being done in order for the natural population of sea turtles to rejuvenate. Then we can all go stand on the beach or go to the sea and be able to see sea turtles all summer long.



COST AND FEE:

The cost and fee goes directly to supporting the project. Sea turtles do not pay us to look after them and protect their habitat! Therefore, we need your support and money to keep this place going.

Group volunteer program availability:

March – October (Turtle-Season) - RM 200 per night/ per person

***Payment must be made upon arrival at the project and during orientation. We prefer to receive cash (RM)**, unless necessary we can discuss online bank transfers.

***Malaysian Public Schools will receive a 20% discount** on volunteer program cost.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM COST/ FEE INCLUDES:

- **Volunteer program tasks and activities if any, accommodation, facilities on site, breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks (coffee, tea), laundry machine, kitchen, plenty of work to do, basic internet WIFI.**
- **Basic recreation equipments** like kayak, snorkelling mask and snorkel, bicycle, volleyball, frisbee, board games.

ACCOMMODATION:

- The **dormitory style room has 7 single beds with two western-style bathrooms** each. It can accommodate up to 7 people. Unless necessary or for group programs, the dormitory rooms will only have a maximum of 5 volunteers at any given time.
Volunteer will be allocated to a room with the same gender volunteers.
- **Teacher and group leader will be accommodated in a private room that has 1 queen and 1 single bed.**



How to **GET HERE**:

Tioman Island is located around 32km off the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia, on the border between the Johor and Pahang states of Malaysia.

- **By bus, car or taxi** from within Malaysia or from Singapore to Mersing (Johor state) or Tanjung Gemok (Pahang state) ferry terminal. **Then a ferry to Tioman Island.**

Note: It is important to know that the **ferry timing is different daily**, due to the changing tide levels each day.

There are **2 ferry service company operating: Bluewater Ferry or Cataferry Ferry** from Mersing or Tanjung Gemok. The ferry timetable for a particular month is only released around the 15th of the previous month, so it is therefore difficult to plan too far in advance. Do contact the ferry service company to communicate if you need to plan way ahead.

Note: You will need to pay a **Tioman Marine Park Conservation fee** (adult/child RM30/15) at Mersing or Tanjung Gemok before travelling to the island.

Bluewater Ferry (+60 7799 4811), www.bluewaterferry.com.my

Cataferry Tioman Ferry (+60 9413 1445), www.cataferry.com

Tickets: RM35-RM40 per person, per way.

- **Get off the ferry at Tekek village stop and then take a taxi car from across the ferry terminal.** On the street it will cost around RM50-70/ person or RM30-35 per person if sharing with more people.



*If you are still uncertain on how to get here. There is plenty of information on the internet that you can easily look up about how to travel to Tioman Island, Malaysia, from your location.

Thank you for reading through all the information. If you are interested in joining our group program, please send us an email with a date in mind and to discuss further about the program itinerary. Have a good day and see you soon!