



Turtle Walk Program

What is a Turtle Walk?

A fun, educational night program about sea turtles beginning in Gumbo Limbo's classroom, followed by an ecology walk along the beach... and the chance to see a nesting loggerhead sea turtle!

How do you find the nesting sea turtles?

A trained Gumbo Limbo Scout will be searching the beach for a nesting loggerhead turtle. If one is found, the Scout will radio to Staff. We will caravan to the location of the sea turtle.

What if we do not get to see a nesting turtle?

The sea turtles have their own schedule (and they don't share it with us), so we do not always get to see one. In the past our success rate has ranged from approximately 50% to 75%. If we do not witness a sea turtle on the beach, the program will end at midnight. Because the presence of a sea turtle is out of our control, refunds, rescheduling, or other compensation is not available if a nesting loggerhead is not seen.

Will we get to touch a sea turtle?

This is a hands-off program. Per our Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Marine Turtle Permit; only the individuals listed on our permit can touch the sea turtles.

Where do we go on the night of our reservation?

On the evening of the program, park in Gumbo Limbo's parking lot and follow the "Program" signs to the classroom. Please bring your email confirmation. Check-in will begin at 8:30 PM, and the presentation will begin promptly at 8:45 PM. After the presentation is complete, we will caravan to the beach for an ecology walk. You will need your own transportation to the beach.

What if it rains?

Bring a raincoat! Sea turtles will nest in the rain, so our program will go on. If there is lightning, we will not go to the beach; but we will not make that decision until that evening (afternoon storms often clear up in the evening).

Can I take pictures or use my phone at the beach?

Cameras without a flash may be used. Video cameras without lights produce good results especially if they have infrared "night shot" ability. Cell phone use is not permitted on the beach; the light from your phone will disturb turtles. Flashlights and other lights are not allowed on the beach.

Anything else I should know?

Be prepared to walk in the sand for an hour or so. Participants who do not wish to walk may bring chairs and wait in the pavilion. It is recommended that you wear medium or dark colored clothes. Sneakers or

sturdy sandals are best for walking in the sand. You may want to use bug spray to protect yourself against mosquitoes.

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