

# INFORMATION SHEET FOR A NIGHT WITH SEA TURTLES



JULY 2020

*Welcome to AusTurtle's Inc. fundraising dinners to raise funds for Sea Turtle research on Bare Sand Island.*

*We graciously thank Sea Darwin Eco Tours. Without their generous support these fundraising dinners on Bare Sand Island (BSI) could not take place. AusTurtle Inc. is a small, local, not-for-profit organisation so your support will directly help our research activities.*

**Please Note:** As there is a boat trip and because BSI is very exposed, we reserve the right to cancel the dinners if unfavourable sea conditions and/or strong winds would make your experience uncomfortable, unpleasant and/or unsafe. We will of course refund your money if this occurs. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that sea turtles will nest. However, as this is the peak nesting period it is very unlikely we will not see any turtles nesting (we are yet to have a fundraising dinner without a sea turtle guest!)

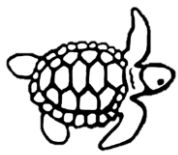
**What to expect:** Our aim is provide you with a carefree and memorable experience. The dinner is designed to be informal and relaxed, with the timing of food courses influenced by turtle comings and goings. This means, when the first turtle is seen coming up to lay, we encourage people to take a 'break' from dinner to watch - but this is entirely up to you! Last year guests were about 30 minutes into dinner and left to watch a turtle. After that they came back and forth between laying turtles, dinner, and hatchling releases. It is up to you! AusTurtle Inc.'s volunteers will be there to assist and advise you.

**Dietary Requirements:** The menu (yet to be set) will cater for both vegetarians and meat eaters but if any of our guests have special dietary requirements, please let us know. There will be the option of noting on your booking a dietary requirement. We will try to accommodate you. Please email Andrew at [austurtle@austurtle.org](mailto:austurtle@austurtle.org) especially if you have allergic reactions, intolerances to common foods or any other queries about the night. We won't have any seafood in the menu for this reason.

Last year the menu comprised of: before dinner drinks and cheese and dip platters; an entrée of chicken satay sticks or Thai pumpkin soup with fresh bread; a main course of vegetable tagine with couscous; and for dessert a selection of dessert cakes, biscuits, chocolates, cherries, tea and coffee. Beer, wine, soft-drinks, fruit juice, and chilled water will be provided.

Please note: The menu will be finalised closer to the time of the dinners.





**What to bring:** Informal dress is preferable. Your clothing will need to reflect BSI conditions of late afternoon sun, sand, and perhaps an evening chill. For the return boat trip it is recommend to bring a light jacket or jumper as the night breeze can be very cool, accentuated by the speed of the boat. The vessel will beach its bow on BSI with steps to the beach/water's edge so you may get your feet wet so it's suggested to wear easily removable footwear (Last year many guests took shoes off and went bare foot on BSI!). Other things you may like to consider bringing are: a camera, mobile phone, hat, long sleeved shirt, water-bottle, and sunglasses. If you have your own head torch with red light, please bring it. We will provide communal sunscreens and insect repellents. BSI does have some biting insects though our volunteers only occasionally get bitten. However, those who are susceptible to mosquitos, sand-flies or midge bites are advised to use repellents as a precaution, especially if there are no sea-breezes to keep these insects away. The vessel has an on-board toilet for guests.

**Turtle Etiquette:** Turtles have relatively poor eyesight on the beach but can be easily spooked by lights, sharp noises, and moving shapes. AusTurtle Inc. personnel will guide you in groups to the nesting turtles to minimise the risk of disturbing them. Once a turtle has decided on a nesting site and begins to dig we can approach her, but we need to remain behind her as a group and keep noise to a minimum. After laying has finished you may have opportunities to take flash photography but you will need to listen to AusTurtle Inc. personnel. We will provide head torches for guests on the night but again please ask about when and where to use these around turtles. You will also have the opportunity to handle and release hatchlings.

**Keeping in Contact:** Andrew will be sending all dinner guests an email a week before the dinners as a gentle reminder for you. It will also provide an opportunity to confirm where and when you need to be to catch the boat. The meeting point is at Stokes Hill Wharf – Dock 2 and will most likely be at 4pm on your chosen night (10th or the 11th July 2020). This will be a great time to ask any questions or queries you may have too.

*We look forward to seeing on Bare Sand Island in July*

