



#DESERTTORTOISEWEEK

First Week Of October 2023

#DesertTortoiseWeek is all about appreciating this iconic desert animal! Learn about strategic adaptations and protection measures that promote a successful future for the tortoise. Join federal agency specialists and staff from conservation groups to share knowledge and ideas, and participate in events supporting this charismatic reptile.



*Juvenile Mojave desert tortoise
Photo credit: USFWS*

Social Media Events for #DesertTortoiseWeek

Monday, October 2, 2023 - Desert Tortoise Education in Action

Post fun facts about desert tortoises on your social media account. Desert tortoises are incredible animals. Do your part in learning what you can do to help the species. #deserttortoiseweek #education

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 - Cover our Tracks in Desert Habitat

Keep our deserts clean for yourself, others, and tortoises! While hiking or exploring the desert, pick up trash. Post photos on social media and reach out to a local conservation group for assistance. #deserttortoiseweek

Wednesday, October 4, 2023 - Desert Habitat Appreciation Day

Hike in beautiful desert habitat, take photos, post on social media, and practice social distancing and other safety precautions while enjoying the outdoors. #deserthiking

Thursday, October 5, 2023 - Tortoise Perspective Challenge

Ever wonder what it is like to see through a tortoise's eyes? Take a photo from the perspective of a desert tortoise and post it on social media. Be sure to keep a safe distance away if you find a desert tortoise. #deserttortoiselife

Friday, October 6, 2023 - Desert Tortoise Movie Night

Friday night is movie night! Watch a desert tortoise film with family and friends. Check out :

The Heat is On: Desert Tortoises and Survival (youtube.com/watch?v=kingkupAmTo)

Saving Desert Tortoises from Extinction (youtube.com/watch?v=qQis4fQuUYw)

The Road To Recovery (vimeo.com/526980854/9da53c724f) #movienight #deserttortoiseweek

Events for #DesertTortoiseWeek

Desert Tortoise Week Kickoff with a Desert Clean Up Day, Clark County Nevada

September 30, 2023, 8:00 am (PDT)

Details: Help to improve desert tortoise habitat within the Boulder City Conservation Easement by cleaning up trash around the area. All are invited to help us clean up the area to make it safer for tortoises and other desert wildlife that call the BCCE home.

Contact: Audrie Locke, Public Outreach Coordinator, to sign up at: 725-270-4286

Location: Boulder City Conservation Easement, Boulder City, NV

Tortoise Table at Joshua Tree National Park Cultural Center

Daily, October 1 through October 7, 2023, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm (PDT)

Details: Drop in between 10am and 2pm to join park staff for information, presentations, and tortoise themed activities including the famous "Wheel of Tortoise."

Contact: Joshua Tree National Park, jotr_info@nps.gov, 760-367-5500

Location: Joshua Tree National Park Visitor Center, 6533 Freedom Way, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Citizen/Community Science and Wildlife Identification Night

October 3, 2023, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm (PDT)

Details: Learn to identify native wildlife, including desert tortoises, snakes, and invertebrates at the Utah Tech University Natural Science Museum. Find out how you can help local animals by sharing your observations with recovery biologists and researchers.

Contact: Bryan Stevens, bryan.stevens@utahtech.edu

Location: Snow Math and Science Building Room 207, Utah Tech University, St. George, UT 84770

See Live Tortoises on Visitor Center Day

October 4, 2023, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm (PDT)

Details: Come see live tortoises at the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve/Greater Zion visitor center. Learn about the incredible natural history and wildlife of Southern Utah, and join in a story time and craft activity focused on the desert tortoise.

Contact: Ammon Teare, ammon.teare@washco.utah.gov, 435-301-7435

Location: 111 E. Tabernacle St, St. George, Utah 84770

Help Restore Habitat and Protect Tortoise Homes

October 5, 2023, 8:00 am to 10:00 am (PDT)

Details: Join professional biologists and recreation managers in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve to help conduct trail maintenance, habitat restoration, and clean-up in prime tortoise habitat. Please bring gloves, water, and sun protection and make sure to dress comfortably based on weather reports.

Contact: Ammon Teare, ammon.teare@washco.utah.gov, 435-301-7435

Location pending final approval. Call 435-301-7435 for location details.

Contact [Kent Kowalski@fws.gov](mailto:Kent.Kowalski@fws.gov) for more information.

View the schedule at fws.gov/office/Carlsbad-fish-and-wildlife
or by scanning the QR code.



Events for #DesertTortoiseWeek

Tortoise Evening Program and Ranger Talk

October 5 and October 7, 2023, 7:00 pm (PDT)

Details: Join park staff for a 45-minute presentation about tortoises in the beautiful Indian Cove Amphitheater (located near campsite 40).

Contact: Joshua Tree National Park, jotr_info@nps.gov, 760-367-5500

Location: Joshua Tree National Park, Indian Cove Campground Amphitheater, Twentynine Palms, CA

Guided Hike to Explore Desert Tortoise Territory

October 6, 2023, 8:00 am to 9:00 am (PDT)

Details: Join one of two guided hikes led by Snow Canyon State Park and Red Cliffs Desert Reserve staff. Learn about life as a desert tortoise as we walk through prime tortoise habitat. Limited group sizes.

Contact: Registration is required; call 435-628-2255 two days preceding the event to register.

Location: To limit disturbance in tortoise habitat, location details will be available after RSVP.

Tortoise Conservation in the Field

October 6, 2023, 9:00 am (PDT)

Details: Come learn about desert tortoise conservation work being completed by Transition Habitat Conservancy with our friends at Hardshell Labs. Get trained to identify signs of desert tortoise and help us collect (hands-off) data on live individuals and their habitat.

Contact: sam@transitionhabitat.org

Location: If interested, contact Sam at: sam@transitionhabitat.org

For more information, visit the Transition Habitat Conservancy website at: transitionhabitat.org

Desert Tortoise Shell-abration

October 6, 2023, 10:00 am to 11:00 am (PDT)

Details: Stop by the Upper Galoot picnic area in Snow Canyon State Park to see live desert tortoises and enjoy games and educational material. Visit the nearby ¼ mile paved Tortoise Trail with interpretive signs and larger-than-life tortoise statue. No registration required.

Contact: Phenix Johnson, phenixjohnson@utah.gov, 435-628-2255

Location: Upper Galoot, Snow Canyon State Park, St. George, UT 84770

Tortoise Talk and Walk

October 7, 2023, 9:00 am to 11:00 am (PDT)

Details: The monument's Park Ranger will lead you on the 1-mile Randall Henderson. You will learn many interesting tidbits as you search for tortoises during the hike, and will also visit the monument's desert tortoise ambassador at his enclosure. Hosted by the Bureau of Land Management and Friends of the Desert Mountains.

Contact: (760) 862-9984, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center

Space is limited; sign up at desertmountains.org

Location: Randall Henderson trailhead at Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260

Contact [Kent Kowalski@fws.gov](mailto:Kent.Kowalski@fws.gov) for more information.

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Events for #DesertTortoiseWeek

Fall Native Plant Sale, Mojave Desert Land Trust

October 7, 2023, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (PDT)

Details: Pick up some desert tortoise foraging favorites at this popular native plant sale at Mojave Desert Land Trust Headquarters

Contact: Go to mdlt.org/events for more information.

Location: Mojave Desert Land Trust, 60124 Twentynine Palms Highway in Joshua Tree, CA

Drink Beer – Save Tortoises

October 7, 2023, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm (PDT)

Details: Join the Desert Tortoise Council for this special event, Drink Beer - Save Tortoises! Come learn about this iconic desert species and what you can do to help it! Choose from a variety of exclusive merchandise and sample a specially brewed beer - "Totally Tortoise!" A portion of sales go toward desert tortoise conservation!

Contact: David Hedrick, dhedrick@deserttortoise.org

For more information, go to: fb.me/e/1A9Zbi4fl

Location: Escape Craft Brewery Downtown Oasis (440 Oriental Ave) in Redlands, CA

Mormon Mountain Native Plant Restoration Event, Nevada Department of Wildlife

October 7, October 21, October 28, and November 4, 2023

Multiple events happening each date from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (PDT)

Details: The Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Department of Wildlife will be conducting restoration in the form of a Native Planting Event to establish native perennials following a wildfire.

Contact: Matt Flores, mhflores@ndow.org, 702-290-5265

Sign up to participate at: nevada.volunteers.kalkomey.com/events/7224

For more information on the events, go to: bit.ly/23planting

Location: Mormon Mountains or Southern Nevada along Carp Elgin Road, NV

4th Annual Desert Tortoise Celebration Day at The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

October 8, 2023, 10:00am to 12:00pm (PDT)

Details: Join us in the Living Legacy Garden for The Living Desert's 4th Annual Desert Tortoise Celebration Day! During this community event you'll be able to meet desert tortoises during a special Keeper Connection, participate in tortoise themed games and coloring activities, and have the opportunity to engage with The Living Desert's Conservation team and several of our desert tortoise conservation partners to learn about the collective efforts to protect this incredible species and how YOU can help! This event is free for members or with paid park admission.

Contact: Katie Shaw, kshaw@livingdesert.org

Location: The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens, 47900 Portola Ave., Palm Desert, CA 92260

Contact [Kent Kowalski@fws.gov](mailto:Kent.Kowalski@fws.gov) for more information.

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Events for #DesertTortoiseWeek

Celebrating Tortoises at the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center

All week long on days the Monument Visitor Center is open, Thursday - Monday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm (PDT)
Details: Check out new educational tortoise displays, tortoise themed activities for kids and visit our resident desert tortoise ambassador that lives on site!
Contact: (760) 862-9984, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center
Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260.

Desert Tortoise Week Educational Programs and Events, Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation

Multiple events happening throughout the first week of October
Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation, Rosewood Nature Study Area, and Peavine Pete will have several desert tortoise-focused education events scheduled throughout the week including a week-long social media video series and a native planting event at Rosewood NSA on Oct 7th.
Contact: jennie@tmparksfoundation.org
Location: Rosewood Nature Study Area, 6800 Pembroke Dr, Reno, NV 89502
Find more information and list of events, visit the park's website: tmparksfoundation.org/tortoise

Celebrate Public Lands at the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area

October 14, 2023, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (PDT)
Details: The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management, are celebrating a National Public Lands Day event coordinated by the National Environmental Education Foundation and partner agencies. Please come out and support the DTRNA by helping to repair fences and signs, remove trash, and maintain trails and the kiosk all while enjoying the conserved lands at the DTRNA.
Contact: Email your interest to: DTPC.Preserve.Manager@Tortoise-tracks.org or call the preserve manager at (442) 294-4258
Location: Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area, California City, CA 93505
For more information, visit the DTRNA website: tortoise-tracks.org

Revvng Responsibility: Protecting the tortoise while off-roading

October 27, 2023, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm (PDT)
Details: Join us for an educational talk about the intersection between Off-Highway Vehicle recreation and desert tortoise conservation, held at Mojave Desert Land Trust Headquarters.
Contact: Mary Cook-Rhyne, mary@mdlt.org
Sign up at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/revvng-responsibly-protecting-tortoises-while-off-roading-tickets-713887606047>
Location: Mojave Desert Land Trust, 60124 Twentynine Palms Highway in Joshua Tree, CA

Contact [Kent Kowalski@fws.gov](mailto:Kent.Kowalski@fws.gov) for more information.

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Social Media for #DesertTortoiseWeek

Joshua Tree National Park

Check out Joshua Tree National Park (nps.gov/jotr/index.htm) on their social media accounts and learn more about desert tortoises and what you can do to help protect this awesome species.

Facebook: @JoshuaTreeNPS, Twitter: @JoshuaTreeNPS, Instagram: @joshuatreenps, YouTube: JoshuaTreeNPS

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

Check out The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens (livingdesert.org) on their social media accounts to learn more about desert tortoises, their conservation efforts, and additional #DesertTortoiseWeek events.

Desert Tortoise Council

Visit their website (deserttortoise.org) and social media for more information about their activities, including a set of trainings offered late October – early November 2023 and an annual symposium held in February 2024, with the option of in-person or virtual, held in Las Vegas, NV.

Friends of the Desert Mountains

Friends of the Desert Mountains will have great social media posts and they will be starring their resident desert tortoise, Bowser! (desertmountains.org)

Anza Borrego Desert State Park

California State Parks will be promoting #DesertTortoiseWeek so check out their social media accounts and head to their home page at: parks.ca.gov/?page_id=638 to find out about more desert tortoise week events.

Balloon Cleanup Projects in Desert Tortoise Habitat

Check out what they're doing on social media, help cleanup desert tortoise habitat by picking up balloons in the desert, and post your findings on your favorite social media outlet! Contact them to join a cleanup hike.

Contact: desertballoonproject@gmail.com or social media @desertballoonproject for more info.

Protect the Desert Tortoise, Mojave Desert Land Trust

Details: Children will learn more about the desert tortoise and understand how they can protect it with a printable indoor and outdoor guide that enables them to explore the desert. The guide is free to download.

Information: Mary Cook-Rhyne, mary@mdlt.org

Location: Web-based download at mdlt.org/desert-indoors

Most refuge lands and outdoor spaces have remained open for the public to enjoy. To protect and maintain healthy conditions, tortoises, and all wildlife, visitors are encouraged to :

- Check local conditions and call ahead for current information
- Follow CDC safe practices
- Most importantly, stay home if you feel sick

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