



# #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](https://youtube.com/watch?v=kingkupAmTo))

*Saving Desert Tortoises from Extinction* ([youtube.com/watch?v=qQis4fQuUYw](https://youtube.com/watch?v=qQis4fQuUYw))

*The Road To Recovery* ([vimeo.com/526980854/9da53c724f](https://vimeo.com/526980854/9da53c724f)) #movienight #deserttortoiseweek

# Events for #DesertTortoiseWeek

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## 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

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## 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](mailto:jotr_info@nps.gov), 760-367-5500

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

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## 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](mailto:bryan.stevens@utahtech.edu)

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

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## 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](mailto:ammon.teare@washco.utah.gov), 435-301-7435

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

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## 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](mailto:ammon.teare@washco.utah.gov), 435-301-7435

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

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

View the schedule at [fws.gov/office/Carlsbad-fish-and-wildlife](https://fws.gov/office/Carlsbad-fish-and-wildlife)  
or by scanning the QR code.



# Events for #DesertTortoiseWeek

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## 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](mailto:jotr_info@nps.gov), 760-367-5500

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

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## 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.

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## 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](mailto:sam@transitionhabitat.org)

Location: If interested, contact Sam at: [sam@transitionhabitat.org](mailto:sam@transitionhabitat.org)

For more information, visit the Transition Habitat Conservancy website at: [transitionhabitat.org](http://transitionhabitat.org)

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## 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](mailto:phenixjohnson@utah.gov), 435-628-2255

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

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## 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](http://desertmountains.org)

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

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

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