



#DESERTTORTOISEWEEK

October 4 - October 8, 2021

#DesertTortoiseWeek is all about appreciating this iconic desert species. You can help this charismatic reptile by participating in this event. Although most refuge lands and outdoor spaces have remained open for the public to enjoy, when attending in-person events we encourage you to:

- Check local conditions and call ahead for current information
- Follow current CDC safe practices by maintaining a safe distance between yourself and others
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze
- Most importantly, stay home if you feel sick



*Juvenile Mojave desert tortoise.
Photo credit: USFWS*

Monday, October 4, 2021 - Desert Tortoise Education in Action

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

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 - 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 6, 2021 - 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 7, 2021 - 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 8, 2021 - 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* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kingkupAmTo>) #movienight #deserttortoiseweek

Events for #DesertTortoiseWeek

Tortoise Table, Joshua Tree National Park

October 4 through October 8, 2021, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm (PDT)

Details: Visit the "Tortoise Table" outside the Oasis of Mara Visitor Center for tortoise talks, games, and information. Spin the "Wheel of Tortoise" and learn about threats to this iconic species and about tortoise conservation efforts in Joshua Tree National Park. Contact Park Ranger David Larson (david_a_larson@nps.gov) or Wildlife Biologist Michael Vamstad (michael_vamstad@nps.gov) or call 760-367-5522 for questions. Location: Joshua Tree National Park, Oasis of Mara Visitor Center, 74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Open Spaces Photo Contest, Mojave Desert Land Trust

October 4 through October 8, 2021 winner announced on October 8, 2021

Details: We invite lovers of open space and wildlife to share your passion for conserving and protecting our desert's natural areas. Enter Mojave Desert Land Trust's photo contest and show your support for our unique natural landscape. The grand prize is tortoise monitoring training and an overnight monitoring excursion. To enter, visit their Instagram page [@mojavedesertlandtrust](https://www.instagram.com/mojavedesertlandtrust). Contact: Mary Cook-Rhyne at mary@mdl.org.

Location: www.mdl.org

Self-Guided Scavenger Hunt Activity, Utah Department of Natural Resources

October 4 through October 8, 2021, 6:00 am - 10:00 pm (MDT)

Details: Join a short scavenger hunt activity in Snow Canyon State Park to help celebrate the desert tortoise. Handouts can be picked up at the park's visitor center or downloaded from the park's website: <https://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/snow-canyon/events/>. Contact: For more information, email snowcanyon@utah.gov.

Location: Snow Canyon State Park, 1002 N. Snow Canyon Dr., Ivins, UT 847388

Desert Tortoise Native Plant Sale, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

October 4 through October 9, 2021, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm (PDT)

Details: Create a tortoise habitat in your own garden or plant your favorite native plant in the name of desert tortoise conservation. Contact Alex Ocanas at aocanas@livingdesert.org for more information.

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

At-Home Desert Tortoise Paint-By-Numbers, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

October 4 through October 9, 2021, Downloadable online at www.livingdesert.org

Details: Relax as you paint the desert tortoise's landscape to life and ponder all the ways you can help protect this iconic species. Contact: Alex Ocanas at aocanas@livingdesert.org for more information.

Location: <https://www.livingdesert.org/events/upcoming-zoo-events/desert-tortoise-week/>

For more information contact Vincent_James@fws.gov

or

check out www.fws.gov/carlsbad/PalmSprings/DesertTortoise.html

Events for #DesertTortoiseWeek

Tortoise Scavenger Hunt, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

October 4 through October 9, 2021, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm (PDT)

Details: Self-led scavenger hunt open to all guests. Come join the hunt to win prizes and enjoy the great wildlife exhibits. Contact Alex Ocanas at ocanas@livingdesert.org for more information.

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

BioBlitz 2021, Desert National Wildlife Refuge

October 9 through October 10, 2021

Details: Explore the Desert National Wildlife Refuge and document as many species as possible with experts! We hope the information collected can be used as part of an ongoing citizen science effort to document the biodiversity of the refuge. Contact: Joshua Contois at joshua_contois@fws.gov or 702-817-3936.

Location: Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Las Vegas NV

Online Fall Native Plant Sale, Mojave Desert Land Trust

October 11 through October 13, 2021, www.mdlt.org

Details: Order your favorite tortoise friendly native plants online from this popular native plant sale held by the Mojave Desert Land Trust. Purchase online at mdlt.org. Contact: Mary Cook-Rhyne at mary@mdlt.org for questions.

Location: www.mdlt.org

The Desert Tortoise, Art, and You, Mojave Desert Land Trust

Thursday, October 14, 2021 8:00 am (PDT) Virtual Module Launch

Details: Through this new Desert Indoors Module, children, their families, and educators will learn more about the desert tortoise. Students will be challenged to use scientific knowledge to discuss what they know about this amazing threatened species. Contact: Mary Cook-Rhyne at mary@mdlt.org for questions.

Location: www.mdlt.org/desertindoors

Student Contest: Tortoise Art-Show What You Know!, Mojave Desert Land Trust

October 18 through October 21, 2021, www.mdlt.org

Details: After completion of the Desert Indoors Module, students can enter Mojave Desert Land Trust's Student Art Contest to share what they learned in a creative and artistic way. The winner will receive a grand prize; all entrants will receive a MDLT sticker. Adults can enter their student in the contest by visiting MDLT's Instagram page [@mojavedesertlandtrust](https://www.instagram.com/mojavedesertlandtrust). Contact: Mary Cook-Rhyne at mary@mdlt.org for more information.

Location: www.mdlt.org

Native Planting Restoration Project, Nevada Department of Wildlife

Multiple Events at 9:00 am (PDT)

October 16, October 23, October 30, and November 6, 2021

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 plants following a wildfire. Create a volunteer account at <https://nevada.volunteers.kalkomey.com/> to participate. Contact: Wildlife Diversity Biologist Matt Flores at mhflores@ndow.org for more information.

Location: Mormon Mountains, NV

For more information contact Vincent_James@fws.gov

or

check out www.fws.gov/carlsbad/PalmSprings/DesertTortoise.html

Social Media for #DesertTortoiseWeek

Social Media Presence, Joshua Tree National Park

Check out Joshua Tree National Park (www.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

Desert Tortoise Council

The Desert Tortoise Council was established in 1975 to promote conservation of the desert tortoise in the deserts of the southwestern United States and Mexico. The council is a non-profit organization comprised of hundreds of professionals advocating for desert tortoises. Visit their website (<https://deserttortoise.org/>) for more information about their activities, including a set of desert tortoise trainings in late October through November, 2021 and an annual symposium held (virtually) in February 2022.

Friends of the Desert Mountains

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

Mojave Desert Land Trust

Check out Mojave Desert Land Trust on their social media accounts to learn more about desert tortoises, their conservation efforts, and additional #DesertTortoiseWeek events.

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

Learn more about desert tortoises and additional #DesertTortoiseWeek events at www.livingdesert.org.

Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms

For additional #DesertTortoiseWeek events, check out www.29palms.marines.mil

Anza Borrego Desert State Park

California State Parks will be promoting #DesertTortoiseWeek, so check out their social media accounts at www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=638

U.S. Army Fort Irwin National Training Center

Fort Irwin will also be hosting #DesertTortoiseWeek events, check out their website <https://home.army.mil/irwin/index.php>

*Join us to celebrate the most iconic
desert species:
Mojave desert tortoise!*

For more information contact Vincent_James@fws.gov

or

check out www.fws.gov/carlsbad/PalmSprings/DesertTortoise.html