



## Bazaruto Archipelago National Park

### Code of Conduct for snorkelling

Hello visitors! Welcome to Bazaruto Archipelago National Park. This is a protected area, where we work hard to keep our marine habitats and wildlife safe and healthy. And we need your help!

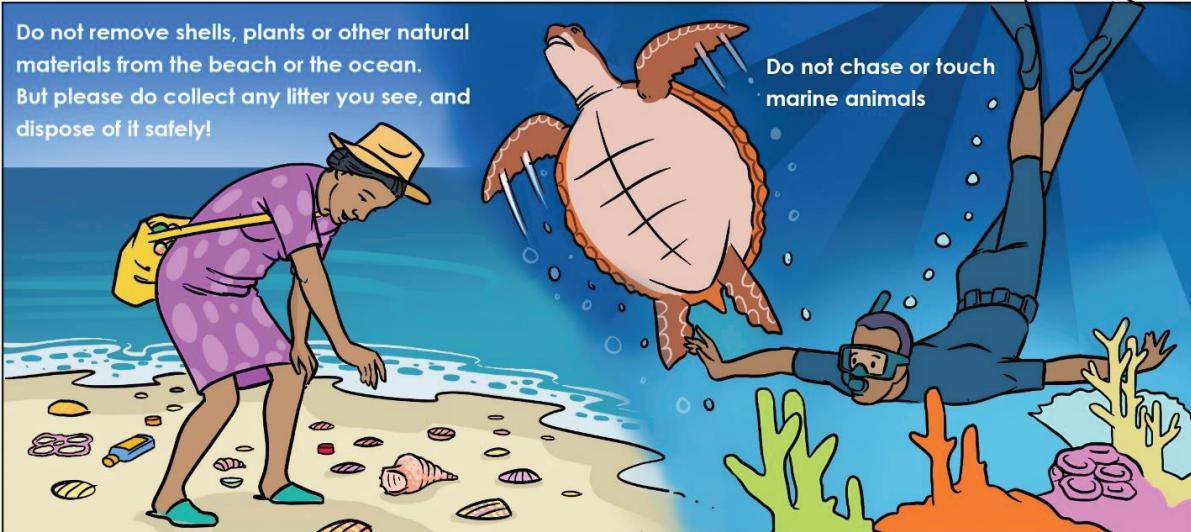
- **Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but bubbles.** It is illegal to take anything like shells, coral or even pieces of wood, out of the park area. However, if you see any rubbish on the beach or in the water, please collect it and dispose of it on the boat. This helps us keep our park clean for visitors like you, and safe for animals too!
- **Look but don't touch.** There may be occasions, particularly in strong currents, where you may need to touch the substrate or hold on. Please try to ensure that you are not touching anything that is living. If it doesn't look like rock, it's probably not rock! If it has texture, patterns or feels slimy to the touch, then it is most likely a coral or a sponge, and can be damaged by your touch. Try to use only one finger and a thumb to hold on. Pay attention to where you are kicking, too – avoid damaging or breaking coral.
- **Safety first.** If there are strong currents or you don't feel comfortable in the water for any reason, tell your boat skipper or snorkelling guide, and get out of the water. This is better for your safety, and also helps prevent you from damaging the reef.
- **Corals don't love sunscreen.** If it washes off your skin and into the ocean, sunscreen can affect coral health. Please don't apply sunscreen before getting in the ocean – you can protect your skin much better by wearing protective clothing like hats and long-sleeved shirts (on the boat), and rash vests and leggings (while you swim). If you must apply sunscreen, please do it at least **30 minutes** before you get in the ocean.
- **A maximum of 6 snorkellers and one guide** are allowed in the water at any time. If a boat approaches a site and finds that snorkelers are already there, they can either wait until those snorkelers get out, or go to a new site, at least 200 m away from the area where people are already snorkelling.
- When snorkelling with **protected marine animals** (dugongs, turtles, dolphins, sharks and rays), please respect the following guidelines:
  - Keep your distance - stay a minimum of 3 metres away
  - Snorkellers should stay together as one group
  - Move calmly and slowly, and do not make a lot of noise
  - Do not chase, touch or hold onto the marine fauna, and never feed any marine life
  - Do not surround a marine animal – it will feel stressed. All snorkelers should stay on one side of an animal so it has space to move away if it chooses to.
  - Avoid excessive flash photography
  - For dugongs, please follow the park's special Code of Conduct for dugongs.

Don't forget to pay your **park entry fee and park activity fee** for each time you go snorkelling! These fees are used to help manage the park and a portion of the fees goes towards supporting community projects on the islands.



**Do not remove shells, plants or other natural materials from the beach or the ocean.  
But please do collect any litter you see, and dispose of it safely!**

**Do not chase or touch marine animals**



**Help us to protect our coral reefs.  
Do not touch, hold on to or kick corals - if you break them, they will die**

**Don't apply sunscreen before getting into the ocean. Wait until you have finished your swim!**



**Stay at least 3m from dugongs, turtles, dolphins & sharks, and do not surround them. Groups of snorkellers should stay on one side of a marine animal**

**Avoid excessive flash photography**

