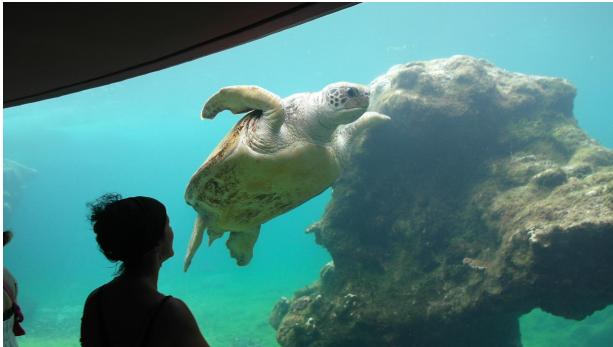


Kélonia - our visit

Well, all we can say is...if you ever get the opportunity to travel to La Réunion island in the southern Indian Ocean, do not miss a visit to Kélonia – the marine turtle observatory. We were fortunate not only to go to Kélonia, but to be taken on a full tour by the observatory's director Stéphane Ciccione. It is one of the most interesting museums we have ever visited. Brilliantly designed, amazing displays and lots of interactivity as well as the spectacle of seeing lots of turtles swimming around at close range. A definite must see!



About Kélonia

Built on the site of the former turtle breeding farm, Kélonia was inaugurated on 16 August 2006 with a double mission:

- To encourage the public to be aware of the value of the conservation of our natural and cultural heritage, especially with respect to marine turtles;
- To participate in and develop research and conservation programmes for marine turtles and their habitats.

In 1989 The Reunion Regional Council decided to lend its support to marine turtle activities involving research, conservation and tourism by buying the Corail Farm complex, and by petitioning the Environmental Ministry to establish a legal framework under which a new Institution could operate. Since then the old farm has evolved into a Site of Excellence for marine turtle research and education, and the commercial sale of turtle products is now prohibited. The “Rehabilitation of the Corail Farm” was financed by the Council and the European Union. Work began in 2004 and Kélonia was opened on 16 August 2006.



The Kélonia Turtle Clinic and how you can help!

The turtle clinic started operating in 1998 with five full time employees, treating and then nursing 15 to 30 turtles per year. The clinic benefits from a local agreement to collect and treat turtles that are either injured or ill. As soon turtles are washed up on the beach or in difficulty local people go to their rescue and call us and fishermen will hand over turtles that have been accidentally fished and injured. Surgery is carried out by a veterinarian and the turtles are cared for until they are fit enough to be released back into the ocean. They are often adopted by a local schools, enabling the children to learn about conservation of both turtles and the ocean. If you would be interested in adopting a turtle either, alone or with your school, please contact us at www.tortuedemer.com or visit the website www.kelonia.org Lola and Isabelle have both adopted turtles Coralie and Ginette.

Follow our adopted turtles – Ginette and Coralie



Our adopted turtles Ginette and Coralie were released back into the Indian Ocean in August 2011.

They were both fitted with satellite tracking devices so we could follow them but sadly Coralie's device broke after a week so we can no longer track her.

To follow Ginette visit www.kelonia.org

At the bottom of the home page click on "Sciences - Suivi des trajectoires "

Choose the map « Site de la Réunion ». Click on the green and white turtle icons and the name of the turtle and who the turtle was adopted by will appear. Try and find Lola's turtle Ginette.

Have fun!