

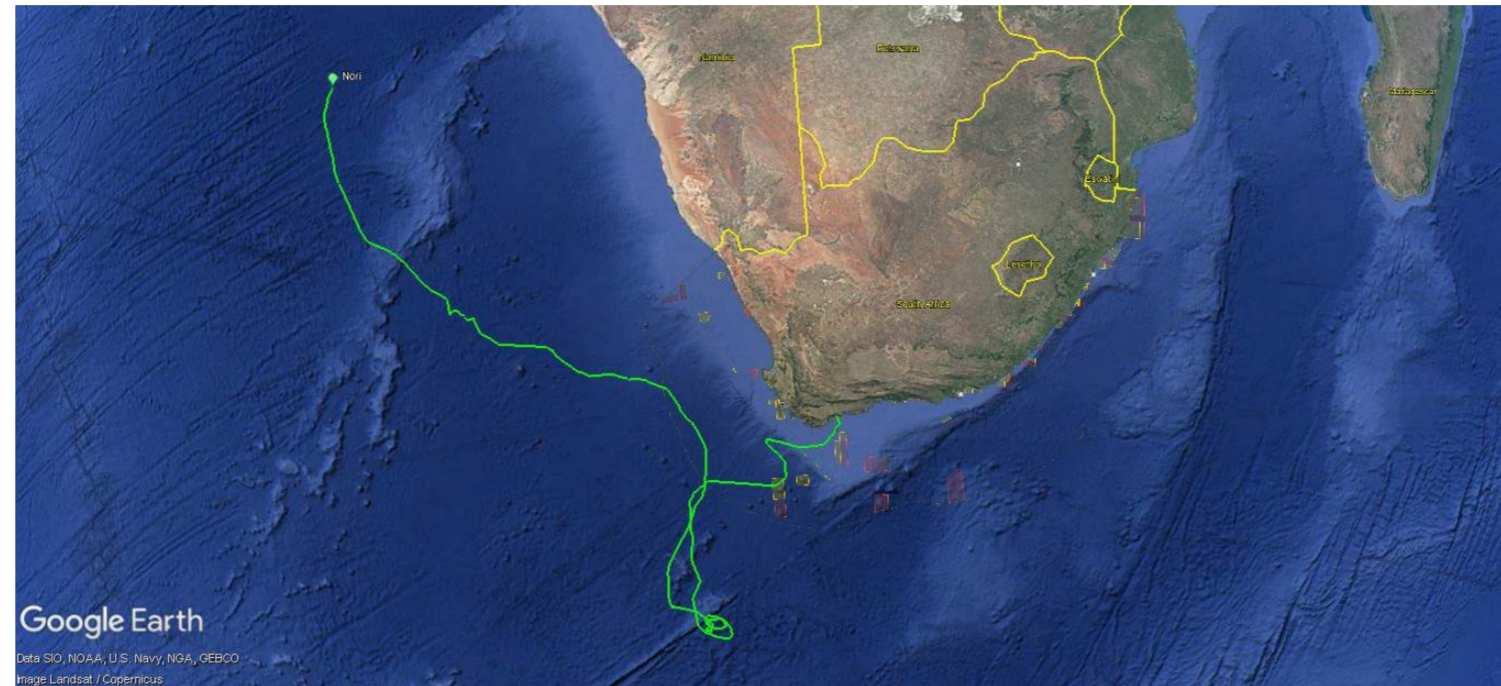


Turtle Tales

Our **Turtle Conservation Centre** is turtle-y busy, caring for loggerhead hatchlings and sub-adult green, hawksbill, and loggerhead turtles. Keep reading for some flipper-tastic news!

Tracking our turtles: Nori's travels

Nori the green turtle has now spent almost four months in the ocean – it's been 110 days since she was **released into De Hoop Marine Protected Area**. She did not linger in the coastal area – instead, she made the most of the opportunity to cover quite a distance!



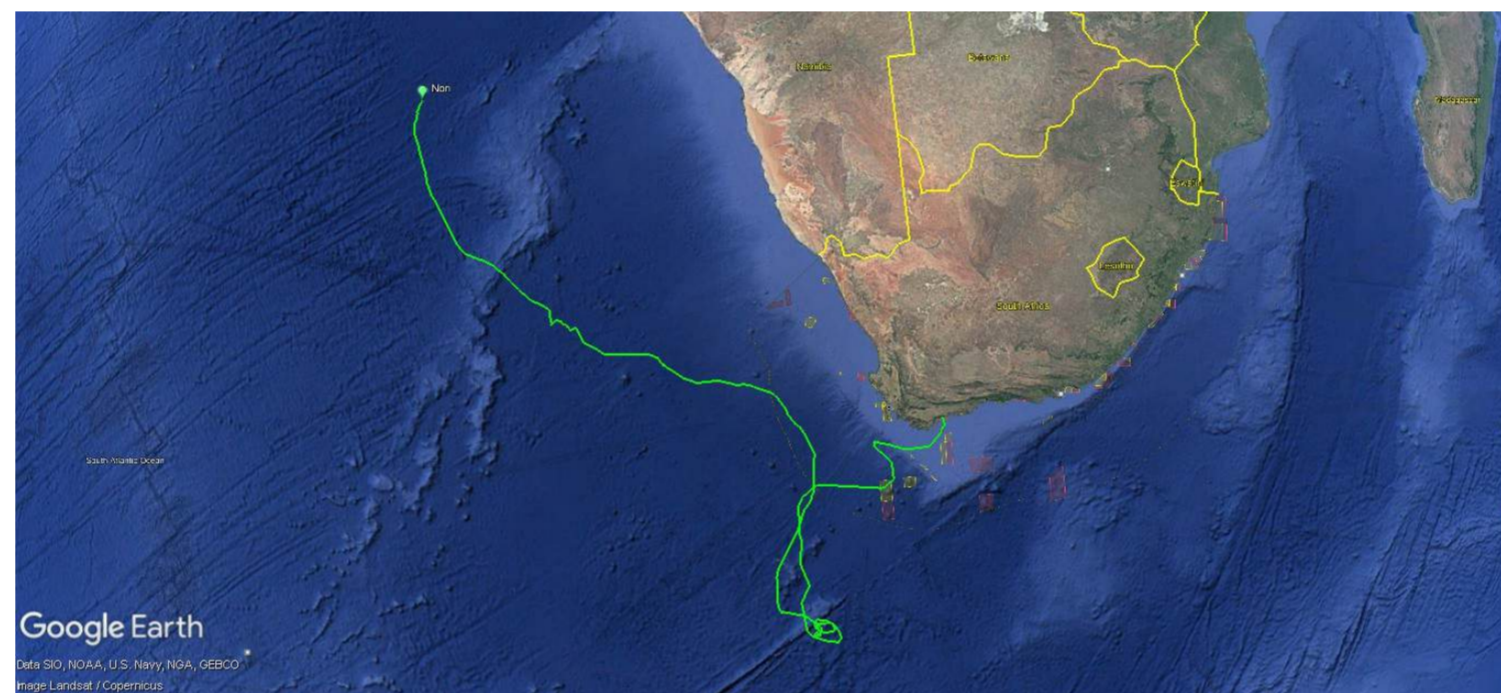
Nori was rescued in Witsand in 2023 and, upon arriving at our Turtle Conservation Centre, was diagnosed with eyesight and neurological issues. Her successful rehabilitation hinged on an extensive environmental enrichment programme that encouraged her wild behaviours, provided mental stimulation, and facilitated problem-solving. After two years of rehabilitation, supported by her **adopters** and longtime friends, Morukuru Goodwill Foundation, our veterinary team declared Nori ready for release!

Together with three other rehabilitated turtles, **Nori re-entered her ocean home in De Hoop MPA** on 26 November 2025. Within days of her release, Nori headed southwest, completing a small loop in the surface currents before turning north and settling into a steady, determined, and directional swim.



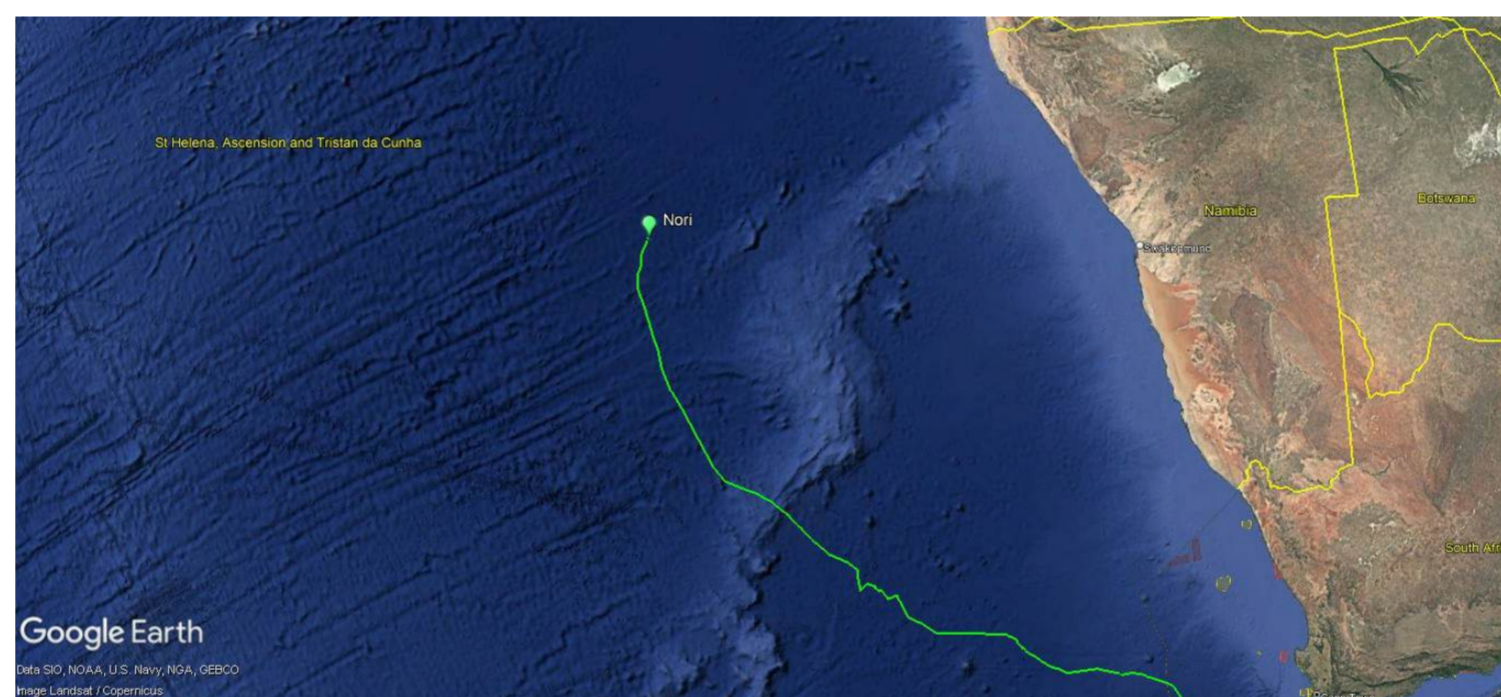
Interestingly, Nori's tracks show that she has not relied heavily on the surface currents as she travels north. The water temperatures have been a comfortable 23 – 25°C and are not particularly productive (nutrient-rich) as Nori is travelling outside the band of high productivity running along the southern African West Coast. Together, these factors indicate that Nori is travelling with intention rather than foraging for food!

At the end of February, **Nori** began crossing Walvis Ridge, a chain of underwater mountains that stretches across the South Atlantic Ocean from the coast of Namibia towards the mid-ocean ridge. Formed by ancient volcanic activity, the seamounts of Walvis Ridge rise thousands of metres from the seafloor and have a significant influence on how water moves through this part of the ocean. The slopes of these underwater mountains cause the upwelling of nutrients, so Nori may have paused here for some travel snacks!



The underwater mountains of Walvis Ridge are visible on the map above.

Continuing north over the Walvis Ridge, Nori's latest transmission came from about 1 200km northwest of Swakopmund in Namibia and 1 000km southeast of Saint Helena Island. In total, **Nori** has covered an impressive 5 230km, averaging 47.5km per day



Nori's latest transmission between the St Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha Islands and Namibia.

It will be fascinating to see where Nori ventures next: Will she head closer to the Namibian coast, continue on her purposeful travels, or explore islands to her left?

[Catch up on Nori's story](#)

Top tips for rescuing turtles this stranding season

From March every year, turtle hatchlings wash ashore on beaches along the Western Cape coastline after hatching in northern KwaZulu-Natal. These patients are rescued by our incredible **Turtle Rescue Network** and brought to our Turtle Conservation Centre for rehabilitation. Anyone living on or visiting the Garden Route can be a turtle rescuer simply by knowing what to look for.

Tips for turtle rescuers:

Turtles wash up all along the coast from Plettenberg Bay to False Bay - your local beach may be a stranding hotspot!

Scour the high-tide line - hatchlings can be found quite far up the beach.

Look extra closely - hatchlings are tiny, and often hidden amongst kelp and ocean debris.

Double check that clump of barnacles - hatchlings are often covered with barnacles, algae, and other "hitchhikers", making them even trickier to spot.

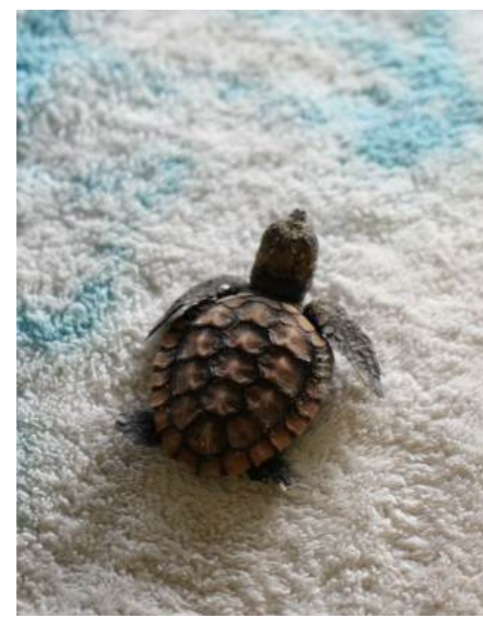
If there's one, there may be more - if you find a turtle hatchling, there may be more in the same area, so have another look before you turn back.

Remember NOT to put the turtle back in the water.

Stranded hatchlings could be...



Full of goose barnacles,



as small as a matchbox,



or covered in algae!

Remember NOT to put a stranded turtle back in the water, and call our Turtle Rescue Hotline on 083 300 1663. By knowing how to react when encountering a stranded turtle, you can have an incredible impact on that turtle's road to recovery.

[Learn more about stranding season](#)

Stay in the loop with our turtles!

Turtle Tales is a regular mailer from the **Turtle Conservation Centre**, packed with tons of turtle news, information, and fun! If you want to be a part of our turtle community, this is the space for you.

[Sign up here](#)