

Firefly Tourism

VISITOR ETIQUETTE

for SUSTAINABLE FIREFLY TOURISM

Watching fireflies light up the night is a remarkable experience, so it understandably attracts lots of visitors! To help protect fireflies and maximize everyone's enjoyment, please keep these things in mind:

PROTECT FIREFLY HABITAT

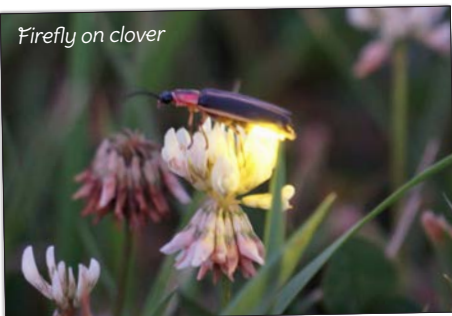
Stick to the trail or with your guide. Straying from designated pathways can damage firefly habitat and physically crush wingless juveniles and adult females that stay at ground level.

KEEP IT DARK

No flash photography and keep light to a minimum. Bright lights will blind fireflies and other visitors. Arrive early to get settled, and be patient as your eyes adjust to the darkness. If you absolutely must use a light, cover it with a red filter and aim it only at the path.



Firefly on clover



FIREFLIES are INSECTS

Don't spray insect repellent (e.g., mosquito repellent) near them. If you need to use an insect or bug repellent, apply it before arriving at the site so that it doesn't drift onto nearby fireflies.

RESPECT OTHER VISITORS

Speak quietly, don't smoke, and avoid strongly scented perfumes, colognes, or products that might affect other visitors' firefly experience.

WATCH, DON'T CATCH

The spectacle you're watching is the courtship conversation between firefly males and females. Catching them disrupts their communication and can result in unintentional harm to them and their habitat.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Developed by The Xerces Society to promote sustainable firefly tourism, the Xerces Society gives permission for this Visitor Etiquette guide to be printed. It is released under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 Unported (CC BY-NC 3.0) license. For more information, visit xerces.org/fireflies.

(Photo: Mike Lewinski / flickr.)