



Δ snorkel in the sea of cortez

Baja Island Ecology Program

If you love to snorkel, this is the course for you. This is an amazing opportunity to assist with a marine census and be a collaborator in international conservation efforts in the Sea of Cortez, a World Heritage Site, home to 39% of the world's marine mammal species.

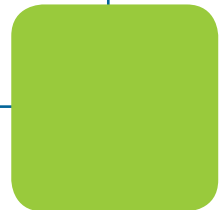
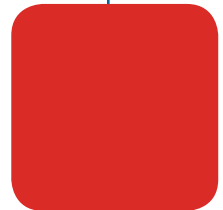
Espiritu Santo is a protected island outside of La Paz, Mexico. The waters around the island are a declared marine reserve due to their unique ecology and high endemism. This breathtaking area is characterized by stunning beaches, red rock cliffs, abundant bird life, reptiles, and desert plants.

While on Espiritu Santo, students conduct snorkel counts of echinoderms including sea stars, urchins, and sea cucumbers. Students develop a field based research project using the data they collect - such as species abundance, richness, and distribution. This 9-day program includes over 30 hours of coursework and instruction in subjects like marine biology, desert ecology, and natural protected areas. Students also complete at least 20 hours of field research while snorkeling in the turquoise waters of the Sea of Cortez in collaboration with the National Commission on Natural Protected Areas and the Interdisciplinary Marine Science Center.

After completing their field work, students meet their Mexican peers when they visit a local high school. Students spend time together giving joint presentations, sharing research data, engaging in the powerful exchange of ideas, and realizing their collaborative strength.



Δ explore espritu santu island



h i g h l i g h t s

- Explore marine diversity in the Sea of Cortez
- Camp on a pristine beach on a remote island
- Snorkel with sea lions, sea stars, and tropical fish

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www.ecologyproject.org

Sample itinerary subject to change

Day 1: Arrival to EPI Campus in La Paz

- Stroll along the Malecon, a waterfront walkway
- Enjoy the sunset on the Sea of Cortez
- Get to know your instructors and explore the EPI campus

Days 2-5: Marine ecology at Espiritu Santo

- Camp on a secluded beach under star-lit skies
- Snorkel at a sea lion rookery and observe resident marine life
- Explore and investigate the desert island ecosystem

Day 6: Intercultural exchange day

- Present results of student-led research projects
- Interact with local students and practice Spanish
- Explore parks, churches, and other cultural highlights in La Paz

Days 7-8: Explore Sierra de la Laguna

- Swim below towering waterfalls
- Hike through lush canyons within a unique inland mountain ecosystem

Day 9: Departure from the Baja California peninsula

Details:


- **Accommodations:** 3 nights at the EPI La Paz campus; 5 nights in tents
- **Course dates:** February-April & October-December
- **Price:** \$2,625 (all inclusive)
- **Group size:** Minimum 10; Maximum 15 (including chaperones)
- **How to Apply:** Contact Joshua Klaus at EPI :
josh@ecologyproject.org * 406.721.8784

Send in an EPI application and \$250 deposit; applications online at: www.ecologyproject.org



academic & cultural exchange field programs

Guided by local scientists, EPI introduces students to authentic scientific study, raises cultural and ecological awareness, and promotes international cooperation. EPI empowers students to learn about, and help solve, critical conservation issues.

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