



Baja Whale Ecology Program

This course provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to research the largest animals on the planet and be an active collaborator in international marine conservation efforts in the Sea of Cortez.

The Sea of Cortez, a World Heritage Site, is home to 39% of the world's marine mammal species including blue, humpback, fin and sperm whales plus over twelve species of dolphins. In addition to the rich marine life, the region contains remote desert islands, enormous sandstone cliffs, and diverse bird life.

While on course, participants monitor whale and dolphin species encountered while navigating the Sea of Cortez. Students develop a field based research project using the data they collect - such as species identified, time of immersion, and overall behavior. This nine-day program includes over 30 hours of coursework and instruction in subjects like cetacean ecology, conservation biology, and marine research methodology. Students also complete at least 20 hours of field research while navigating the fascinating waters of the Sea of Cortez in collaboration with the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur.

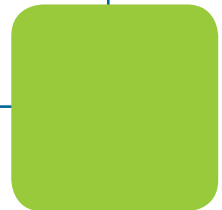
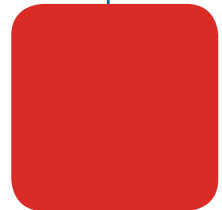
After completing their field work, students meet their Mexican peers when they visit with a group of local program participants. Students spend time together giving joint presentations, sharing research data, engaging in the powerful exchange of ideas, and realizing their collaborative strength.



△ experience majestic whales up close



△ live on a research vessel



h i g h l i g h t s

- Monitor the largest animals on the planet
- Travel aboard a research vessel for five days
- Camp on remote islands and secluded beaches

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Sample itinerary subject to change

www.ecologyproject.org

Day 1: Arrival in Baja California Sur

- Get to know your instructor team
- Stroll along the Malecon, a waterfront walkway
- Enjoy the sunset over the Sea of Cortez

Days 2: Board the research vessel

- Embark on your voyage in the Sea of Cortez
- Initiate whale observation study
- Camp on a secluded beach or on the boat under star-lit skies

Days 3-5: Whale research and observation

- Collect data on whales up close from the research skiff
- Study in detail the cetaceans encountered each day
- Enjoy the scenery of red rock island cliffs contrasted with spectacular azure waters



Day 6: Disembark research vessel

- Transfer to your post-research accommodations
- Prepare for the upcoming school exchange day

Day 7: Intercultural exchange day

- Meet local students and learn about each other's cultures
- Present research project results
- Play soccer or volleyball and practice Spanish with the locals



Day 8: Coastal exploration

- Hike to a secluded beach near Loreto
- Explore the spectacular cliff-lined coastline
- Reflect on the incredible opportunity to work directly with whales

Day 9: Departure from Mexico



Details:

- **Accommodations:** 4 nights aboard the *Pez Sapo* or camping; 4 nights in hotels or at the EPI Campus in La Paz
- **Course dates:** February-March
- **Price:** \$2,950 (all-inclusive)
- **Group size:** Minimum 9 plus one teacher
- **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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