

## Diving & Marine Conservation Volunteering in Mexico

You'll live and work in La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico, surrounded by people who share the same sense of passion for protecting threatened wildlife and the environment. The activities we offer are hands-on, so you'll always be involved in something. This could be participating in a survey during a dive, or getting your hands plastered in mud planting mangroves. You'll constantly be learning from our staff, who'll show you why coastal areas are an important focus of conservation efforts in a real-world context.

Our base Project, Climate Change and Human Factors that Impact Baja California Sur's Coastal Development, aims to analyze how rising temperatures lead to the deterioration of biomass in the area. By monitoring, collecting, and analyzing data, we will obtain a clearer view of the factors that affect the coast directly and the possible solutions that could be implemented to help preserve this invaluable natural resource.

If you're joining this project as a student in a related field with experience under your belt, you'll build on your knowledge and add relevant field work to your resume. We can facilitate marine conservation internships tailored to meet your school's requirements, you just need to discuss this with us when you apply.

Joining us with no previous experience? Don't worry! This is an educational experience as well as an adventure, and we'll teach you everything you need to know to do the work. If you're unable to dive, there are plenty of land-based and other marine activities where you can contribute. And no matter your level of experience, our staff will be available 24/7 to assist you when you need help or guidance.

Our program is aimed toward people that possess a genuine interest in natural sciences and conservation, that aren't afraid of getting their hands dirty and have a passion for outdoor activities.

Our marine conservation volunteer abroad program in Mexico runs year-round, so you can join whenever it fits your schedule. The minimum duration is one week, but we recommend staying the maximum of four weeks to experience as much as possible.

You'll find it useful to speak some Spanish, but it's not required as our staff speak English. You can also use this project as an opportunity to learn Spanish or practice your conversational skills!

Projects Abroad is a global leader in student travel and has been working in Mexico for twenty years managing numerous community focused projects including wildlife conservation, education, and medical initiatives.

After running volunteer and internship programs for over 25 years, **Projects Abroad** provides the Gold Standard of safety for our project participants. Through pre-departure measures and expert staffing, our volunteers experience hassle-free travel while making a real, tangible impact in amazing places.

### Key Facts

- ▶ **Location:**  
La Paz, Mexico
- ▶ **Dates:**  
Flexible start dates from 2 weeks
- ▶ **Program Cost:**  
\$3145USD (2 weeks)
- ▶ **Included**  
Accommodation, meals, in country transit, weekly activities, 24-hour support, culture immersion, conservation training, pre-departure support, flight advising
- ▶ **Not Included**  
Personal and extra activities, flights into La Paz.
- ▶ **Accommodation**  
Shared volunteer house



La Paz,  
Baja California

## Example Weekly Itinerary

In Mexico, you'll work Monday through Friday, for around six hours a day in the mornings and afternoons. You'll have weekends free for yourself.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Arrival</b>	Students fly in to La Paz, Mexico.
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Introduction day</b>	Get an introduction to the town from our staff in the morning, and get all the information you need to settle in. In the afternoon, you'll attend a workshop to learn how to identify the invertebrates you'll be encountering.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>First Dive</b>	Our staff will get your day started with a safety and operations induction. Once this is done, you will have field practice identifying invertebrates and participate in a dive*
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Workshop session</b>	Attend a morning workshop to learn how to identify birds living in coastal areas, and do field practice in the afternoon.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Birdwatch session</b>	Join a workshop where we teach you how to identify the fish you'll see during dives. In the afternoon, you'll help monitor species in Isla Espiritu Santo and go diving.
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Survey day</b>	Go out into the field to monitor and survey coastal birds in Bahía de la Paz.

These activities could change depending on various factors, like the weather. Most activities are available during the summer months, but we also have some winter-specific activities. These include monitoring land birds, and visiting Bahía Magdalena where Gray whales come to give birth.

\*If you don't have a diving certification or experience, we'll make sure you get this training before you do a proper dive.

## Highlights and Extra Activities:

- ▶ **Species that can be spotted while diving:** Sea Lions, Giant Manta Rays, Whale sharks, Giant Moray Eels, Hammerheads, Dolphins.
- ▶ **Gray and Humpback Whale watching:** From late December through April while being in Baja you can experience the interaction with these amazing creatures that visit the Peninsula to give birth and nurture their calves.
- ▶ **Santiago:** Hike and explore beautiful waterfalls.
- ▶ **Cabo Pulmo:** Home of the oldest living coral reef in North America and due to the enormous quantity of species it possess, the national park of Cabo Pulmo is a must for avid divers and snorkelers.
- ▶ **Todos Santos:** Surf boarding lessons and beautiful beaches.
- ▶ **Balandra and el Tecolote beach:** Just 30 minutes away from La Paz, the national park of Balandra offers the opportunity to spend a relaxed afternoon surrounded by one of the most amazing beaches the Baja has to offer.