

PROJECTS ABROAD.

Conservation & Environment

Mexico

**Sea turtle protection & crocodile
sanctuary support on Mexico's Pacific
coast**

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



14 LIFE BELOW
WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



 **LENGTH**
14 Days

 **ACCOMMODATION**
Lodge

 **TRANSPORT**
Minibus, Taxi

Trip highlights:

-  Protect nesting sea turtles and hatchlings through beach patrols, egg relocation, hatchery maintenance, and hatchling release at El Naranjo Reserve.
-  Support local wildlife sanctuaries by monitoring and feeding apex predators at a crocodile sanctuary and participating in native bird identification walks.
-  Explore Mexico's Pacific coast and marine life during a snorkelling boat trip to Isla Coral and a cultural day tour of historic Puerto Vallarta.
-  Immerse yourself in vibrant Mexican culture with a visit to the artisan town of Tlaquepaque, hands-on heritage workshops, and a traditional farewell dinner show.

Overview

The following is included in the cost of your trip (subject to change).



Service & Learning

Turtle and coastal conservation

- Nest location and relocation
- Hatchling care
- Hatchery maintenance
- Hatchling release
- Beach cleanup
- Protected turtle hatchery area maintenance
- Monitoring relocated nests
- Recording hatchlings
- Site maintenance

Crocodile sanctuary

- Assist with feeding
- Enclosure cleaning
- Crocodile health and behaviour monitoring

Workshops

- Nocturnal patrol
- Bird and wildlife identification
- Interpretative walk
- Hatchling release



Culture & Leisure

- El Camopo waterfalls hike
- Mexican tradition introduction
- Guayabitos Beach trip
- Lo de Marcos tour
- Isla Coral boat adventure and snorkelling
- Puerto Vallarta town tour
- Game night
- Tlaquepaque visit
- Cultural show
- Farewell restaurant dinner



Logistics

- Airport transfers in Mexico
- Orientation and tour of cities
- Travel in country
- Pre-departure support
- 24/7 support from local staff
- Emergency assistance



Food/Accommodation

- Three meals a day (all diets catered for)
- Drinking water
- Lodge



Day 1



SLEEP
Lodge



TRAVEL
4 hours

Arrival & induction

Welcome to Mexico!

Land at Guadalajara International Airport, where our local team will greet you before transferring you by private bus to the El Naranjo Reserve in La Peña de Jaltemba. During the scenic four-hour drive, taking in the beautiful landscapes along the way.

Once settled into your room, you'll receive a general induction and engage in a cultural workshop to get familiar with the reserve and local customs, go over your upcoming conservation duties, and get briefed on security protocols.

Conclude your first day with a welcome dinner and icebreaker games, giving you the opportunity to relax and connect with your group.

Sea turtle patrols, wildlife sanctuary & coastal discovery

Spend your first full week immersed in important sea turtle conservation and wildlife protection.

In the mornings, get hands-on with hatchery duties: relocating eggs to a protected area, looking after the hatchlings, corral maintenance, and preparing nests for emerging turtles. You will work with a variety of different species: Black turtles, Olive Ridley sea turtles, Hawksbill sea turtles, Leatherback sea turtles.

In the afternoons, engage in diverse conservation and cultural activities: assist with crocodile feeding, enclosure cleaning, and health monitoring at a local sanctuary; embark on guided nature walks to study native flora, fauna, and bird species; and take a moderate hike through the forest to El Camopo Waterfalls to swim in refreshing natural pools.

You'll also immerse yourself in traditional Mexican customs, music, and crafts during a heritage workshop; head to Guayabitos Beach for a swim; and join a coastal clean-up to remove litter from marine habitats.

On designated nights, join nocturnal beach patrols to monitor nesting female turtles, log data, and safely relocate vulnerable eggs to the hatchery.





Day 7



SLEEP
Lodge



TRAVEL
3 hours
each way

Isla Coral snorkelling

After a week of hard work, trade the hatchery for a full day of island exploration and marine discovery along the Riviera Nayarit.

Head south to the laid-back coastal village of Lo de Marcos, where you'll board a boat and set sail across the turquoise waters of Banderas Bay. Keep your eyes on the horizon during the passage; these nutrient-rich waters are a haven for leaping manta rays, sea turtles, and blue-footed boobies nesting along the rocky outcrops.

Your destination is Isla Coral, an uninhabited sanctuary renowned for its thriving coral reefs and calm, crystal-clear shallows. Strap on your mask and fins to plunge into an underwater wonderland teeming with life.

As you float over colorful brain and staghorn coral formations, you'll swim alongside schools of tropical damselfish, king angelfish, parrotfish, and intricate starfish. After a morning of guided reef exploration, anchor off the island's pristine white-sand beach to enjoy a fresh seaside lunch, swim in the warm Pacific waters, and relax in the sun before cruising back to shore for a relaxing evening.



Puerto Vallarta

Experience the rich colors, sights, and flavors of Puerto Vallarta on a full-day guided exploration of Mexico's Pacific resort city. Start your day in the historic center, learning more about the city's evolution from a sleepy fishing village to a bustling cultural hub. Explore the lively Cuale River Island market to find unique hand-carved souvenirs, colorful ceramics, and local silver jewelry before visiting the historic Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

After lunch, walk along the iconic Malecón boardwalk, lined with palm trees, ocean vistas, and expressive street art installations. Sample fresh street food along the way, from tropical shaved ice and freshly peeled mangoes to authentic coastal street tacos.

As your day comes to an end, unwind by the vibrant oceanfront, swimming in the warm Pacific waters, or relaxing at a shaded beach club. As evening falls, enjoy a group dinner overlooking the water to celebrate the end of your mid-trip break.





Days 9-13

 **SLEEP**
Lodge, Hotel

 **TRAVEL**
3.5 hours
(Day 13)

Hatchling releases, habitat restoration & Tlaquepaque

Dive straight back into hands-on conservation work at the reserve as you build on the knowledge and skills developed last week.

In addition to daily morning hatchery maintenance, egg relocation, and night turtle patrols, you'll experience an unforgettable bucket list moment as you get to release newly hatched sea turtles into the ocean and watch them make their journey to the sea. You will also return to the crocodile sanctuary to assist with enclosure upkeep and feeding.

Participate in an interpretive nature walk to learn about local ecosystems and clear beach debris during a shoreline clean-up.

As the week comes to an end, it's time to say goodbye to the reserve and journey back to Guadalajara by private bus. For your last full day, explore the vibrant district of Tlaquepaque, strolling through its colourful streets, artisan shops, and lively plazas.

Conclude the day with a farewell dinner at a local restaurant to celebrate your achievements, and enjoy a traditional cultural show.



Departure

After breakfast, transfer by private bus to Guadalajara International Airport for your flight home.

As you depart, reflect on your hands-on contributions to sea turtle protection, wildlife conservation efforts, and the unforgettable memories created during your time in Mexico.



Destination Info

¡Hola! Get ready for a fiesta of flavours, colours, and experiences in Mexico. The birthplace of chocolate and the Day of the Dead celebrations, Mexico is a captivating nation with incredible food, people, music, and more.

It also has a rich history with Mayan ruins and colonial towns to explore and is home to the world's smallest volcano! Our project locations in Mexico are safe, and you will be welcomed into the community like one of the locals immediately.

LANGUAGE

Spanish

CURRENCY

Mexican peso

NATIONAL DISH

Mole Poblano

POPULATION

130 Million

TIMEZONE

GMT -6

NATIONAL ANIMAL

Golden Eagle

CAPITAL

Mexico City

COUNTRY CODE

MZ / +52

NATIONAL BIRD

Crested Caracara

A sustainable adventure

We're dedicated to protecting both people and the planet, treading lightly as participants of global travel.

By travelling with us, you're making positive contributions to people and planet, aligned with the UN SDGs.

Don't just take our word for it, we're B Corp certified!



**B CORP
CERTIFIED**



**CLIMATE ACTION
PLAN**



**FAIR & ETHICAL
WAGES**



**SUPPORTING
THE UN SDGs**

Learning Outcomes



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Our programme is designed to immerse students in diverse cultures, engage with real-world challenges, and gain an understanding of their role in a global community. They will develop intercultural competence, broaden their perspectives, and actively contribute to sustainable development initiatives.



LEADERSHIP & TEAMWORK

Through stepping outside their comfort zone, students will build resilience, confidence, and adaptability. By taking on new challenges and working collaboratively in teams, they will strengthen their leadership skills, decision-making, and capacity to guide and inspire others.



EMPOWERMENT

Students are empowered to develop the confidence and independence needed to think critically, challenge the status quo, and take ownership of their choices, creating a mindset for transformative decision-making.

PROJECTS ABROAD.

**Adventures that build
futures.**



partnerships@projects-abroad.org



Sea Turtle Conservation | Mexico

**PROJECTS
ABROAD.**