

Insurance Certificate Required: Yes No *-i'm unclear what this means. They have insurance*

Mode of Transportation: Air, Van, 24 person boat

Explanation of Trip:

Immersive ecology based field study in Mexico focusing on desert and coastal/coral communities. Students will explore ecosystems around La Paz and the Sierra Cacachilas, observing the resilient flora and fauna that thrive in this arid region. They will conduct an underwater tropical fish survey, and contribute to a coral reef restoration project. Additionally, local ecoclub members will provide insights on urban green infrastructure initiatives in La Paz which help to preserve the incredible natural environment that envelops this dynamic coastal community.

Educational Purpose:

This travel experience ties directly in with NGSS standards and will provide an incredible opportunity for SHS students to have a true, rigorous in depth field experience as well as providing cultural exposure.

Itinerary (sample):

Day 1: Arrive in baja california sur • Head north from the airport to La Paz, Baja California Sur • Familiarize yourself with your instructors and discover EPI's campus

Day 2: engage in a cultural exchange • Meet with a local youth eco-club an exchange ideas on how to make communities more sustainable • Enjoy a tour of La Paz and the Museum of Anthropology

Day 3: explore a coral reef • Join local partners to learn about coral reef restoration • Investigate sustainable pearl farming in La Paz

Day 4-5: investigate the desert ecosystem • Travel to Rancho Cacachilas to contribute to an ongoing reptile survey project • Explore how life has adapted to living in the desert

Day 6: give back to the coast • Explore hiking trails and learn about coastal ecosystems, from sand dunes to mangroves • Investigate microplastics and contribute to conservation efforts by participating in a community beach clean up

Day 7: Search for Marine Life • Refine your snorkeling skills in the calm waters of the bay • Learn tropical fish identification and conduct an underwater tropical fish survey

Day 8: depart for the cabo san lucas airport

Advisor's Signature: Justin Kaput Date: 9/9/2024

Principal Signature: [Signature] Date: 11/5/24

Superintendent/Designee: Approve Deny

Superintendent/Designee Signature: _____ Date: _____

Board of Education: Approve Deny

Board Chair Signature: _____ Date: _____

From: **Tyler Eisenhand (US)** <tyler@ecologyproject.org>

Date: Mon, Nov 4, 2024 at 1:39 PM

Subject: [External - Use Caution] Re: [External - Use Caution] Re: [External - Use Caution] Re: [External - Use Caution] Re: [External - Use Caution] Re: [External - Use Caution] Re: [External - Use Caution] Re: [External - Use Caution] EPI Course Information

To: Justin Kaput <jkaput@suffield.org>

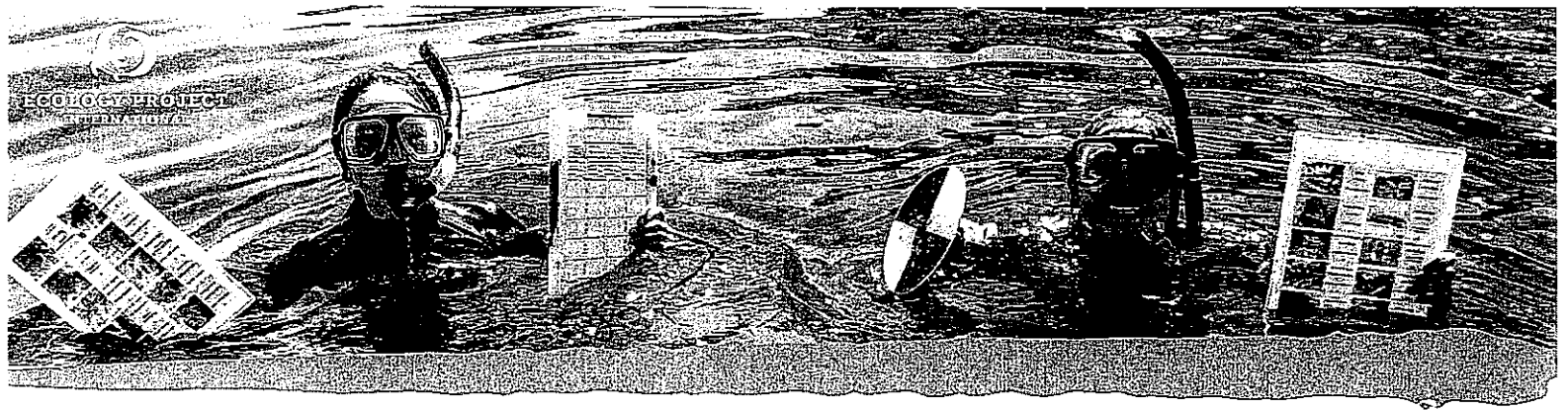
Hey Justin,

Awesome news! I've attached a sample itinerary from one of our Baja Desert and Coastal Ecology courses from this year. Keep in mind that since we are looking at 2026, there could be some changes to the activities and itinerary listed.

The other point to mention about 2026 is the pricing I provided for this course is our 2025 course price. Our 2026 course prices will be released on March 1st- in the meantime, if students enroll in the course and pay their initial \$350 before we release 2026 pricing they will lock in the 2025 rate. The current cost of that course is \$3,295 for an 8-day program. This will be subject to change on March 1st, so it's a great incentive to encourage students to sign up and commit early on!

Do you have dates in mind? Once we get that squared away I can get the course created in our system and you'll be all set to start promoting and enrolling students.

Thanks,
Tyler



SAMPLE ITINERARY

Desert and Coastal Ecology

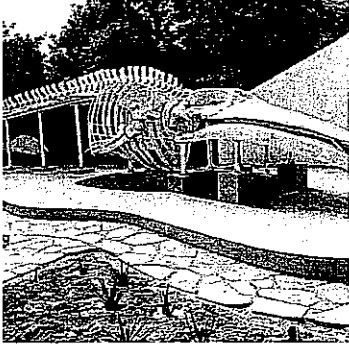


ECOLOGY PROJECT
INTERNATIONAL

Daily Itinerary

Day 1

Saturday



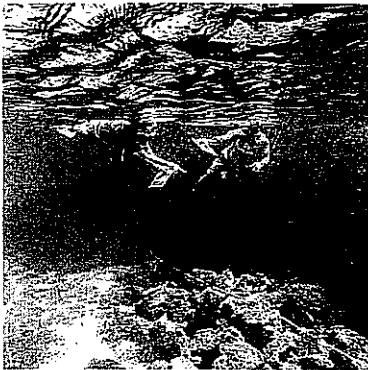
Travel to La Paz and Settle in

Your instructors will meet you at the Los Cabos airport and shuttle the group to La Paz and the EPI Campus, our home base for the start of our course.

EPI's campus is a center for community-focused conservation and education in La Paz, Baja California Sur. Located near the city's waterfront Malecón, the EPI campus has compost and recycling stations, an active water conservation project, and serves as a lively venue for community events. Lodging includes dormitory-style lodging with access to running water, flush toilets, and limited electricity.

Day 2

Sunday



Snorkeling Practice & Introduction

We'll head to the calm waters of the Bay of La Paz' shores to practice our snorkeling skills, explore a coral reef ecosystem, and learn about field research techniques.



Cultural Exchange

Spend the day exploring the city and culture of La Paz including visiting the Anthropology and History Museum and a cultural exchange with local youth

Note: Activities are subject to change and adapt to the needs of the instructors, students, weather, wildlife, and other unforeseen circumstances. Welcome to the wonderful world of field science!

Day 3

Monday



Coral Restoration Activity

We'll travel to the protected Pichilingue Beach and take part in a coral restoration project. We'll dive into the anatomy and biology of coral and coral reef ecosystems and explore the human caused threats these organisms are facing. Then, we'll snorkel and explore the restoration site.

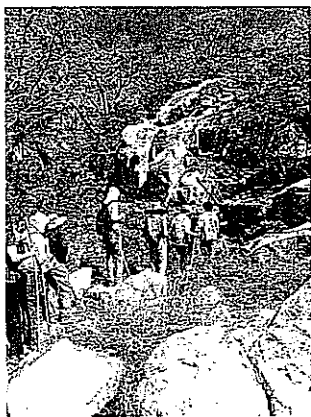


Explore Downtown La Paz

The artwork of the famous waterfront promenade known as the Malecón was inspired by the vibrant marine life and conservation efforts that are central to the community of La Paz. We'll take a stroll along the Malecón and celebrate the close of our course with a farewell dinner in downtown La Paz.

Day 4

Tuesday



Desert Ecology Hike

Visit a unique working ranch that is committed to sustainability and building community. While there you will learn more about the desert ecosystem and the research, revenue generating, and conservation work that the ranch is doing.

Note: Activities are subject to change and adapt to the needs of the instructors, students, weather, wildlife, and other unforeseen circumstances. Welcome to the wonderful world of field science!



Day 5

Wednesday



Research Projects

We'll work in groups to consider everything Baja has taught us about ecology, conservation, and connection to the land to develop research questions and methods that you will have a chance to conduct while in the field.



Cerro de la Calavera Hike

Now that you're feeling comfortable in La Paz, you will head out on an iconic La Paz hike to introduce the ecological concepts you'll explore through your time in the field. Overlooking the Bay of La Paz, this hike serves as a grounding point for your course.

Day 6

Thursday



Beach Clean Up and Ocean Conservancy Protocol

Take a trip to a local beach to snorkel and then conduct a beach cleanup including an analysis and discussion about the trash that is found.



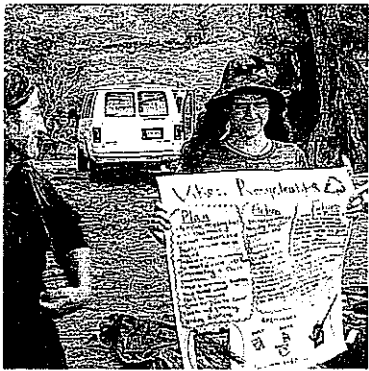
Day 7

Friday



REEF Tropical Fish Surveys

REEF is an international organization dedicated to education surrounding ocean conservation. You will take part in a global citizen science project right off the coast of ESI to help monitor and assess the populations of tropical fish in the area. Grab your snorkel, fins, and wetsuit, and jump on in!



Independent Project Presentations

As the course draws to a close, we'll work in groups to consider everything the island has taught us about ecology, conservation, and connection to the land, thinking critically about how we can implement what we've learned back at home. We'll create a short presentation about our findings and share it with the rest of the group.

Day 8

Saturday



Travel Back to Cabo for Departure Flight

It's time to head home! You'll jump back on the shuttle and enjoy one last drive through the Baja desert before boarding catching your flight from the San Jose del Cabo airport.

Note: Activities are subject to change and adapt to the needs of the instructors, students, weather, wildlife, and other unforeseen circumstances. Welcome to the wonderful world of field science!

