

Sea Turtle Conservation

High School Special Schedule Mexico

Welcome to our High School Special Conservation Project in Mexico! Are you ready for a once-in-a-lifetime experience working in and exploring this beautiful country?

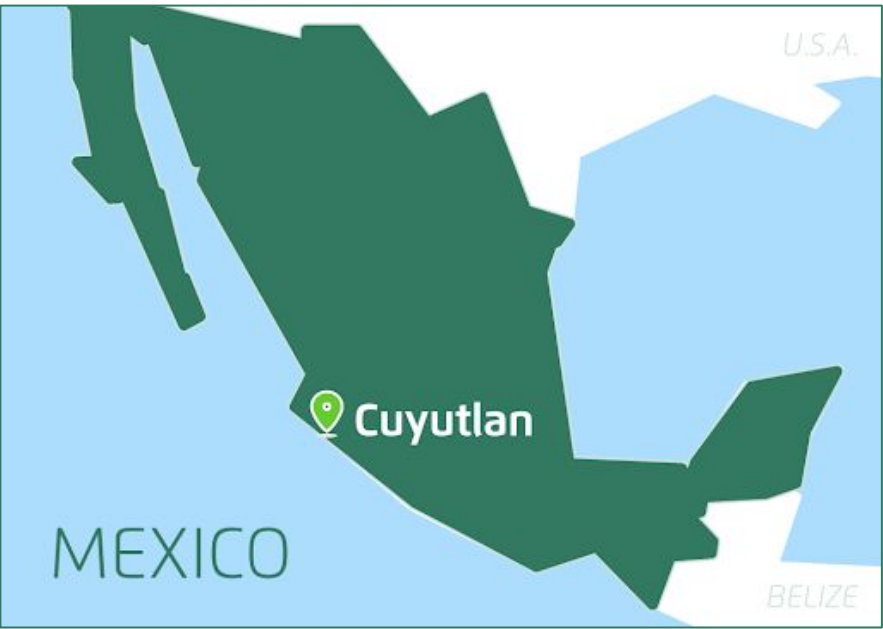
On the idyllic black sand beaches of Cuyutlan, your group will help ensure the safety and survival of endangered sea turtles in Mexico, including olive ridley turtles, black turtles, and leatherbacks. Working with expert conservationists, be part of maintaining the planet's biodiversity.

This two-week Conservation Project takes high school special volunteers to Mexico's stunning coastline, where you'll collect data that will be used across the Americas. In doing so, you build vital skills while improving the environment of the local community.

During this trip, your group will be immersed in the incredible culture of Mexico, learning from local people and broadening your perspective on the world.

This group trip promotes teamwork, protects endangered wildlife, raises cultural awareness, and leaves a positive impact on the lives of local people.





Highlights

- ▶ 40 Service Hours
- ▶ Care for sea turtles and protect their nests
- ▶ Complete beach cleanups
- ▶ Learn from local people and Conservationists
- ▶ Explore the countryside and culture of Mexico
- ▶ Gain new skills while making a positive impact

Accommodation

Volunteer House

Transport

Car, van, and by foot

Meals

All meals will be served at the volunteer house each day or can be packed to go as needed.

Responsible Travel

We offset 100% of carbon emissions associated with your in-destination transport. We’re committed to being fully climate-positive by 2024!

By volunteering with us you’re helping reforestation efforts, protecting existing forests and providing employment to local communities around the world.

Day 1

Sunday
Arrival in Mexico

On arrival, at Guadalajara International Airport, you head through passport control and look out for a Projects Abroad staff member. They’re easy to spot, wearing a bright green staff t-shirt or holding a sign to identify them.

The staff member greets you with a smile and welcomes you to Mexico. You will then be transported by car to the bustling city of Guadalajara where you will overnight at a host family.

In the morning, you will be taken to the laid-back oceanside town of Cuyutlan. Your accommodation is close to a stunning beach.



Day 2

Monday

Travel to Cuyutlan, your house on the beach. Join a tour of the town and a cultural awareness course to help you settle in. You will also be introduced to the work being done at El Tortugario Centre where you will be working for the next two weeks..

After dinner in the evening, you will head out for your first beach patrol as you search for turtle nests and collect the eggs to keep them safe. You will take them back to a protected area created for them.

Day 3

Tuesday

Morning:
Learn from local experts as they explain how the centre operates. Jump right in and begin to clean tanks, monitor the turtle nursery and plant nests as you help the staff to create a sustainable environment for these turtles.

Afternoon:
Grab a quick lunch at the house with your fellow volunteers before engaging in a bird observation walk where you will learn about their different traits and habits..

Evening:
After dinner inner it is time to patrol the beaches and protect the nesting turtles.

Day 4

Wednesday

Morning:
Head to Tortugario to resume cleaning tanks to provide habitable housing for rescued or injured turtles. You will also monitor and care for turtle nests at the nursery.

Afternoon:
Break for lunch at the lodge alongside your fellow volunteers before participating in a mangrove restoration project, which involves activities such as planting mangrove seedlings, removing invasive species, and maintaining the health of existing mangroves.

Evening:
Patrol the beaches for turtle nests and bring back eggs to the nursery for planting in the morning.

Day 5

Thursday

Morning:
Today you will focus on cleaning tanks and turtles, and preparing the nursery for planting new nests. Prepare to also feed iguanas as you learn about their habits and dietary preferences .

Afternoon:
Marvel at the natural wonders of the Palo Verde Estuary. Spot crocodiles basking in the sun and flocks of vibrant birds, including herons, egrets, and ibises, soaring overhead

Evening:
Enjoy dinner before heading out in groups to participate in patrols to ensure the safety of nesting sea turtles.

Day 6

Friday

Morning:
Time flies and before you know it, it’s time to depart to Melaque for your weekend trip. Pack your swim gear for an awesome weekend.

Afternoon:
Get settled into your accommodation and head out for lunch as you prepare to sample traditional Mexican cuisine. Take a tour of the town and have dinner before returning to the hotel.

Day 7

Saturday

Full Day:

A weekend in Melaque promises a delightful blend of relaxation and adventure, with a boat tour offering a unique perspective of the area's natural beauty.

As the sun rises over the tranquil shores of Melaque, enjoy a leisurely stroll along the sandy beaches, dive into the warm water for a swim, pause for more Mexican cuisine at lunch and enjoy a boat tour. This will offer glimpses of hidden coves, secluded beaches, and rugged cliffs adorned with lush vegetation. Unwind with dinner and a cool sea breeze.



Day 8

Sunday

Full Day:

Enjoy a final swim and bid farewell to the beauty of this region as you depart for Cuyutlan. It's time to continue making an impact now that you are rested and rejuvenated.

Day 9

Monday

Morning:

Grab a quick breakfast before you return to Tortugario where you continue to clean tanks, feed iguanas and monitor the nursery while planting new nests.

Afternoon:

After lunch it is time for a turtle release. As you carefully cradle the turtles in your hands, you will feel a sense of responsibility and connection to these tiny, yet resilient beings. Each turtle carries with it the hope of survival and the promise of preserving its species. Watch as they make their first journey into the ocean.

Evening:

After dinner, continue with beach patrols as there are more nests to protect.

Day 10

Tuesday

Morning:

By now you have become experts at cleaning the tanks and turtles, and monitoring the nursery. You'll check for labels and the general health of the nests. You'll also feed the turtles and iguanas.

Afternoon

Help to secure and enforce the housing for the hatchling nursery. Broken posts need to be replaced, mesh repaired and enclosures constructed.

Evening:

Unwind with some games and a quiz after dinner. Then get ready for the night patrol as assigned. The turtles need you to help them to secure their eggs.

Day 11

Wednesday

Morning:

After a delicious breakfast, it is time to head out for your assigned tasks. Clean tanks and turtles, feed them and plant nests at the nursery. Check for signs of hatching and make sure the conditions are ideal for egg development.

Afternoon:

After lunch, engage in the mangrove restoration project as you plant seedlings to restore and protect mangrove ecosystems. Then head over to the beach as the sun sets for more turtle release. Celebrate as you give these hatchlings a new lease on life. It's an exciting time.

Evening:

Enjoy dinner and games before heading out to safeguard sea turtle nests and nesting females.



Day 12

Thursday

Morning:

Prepare for an exciting day ahead as you do your part to support the rescued turtles: tank cleaning, turtle cleaning, nursery monitoring and the planting of nests. Don't forget to feed the iguanas.

Afternoon:

With over 300 species of birds recorded in Palo Verde Estuary, every outing offers the chance to encounter something new and extraordinary. So grab your binoculars as you observe and learn about these beautiful creatures.

After birdwatching, grab some garbage bags as we join in a beach clean up and clear the shores of litter and debris.

Evening:

Enjoy dinner and some rest before heading out on your final patrol, to secure eggs and protect the nesting turtles.



Day 13
Friday

Morning:
Rise and shine! Today is your final day working on the Turtle Conservation project. There are still tanks to clean and nests to plant. Feed the iguanas and check up on the turtle nursery.

Afternoon:
Enjoy lunch as you reflect on the lessons learned and the impact made in collaboration with others. Pack your bags and travel to Guadalajara where you will stay overnight in the city before your flight.

Day 14
Saturday
Departing Peru

The group members will likely be departing at different times, therefore days 13 and 14 may not be the same for everyone. Your exact departure plan will be communicated to you directly by our local team.

You will have the continued support of Projects Abroad staff right until you are safely at the airport.

Want to learn more?

We'd be happy to talk to you and and and answer any questions you may have. You can call or email our team, or use the 'live chat' feature on the Projects Abroad website.

General inquiries: info@projects-abroad.org

Social Media

-  [@projectsabroadglobal](#)
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Personal Achievements



- ▶ Gained valuable hands-on work in conservation initiatives.
- ▶ Completed 40 service hours.
- ▶ Contributed directly to the preservation of endangered species through turtle conservation efforts.
- ▶ Increased awareness about the challenges affecting turtle conservation and solutions to alleviate this.



Student Learning Outcomes

Intercultural Competence

Students will be immersed in different cultures, gaining an understanding of their role within our global community and developing a deeper cultural awareness.

Leadership Development

Students will be pushed out of their comfort zones, experiencing new challenges each day. They will build their confidence and resilience through team activities and new life experiences.

Healthy Active Living

Students will be encouraged to prioritise their self-care, enhancing their physical and mental well-being.

Empowerment

Students will be empowered to think for themselves, challenging the "status-quo" and cultivating transformative decision-making mindsets.

Global Citizenship

Students will be exposed to new perspectives, engage with real-world challenges and contribute to sustainable development initiatives.