ECOLOGY PROJECT
INTERNATIONAL

BAJA
TEACHER FELLOWSHIP

WELCOME TO BAJA! Baja California Sur is your primary classroom in EPI's Teacher Fellowship- providing you a unique opportunity to assist with international conservation efforts in the Gulf of California, a World Heritage Site that's home to 39% of the world's marine mammal species.

THE ISLAND: Espiritu Santo is a protected island in the Gulf of California, just an hour boat ride from La Paz, Mexico. The island's waters are a marine reserve, due to their unique ecology and their bounty of rare and native species. Here you'll find stunning beaches, red rock cliffs, abundant bird life, reptiles, and desert plants. While on Espiritu Santo, you'll participate in a study on the distribution and feeding behavior of the invertebrate *Acanthaster planci* in order to determine changes in biodiversity and health in the marine protected area. Instructors will also introduce you to EPI's unique model for creating positive learning environments in the field and applying field science at home.

LA PAZ: After completing your field work on Espiritu Santo, you'll return to EPI's campus in La Paz. Depending on conditions and availability, you may have the opportunity to snorkel with whale sharks, meet with local teachers and students, or participate in a community service project.

Length	Professional Development Coursework	Focus
8 days	60 hours	marine biology, desert ecology, conservation

HIGHLIGHTS

- Snorkel with sea lions, tropical fish & whale sharks
- Explore marine diversity in the Gulf of California
- Camp on a pristine beach under the stars

UNESCO
World Heritage Site

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SAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1: ARRIVE IN BAJA

- Get to know your instructors, Fellow cohort, and the EPI campus

Days 2-5: MARINE ECOLOGY ON ESPIRITU SANTO ISLAND

- Travel by boat to the pristine and secluded Espiritu Santo Island
- Practice your snorkeling skills and research protocols
- Explore and investigate the desert island ecosystem
- Develop your own research project
- Snorkel with sea lions as you bid farewell to the island

Days 6-7: LA PAZ, WHALE SHARKS, & ECO CLUBS

- Head back to La Paz & stroll along the Malecón, the waterfront walkway
- Swim with the world's largest fish and relax on the iconic Balandra Beach (depending on weather conditions)
- Meet members of the Californios Verdes- EPI's local student-led eco club

Day 8: DEPART FROM THE BAJA PENINSULA

EPI CAMPUS

Room type	Fellows per room	Running water	Hot water	Toilet type	Electricity
dormitory	4-8	✓	✓	flush	✓

ESPIRITU SANTO ISLAND

Room type	Fellows per tent	Running water	Hot water	Toilet type	Electricity
tent	2-4			pit	

Program Partner: CONANP