

**F**ew places in the world can boast such beauty and diversity as Baja California in Northwestern Mexico. From organ pipe cacti to gray whales, ancient rock paintings to small fishing villages, and desert mountains to coastal reefs, Baja provides an unforgettable international travel experience. Exploring by kayak, snorkel, and foot, students on this workshop learn about the social, environmental, and economic challenges of conservation and sustainable development.



## The International Experience

The Baja International Experience is an immediate study in contrasts: rich desert and diverse seas; rough mountains and picturesque canyons. Resting on the spectacular shores of the Loreto Bay National Park, students begin their workshop by interacting with Mexican students, scientists, and natural history guides to build an understanding of desert and coastal ecology. While hiking, kayaking and snorkeling, students learn about the incredible diversity of the region and why it is important to protect.

Baja culture and history come alive as students visit thousand-year-old cave paintings, walk the ancient canyon trails of the missionaries, and learn to prepare handicrafts and Mexican food at a traditional ranch. They also join local students from a small fishing village in activities that help both cultures understand the lifestyles of the other.

The trip culminates with an overnight kayak excursion deep into the National Park. Here, students research the conservation issues of the region and jointly work with Mexican students on a Park service project. We finish back at base camp where we tie together concepts and experiences in an active discussion as the sun sets behind the mountains.

**Please check our website for sample day-by-day itineraries and photos!**



## The Curriculum

Our Discover Classroom Earth Curriculum helps prepare students for their international experience *before they travel* with a series of ten hands-on, age-appropriate and user-friendly lessons. The two-hour lessons explore everything from culture to language and travel tips to leadership skills. Your workshop fee includes this curriculum as well as staff support in implementing it with your participants. Among other things, the Baja curriculum reveals the rich cultural history of the region and the biodiversity of two of the most unique ecosystems in the world: the Sea of Cortez and the lower Sonoran Desert.



## The Service Leadership Project

Following the international workshop, we work with students back in their home communities to develop student-designed service projects that bring personal and community meaning to their international experience. Some students focus their energy on making a difference in their own home community. Projects may include initiating a recycling program at school, participating in an on-going stream clean-up project, supporting disadvantaged members of the community, or educating others about local conservation issues. Other students focus their attention on the region they visited. Projects may include raising funds to support the school they visited, educating others at home about conservation issues abroad, or supporting conservation organizations working in the region visited.



# Baja Journey

## **Recommended Age and Maturity Level**

This program is specifically designed for middle-school and high school students. However workshop activities can be modified for college or adult participants. Maturity level should be considered when determining whether students are appropriate candidates for this program.

## **Group Sponsors and Group Size**

Global Explorers includes one complimentary spot for every 12 full-paying participants. The complimentary spots are generally reserved for the educators who organize the group locally with Global Explorers' support; they are referred to as Group Sponsors. Our minimum group size is 12 paying participants. Please contact us to discuss possibilities if you have a smaller group.

## **Included**

All travel expenses within Mexico, all meals (unless specified), all lodging, all ground transfers, airport departure taxes, basic level of tips for guides and other services, a program t-shirt, workshop journal, textbook(s), curriculum and service project materials (for Group Sponsor), travel insurance, year-long support, guidance and mentoring for local Group Sponsor, and an on-site Global Explorers Representative during workshop.

## **Not Included**

Airfare between your home city and Loreto, Mexico, passport, immunizations and any personal items.

## **Accommodations**

Nestled on the quiet shores of the Sea of Cortez, El Santuario is a simple and quiet lodge with basic accommodations. Students sleep on single beds in beachside cabanas. His/her solar showers and compost toilets are very comfortable. Students sleep in tents on the kayak portion of the workshop.

## **Flexibility**

We do everything we can to ensure a positive workshop experience. Because we can not control all aspects of our workshops (like when we happen to spot a whale), we may need to slightly alter the workshop itinerary on-site. We reserve the right to make these changes in the interest of enjoyment, education, logistics or safety. In order to make these changes smooth, we rely on your cooperation and flexibility.

## **Safety**

We take this topic seriously and ask that all workshop participants do the same. We take an enormous amount of care in preparing our workshops to minimize safety risks and we have created rules and regulations accordingly. It is very important that all travelers obey the rules and regulations set forth by Group Sponsors, on-site Global Explorers staff, guides and lodge managers.

## **Physical Fitness Level**

All of our workshops are designed for adventurous participants! We suggest participants prepare both physically and mentally for their workshops in order to get the most out of the experience. While the hikes and excursions included in this workshop are not strenuous, the conditions may be taxing for some travelers. Please call us for more details and discuss any concerns with your physician.

## **Cancellation and Refund Policy**

We are able to refund a portion of your payments if cancellation becomes necessary. A withdrawal schedule will be made available with a payment schedule so you will know the details before you begin payment. We sincerely regret having to strictly adhere to this schedule but we begin sending non-refundable payments for lodging and transportation and incur other costs long before the workshop.

**12-15 paying participants = \$1,750**

**More than 15 participants = \$1,730**

★ Teacher travels free for every 12 ★  
paying participants!

Come Discover Classroom Earth!

[www.globalexplorers.org](http://www.globalexplorers.org)