



Thank you for Volunteering with us!

Here is some information to help you prepare for your Adventure!

Getting Here:

Reserve your flight into Los Cabos or La Paz, Mexico.

Ground Transportation:

If there are two or more in your party we recommend renting a car at the airport. It will come in handy for getting around Todos Santos and exploring the surrounding areas when you are not volunteering.

The airport shuttle to Todos Santos can be reserved at ecobajatours.com. It's about 20usd/ one way. Be sure to reserve from your arrival **Airport to Todos Santos. Please be sure to give us your arrival time** so we can pick you up.

Transportation while in Todos Santos: We recommend renting a car if there are two or more in your group.

It is possible to get by without renting a car while you are Volunteering. If you like long beach walks, you can walk to the turtle camp for your morning shift and do a beach assessment along the way. From the Volunteer Center, you can easily walk to downtown, markets, and restaurants (just a couple blocks away). We also have bicycles that volunteers can use to get to turtle camp but keep in mind some of the roads are dirt roads.

Families with kids and couples should consider renting a car so they can get around easier, and to explore the various beaches in the area which are a bit spread out (Palm Beach and Cerritos are a ten minute drive).

What to Bring:

Warm clothes including gloves and hats are needed for patrolling at night. Shorts and t-shirts are good for daytime, and long pants and jackets in the evening. You'll also need sunscreen, a hat, **beach towel**, comfortable shoes, toiletries, laptop, ipad, book or journal, **reusable water bottle**, camera and a headlamp with a red light for night patrols. If you have your own wetsuit or snorkeling equipment bring that too because there will be opportunities to snorkel in Todos Santos and swim with Whale Sharks in la Paz!

The Volunteer Day

Volunteers coordinate their schedules with other Volunteers to make sure all shifts are covered each day. Most volunteers do several days of Nest Monitoring at the Greenhouse and evening Hatchling Releases. Most Volunteers do one or two night patrols Available shifts include :

8:00am - 10:00 am Beach Walk/ Nesting Assessment Walk from Playa La Poza to Incubation Greenhouse to identify and relocate nests (Volunteers usually spend the day Monitoring the Greenhouse after the Beach Walk)

10:00 am - 3:00pm - Nest Monitoring at Greenhouse Count and care for emerging hatchlings & public education

4:00pm - 7:00pm Nest Inventory, and Hatchling Release Nests are cleaned out after 50% of hatchlings have emerged and all nest contents (shells, infertile eggs, etc) are counted and recorded

3:00am - 7:00am Nest Relocation Patrols on ATV Nests are rescued and relocated to Incubation greenhouse

Important:

1. Print out or download to your phone the **sea turtle fact sheets** (download from website). Also print out or download the **Volunteer Manual**. It is important to read these as visitors to the Turtle Camp will ask many questions.
2. Make a copy of your passport and store in your suitcase (keep separate from original)
3. Activate your cel phone for texting in Mexico
4. Reserve your Renta Car or Airport Shuttle
5. You can withdraw pesos from the **ATM** machine in **Todos Santos**. Don't use Money Exchange or ATMs at the airport!
6. Please bring your **reusable water bottle** and do not purchase purified water in single use plastic bottles. Purified water will be provided at Casitas to fill your reusable water bottle. Please choose alternatives to plastic when shopping in Todos Santos. (ie aluminum, glass or carton).

Side trips: We offer the following activities which can be arranged after your arrival.

Kayaking (all year)

Snorkeling (all year)

Surf Lessons (all year)

Whale Watching (Dec-Mar)

Swim with Whale Sharks (Oct-May)

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Why are sea turtles endangered, what are the specific threats?

A: All seven species of sea turtles are classified as endangered. The four **primary** reasons for the declines in their populations are:

1. Loss of Nesting Habitat (construction of hotels and homes on the dunes in nesting areas)
2. Ocean pollution (run off, plastics, etc.)
3. Human poaching of meat and eggs for sale and consumption
4. Incidental bycatch (turtles get caught in fishing nets and lines and drown)

Additional threats specific to Todos Santos are the low temperatures during the fall and winter nesting season and coyote depredation of nests.

Q: Why are you moving the nests from where the females lay them into the Greenhouse?

A: Because the eggs **fail to incubate successfully** if they are left in their original location during cold months.

Q: Why are the turtles laying eggs here if the eggs don't incubate in their natural site?

A: Nests laid June-October 15 can incubate in their natural site. It's these hatchlings that grow up and return here, to their natal beaches, for nesting. More than 100 nests are laid after October 15 each year, and its these fall and winter nests that we are relocating and incubating.

Q: How long is the incubation period?

A: 45-55 days for Olive Ridley, and 60-70 days for Leatherback.

Q: How do you find the nests?

A: We patrol each night, driving along the high tide line and look for the tracks that lead to the nest. We use a stick to poke the nest area to find the eggs. We do the patrol every night because the nests have to be moved within four hours of being laid.

Q: When are the hatchlings released?

A: Hatchlings are released the same day they emerge from their nests (usually at 7-8am and sunset). This can take 2-3 days. After 50% of the turtles have emerged, the nests are cleaned out (at 4pm) and these remaining hatchlings are released at sunset.

Volunteer Checklist

- 🌀 Casita _____
- 🌀 Flight# _____
- 🌀 Renta Car _____
- 🌀 Cel Activated for Mexico
- 🌀 Passport & Copy
- 🌀 Map to Volunteer Center
- 🌀 Turtle Manual and fact sheets
- 🌀 Warm Clothers (hat & gloves)
- 🌀 Beach Towel and attire
- 🌀 Headlamp with red light
- 🌀 Reusable Water bottle
- 🌀 Natural insect repellent like citronella oil
- 🌀 Biodegradable Sunscreen

Please print this out and bring along with your Handbook and Fact sheets. Also print out the Google map to the Volunteer Casitas at **La Sirena Eco Adventures & Casitas**.
Contact Francesca at 011.52.1.612.177.8393 or 612.177.8393 (in Mexico)
if you need help finding the Volunteer Center.