



Gulf of California Biocultural Explorations

Program Objectives

- Explore ecosystems of the Gulf of California
- Explore intercultural sense of place within Mexican and Comcaac communities.
 - Personal exploration and expression

Unit 1

Introduction

- Arrive in Kino, get settled.
- Station orientation
- Food shopping
- Dinner provided at Center.

Unit 2

Sense of Place

- Sensory, creative writing exercise
- Sense of place hike
- Map exercise. Identifying coastal habitats from aerial view
- Introduction to ecology and natural history of marine and coastal ecosystems
- Dinner provided at the Center.

Unit 3

Estuarine and community explorations

- Sea turtle monitoring (depending on moon and tides)
- Natural history and community involvement in conservation
- Dinner provided at Center.

Unit 4

Offshore boating day

- Island Formation, ecology, and conservation
- Marine Mammal and Pelagic Bird Spotting and Identification
- Snorkeling/ Fish Identification
- Dinner provided at center.

Unit 5

Geography and Geology of the Gulf of California

- Geology lesson
- Map drawing
- Building the Gulf of California in the Sand
- Conceptualizing trenches, islands, upwelling
- Afternoon free time
- Cooking class at center or folkloric dance class

Unit 6

Indigenous Knowledge

- Intercultural exchange with Comcaac community members
- Medicinal plant walk.
- Dinner in Old Kino

Instructors

Each program is led by primary instructor matched to the group's interests. All instructors possess excellent group facilitation and experiential education skills and years of experience in the region. In addition, depending on group interest, we integrate students with Center local and indigenous staff working on biocultural conservation, science and education projects.

What to Bring

Be prepared with layered clothing and sun protection. This part of the Sonoran Desert experiences climatic extremes. Heat, dehydration, sun exposure, wind, and varying water temperatures are all important factors. In March, weather will be comfortable during the day but still very sunny and at night it will be chilly and windy.

All visitors must bring their own bedding/sleeping bag; the station can provide cots for sleeping. Visitors also must bring their own towels and toiletry items. Kitchens are well equipped and visitors may bring their own food from the states, buy food in Hermosillo or Kino, or eat out at restaurants.

Here is a list of recommended items for students to bring:

School Supplies

- School Books
- Field Journal or Field Notebook
- Field Guides
- Pens and Pencils
- Laptop and Headphones
- Flash Drive

Field Gear

- Sleeping Bag, Sleeping Pad, Sheet, and Pillow (Sleeping area is outside under palapa roof with bug nets)
- Bug spray
- Binoculars and Camera
- Watch
- Day Pack
- Water Bottle, Coffee Mug, Personal Tupperware
- Flashlight/Headlamp (Bring spare batteries!)

Personal Items

- Clothes: (Prepare for cold and hot weather and items to protect you from the wind, rain, and sun.) Presentable attire for a formal presentation.
- Bring a bathing suit, hat, and culturally appropriate clothing to wear when going into town.
- Shoes: Sandals, running shoes/hiking boots, and water shoes (optional).
- Towel and Toiletries: Glasses/contacts, sunglasses, sunscreen, insect repellent, medications, etc.
- Extras: Musical instruments, soccer ball, volleyball, frisbee, art supplies, etc.

General

- Passport and Tourist Visa (Received at Immigration Checkpoint in HMO airport)
- Extra cash and an ATM card
- Spanish/English Dictionary

About the Prescott College Kino Bay Center

The Vision

The Center provides information, training, and support for students, scientists, educators, and community members; and builds platforms for equitable collaborations between people from different cultures and institutions to co-create viable solutions to complex socio-environmental challenges.

The Opportunities

The Center hosts a full calendar of classes covering topics in marine science, climate studies, community-based conservation, social justice, art, language, writing, and research. Each year, we host approximately 1,400 visitors including researchers, students, faculty, community members, and partners from dozens of institutions, as well as community groups from Mexico, the United States, and around the world. The Center's mission, staff, and programs are supported and enriched by our deep connections and long presence in the region. For more information, view our [Annual Report](#).

Join Us

The Kino Bay Center's community-based conservation work is informed by both science and traditional ecological knowledge, and at each step of the process we facilitate dialog, civic engagement, and experiential education. We believe effective conservation is a collective action, and we invite you to join us in exploring and protecting some of the most bioculturally rich marine and coastal ecosystems in the world.

See you soon!

