

# Educational Program in BAHÍA DE LA PAZ



**i** Marine conservation and environment

**📍** Baja California peninsula  
(México)

**📅** 1-3 weeks

## Context

The Baja California peninsula, and more specifically the coasts of Bahía de la Paz form one of the most unique marine environments in the world. It has a very rich ecosystem in natural resources, but is also, unfortunately, threatened by complex economic and social activity.

Marine debris is reaching alarming levels, choking our oceans. Plastic is literally everywhere.

The massive plastic tide is one of the most pressing concerns about our environment. This tide does not recede. It consists of all sizes of plastics, with larger pieces taking at least 400 years to break down, into fragments known as microplastics. These and other tiny pieces of plastic, like microbeads, accumulate, forming an oceanic soup that recent estimates put at 15 to 50 trillion pieces.

Now more than ever, scientists and local initiatives must come together to address this crisis and thereby, ensure the survival of the planet.



## Learning objectives

- 1** To acquire a broad vision of the physical, biological, ecological and social environment of Bahía de la Paz to analyze actions that promote sustainable development in this unique environment..
- 2** In-depth knowledge of the marine habitat and the needs for conservation and protection of the oceans.
- 3** Acquisition of principles, objectives and strategies of sustainable development and conservation of marine biodiversity as interdisciplinary, transversal and integrating concepts.
- 4** To gain experience of the effects of human activity on the natural conservation of fragile environments whilst developing a global vision of the current reality and the ability to propose sustainable and lasting solutions.

## Activities

- The course is adaptable to the academic needs of the students and to the university study plans. It is characterized as practical, but also includes theoretical training before, during and after the field work in order to integrate the concepts of the topics covered.
- Each of the habitats and organisms analyzed will be worked on in the field and in the classroom. This will help to reinforce the concepts and provide experiential learning in the field.
- Field work will focus on the protection of marine species, with special attention to the dolphin communities that inhabit these environments. Research work will be carried out for the identification, observation of behavior and demography of dolphins in Bahía de la Paz.
- In addition, the necessary actions will be analyzed to guarantee the survival of species through the appropriate management of residues and marine pollutants.
- There will be, every day, a combination of lectures, visits, excursions and practical exercises that will allow the students to identify, analyze and investigate environmental problems seen or experienced during the visits.



## Expected results

- 1 To acquire a broad vision of the current reality of an environment of great value which is currently threatened by global warming and human activity.
- 2 To increase awareness and multidisciplinary knowledge of the social, environmental and economic reality of the environment.
- 3 To design and evaluate waste management solutions at a local level that can also be applicable globally.
- 4 To research work that allows the transfer of knowledge to the community in order to provide innovative, effective and lasting solutions.
- 5 To improve the capacity of critical and ethical thinking, which in turn, will facilitate the sustainable development of the community and ultimately, raise awareness of marine pollution.



## Complementary training

Global Youth Academy is Lea Global's e-learning platform that offers training on the United Nations 2030 Agenda and how to get involved, through actions, to the different SDGs. All projects include 120 hours of training at the Global Youth Academy, as well as ongoing online support on the topics developed.

