



The Program

The Gulf of California Biocultural Explorations program has been developed over the last ten years accumulating momentum in recent years, hosting, on average, 12 external groups a year. This program is ideal for individuals looking to explore the Gulf of California, experiencing the symbiotic relationship between place and culture. Our staff and community partners have years of experience working with students to support their explorations of the region and give them diverse perspectives about life in a small fishing town in Northwest Mexico.



The Region

The biocultural landscape of the Eastern Midriff Island Region of the Gulf of California is unique on a global scale. The great diversity of habitats and environmental conditions is linked to high productivity and species diversity. The region's many islands are legally well-protected and provide habitat for waterbird colonies, California Sea Lion reproduction, and Sonoran Desert flora and fauna, including many endemic species. The coasts and islands of the area have been home to the Comcaac (Seri) people for thousands of years. Today the region is home to diverse and interconnected human communities with overlapping social, cultural, and economic relationships with the natural environment. Local leaders, indigenous communities, fishermen, students, faculty, researchers, and resource managers co-exist in the region and have complementary perspectives for addressing threats and promoting and supporting healthy ecosystems and human communities.



The Center

Established in 1991, the Prescott College Kino Bay Center for Cultural and Ecological Studies is a binational institution providing information, training, and support for students, scientists, educators, and community members. The Center's science, community, education and communication programs builds platforms for equitable collaborations between people from different cultures and institutions to co-create viable solutions to complex socio-environmental challenges. The student experience is enriched by participation in the Center's programs. 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](#) and [Website](#).



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, invite you to join us in exploring and protecting this bioculturally rich corner of the world!

Kino Bay Center
**Gulf of California Biocultural Explorations:
Tour of Bahia de Kino**

Border Community Alliance / March 21-23, 2025

Program Overview and Purpose

During this tour, participants will experience the Bahía de Kino region and learn about many different cultural, economic, environmental, and ecological perspectives. This experiential education opportunity focuses on community-based conservation initiatives, species monitoring, indigenous knowledge, and bio-cultural history. Located on the edge of the Sonoran Desert and shores of the Gulf of California, this region contains incredibly rich, diverse, and unique desert, marine, and island ecosystems. This tour is in partnership with the Prescott College Kino Bay Center for Cultural & Ecological Studies. Travel days will be on Thursday, March 20th, and Monday, March 24th. The three main objectives are to:

- Develop a sense of place in the bay and estuary from cultural, historical, and ecological perspectives.
- Gain an introduction to Comcaac history, culture, and traditional knowledge about plants.
- Explore marine and coastal ecosystems and the ecological importance of the region.

Day 1: Indigenous contexts and Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Objective: To gain an introduction to Comcaac history and traditional knowledge about plants	
Time	Activity
8:00 AM	Breakfast at the Casablanca Inn
9:00 AM	Brief introduction to Comcaac history and context
10:00 AM	Leave for Punta Chueca – Indigenous Comcaac community north of Kino
10:30 AM	Excursions with women's plant group and a Center staff
12:30 PM	Picnic * and short walk in the desert near Punta Chueca
2:30 PM	Return to the Center
3:00 PM	De-brief
4:00 PM	Orientation to the Center and the day's activities and Intro to the region presentation

**Lunch included in trip cost.*

Day 2: Explorations in Laguna La Cruz

Objective: To gain a sense of place in the bay and estuary from cultural, historical, and ecological perspectives

Time	Activity
8:00 AM	Breakfast at the Casablanca Inn
9:00 AM	Turtle monitoring talk from Grupo tortuguero of Kino
10:00 AM	Depart for the estuary in 2 boats (or in vans if the weather is questionable - meeting the boats there)
11:00 AM	Estuary explorations (Waterbird monitoring, sea turtle monitoring, bio-cultural and physical history)
12:00 AM	Lunch* at the estuary restaurant - Discussions about community involvement in conservation
2:00 PM	Begin journey back in boats (or vans)
3:00 PM	Arrive back to Center and de-brief

**Lunch included in trip cost.*

Day 3: Natural History Explorations by Boat Estuarine

Objective: To gain an introduction to marine life and the ecological importance of the region

Time	Activity
7:00 AM	Breakfast at the Casablanca Inn
8:00 AM	Leave for the boat ramp
10:00 AM	Explorations of nearshore waters by boat
10:30 AM	Lunch* on the beach (Tiburón island)
12:30 PM	Return to the Center
2:30 PM	De-brief and program evaluation

**Lunch included in trip cost.*

Driving Directions

151 Calle Cádiz y Puerto Vallarta

Bahía de Kino, Sonora, México, 83340

Please [click here](#) see the Location and Driving Directions page of our website.

What to Bring

Be prepared with layered clothing and sun protection. This part of the Sonoran Desert experiences climatic extremes. During February, the temperature will be cooler, especially at night, and comfortable. Close-toed shoes that can be worn in mud or other outdoor areas are recommended for field days. Please [click here](#) to view more visitor information on our website.

Recommended Field Gear:

- Binoculars and Camera
- Dry Bag and Ziplock Bags
- Day Pack
- Water Bottle

Hotel Accommodations

Participants will be staying at the Casablanca Inn located a few blocks down the street. Rooms are comfortable and include air conditioning, a private bathroom, TV, and wireless internet. The Inn also has a second-story restaurant and bar that overlooks the beautiful Gulf of California. More information and photos can be found online [here](#).

See you soon!

