



Experience Mex-ECO Living Conditions & Equipment List

Sea Turtle Conservation Project

Whilst staying in Campamento Majahuas, there will be many changes for you to get used to! You will be sleeping in a tent on the beach through rain and shine (tents are provided). For those really keen to get into the spirit, and try sleeping in a hammock, they can be bought very cheaply nearby! Tents and hammocks are protected by 'palapas' (palm leaved roof), so there is some protection from the rain.

All food is provided throughout your stay, with the exception of your breaks. Those who choose to take breaks every once in a while must pay for food and accommodation whilst away from camp. Volunteers and staff work on a rota basis to prepare meals. The kitchen is basic, with a 4 hob stove and no fridge; instead we use a cool box and ice to keep essentials such as milk and fresh fish/meat. Due to the lack of refrigeration the diet is largely vegetarian.

Trips into the nearby towns take place roughly every 3-4 days, during which time volunteers are given a chance to buy any extra 'treats' and use the internet (frequency of such trips depend on the number of volunteers on the project at any one time).

There are a large number of mosquitoes in our area, and you will definitely be bitten at some point. There have been no reported cases of malaria in the region for over 20 years, but there have been some cases of dengue fever, although never amongst any of our volunteers. The best way to avoid being bitten is by covering up in the early mornings and evenings and regularly applying insect repellent.

Most of your work will take place throughout the night, but you will also take part in some late afternoon work. All of the nests that we bury must be cleaned out after hatching. This will be, without a doubt, the smelliest part of your stay! You will come across rotten eggs that have not developed, the odd dead hatchling that couldn't make it to the surface, and a few handfuls of maggots!

Despite the mosquitoes and maggots, camp life is absolutely amazing. The work we take part in is very rewarding, and most people are very sad to leave the camp. You will take part in something that few other people will ever get the chance to do, and you will make friends with people who live in a completely different culture to your own. There is chance to take time to relax and reflect on the whole thing throughout the mornings, when you can simply chill out on the beach and take in the scenery.

Month	Average Min. Temp (°C)	Average Max. Temp (°C)	Rainfall (data from 2007)
January	16.6	29.2	3.05 mm
February	16.2	29.5	3.30 mm
March	16.0	28.8	0.00 mm
April	17.2	29.2	0.00 mm
May	19.5	30.2	0.00 mm
June	22.6	31.5	0.00 mm
July	22.9	31.7	167.13 mm
August	22.7	32.0	527.42 mm
September	23.0	31.2	322.33 mm
October	22.1	31.4	8.89 mm
November	19.7	30.8	0.00 mm
December	18.0	30.2	0.00 mm

Data from 'Estación Biológica Chamela'



Equipment List

Below is a list of items we feel necessary to have throughout your stay on our Sea Turtle Conservation Project in Campamento Majahuas; it is divided into essential items and optional extras.

Essential Items:

- **Old clothes:** It is best to take old clothes that you may leave behind once you have finished your stay at turtle camp. You will need beach wear for during the day and long sleeves and trousers to cover up for mosquito protection at night. It is also a good idea to take a sweater and light raincoat. Old trainers or walking boots are the best for night work, whilst flip-flops or sandals are ideal for during the day.
- **Flashlight:** Head torches are the most practical for work, but a hand held flashlight would suffice. Batteries can be bought locally, but it is a good idea to take a small supply.
- **Insect repellent:** spray on insect repellent.
- **Sleeping bag and liner:** a three-season sleeping bag is ideal, providing a nice mattress to sleep on when it is too hot to sleep inside. A liner is easy to wash and fits inside your sleeping bag.
- **Sun-cream and sun-hat:** high factor sun-cream.
- **First aid kit:** there will be first aid equipment kept by staff on the project, but it is essential that you take a basic supply of your own. This should include band-aids, tweezers, antiseptic wipes and cream, antihistamine tablets and painkillers.
- **Water bottle:** drinking at least three litres of water per day will be essential. The easiest way to do this is to have your own water bottle that allows you to monitor your intake.
- **Toiletries:** everything you might need may be bought in large towns, but it is a good idea to bring supplies to last for the first couple of weeks at least.
- **Towel:** a light towel or sarong.
- **Copies of documentation:** you should bring a copy of all of the pre-departure information from Experience Mex-ECO, as well as two photocopies of your passport and tickets and insurance policy (for use in case of loss of the originals).

Optional Extras:

- **Binoculars:** although not essential, the bird life in the area is wonderful, and if you have an interest in wildlife in general then they are a good idea.
- **Camera:** It would be a shame to leave without some photos of what you have been involved in. A cheap camera with a flash will suffice if you do not wish to spend the money on a good camera.
- **Canoe bag:** these waterproof sacks are ideal for protecting camera equipment in the wet season.
- **Smart clothes:** if you are planning on taking trips outside of turtle camp then it may be an idea to take an evening outfit. It is still not necessary to bring your nicest clothes, but it is nice to wear something clean for a night out!
- **Spanish dictionary:** A small dictionary will always come in handy.