



## Defense and protection of marine funds in Spain



### Program Description

In this program, you will join a group of local and international volunteers with the goal of exploring, taking action, and protecting marine biodiversity. You will dive to assist local organizations in safeguarding the marine ecosystems in Spain.

This program welcomes families with children aged 14 and above. The project is open to groups ranging from 8 to 14 volunteers.

### Program Highlights

- Discover the **incredible marine ecosystems** of Barcelona while contributing to the conservation of Spain's coastal environment.
- Become PADI certified or enhance your existing diving skills by completing specific scuba diving modules.
- Explore Barcelona during your free time.
- Meet and connect with people from around the world.

## Your tasks as a volunteer

As an ocean conservation volunteer, you will use and improve your scuba diving skills while actively contributing to the restoration of the natural state of the marine ecosystem in Catalonia and the broader Mediterranean Sea.

Daily tasks may vary depending on the time of year but can include:

- Cleaning the seabed to reduce debris.
- Recording information on collected objects and waste.
- Removing marine organisms from collected debris and safely returning them to the sea.
- Documenting and collecting data on marine wildlife.
- Contributing to research and increasing awareness of marine ecosystems and their protection.

**During the summer**, you may also have the opportunity to assist in summer camps for underprivileged children by organizing workshops related to the sea and the environment.

In summary, as a volunteer in this project, you will participate in various marine conservation activities, including research dives, scientific dives, rescue diving simulations, and possibly underwater photography of fish and other marine life.

The **program includes all scuba diving equipment**. However, if you hold an advanced diving certification and plan to participate in night or deep dives, you **must bring your own dive torch**.

## Schedule

- **Sunday:** Arrival at **Barcelona Airport (El Prat)** on Sunday. Volunteers are accommodated in the NGO's facilities.
- **Monday:** Volunteers start each morning at 7:30 AM by preparing their own hearty breakfast in the apartment. At 8:30 AM on Monday, volunteers will take the metro and walk to the diving center, where the volunteer **work begins at 9:30 AM** with training and dive preparation. They **will receive a briefing** and/or training before the first dive, which starts at 10:30 AM. **Beginners will begin their PADI Open Water training.**
- **Tuesday:** The volunteer work begins at 9:30 AM with training and dive preparation. The dive takes place at 10:30 AM, focusing on **observing the local underwater biodiversity**, followed at 11:30 AM by a training session on equipment organization and maintenance. Lunch can be taken on-site at 12:30 PM or back at the NGO at 1:30 PM. In the afternoon, volunteers return to the NGO by metro for a briefing. From 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, they participate in **community work** before ending the day.

- **Wednesday:** Starting at 7:30 AM – morning breakfast and commute to the dive club as usual. The day begins at 9:30 AM with **training and dive preparation**. The dive takes place at 10:30 AM, followed by an observation of local underwater biodiversity and an 11:30 AM training session on equipment organization and maintenance. Volunteers will then receive **training on ecosystem balance and resilience**. Lunch can be taken on-site at 12:30 PM or back at the NGO at 1:30 PM. From 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, they engage in community work before finishing the day.
- **Thursday:** Starting at 7:30 AM with the morning routine. Volunteer work begins at 9:30 AM with training and dive preparation. The mission at 10:30 AM focuses on identifying and removing waste and parasites from marine biodiversity, followed at 11:30 AM by a training session on equipment organization and maintenance. Volunteers will also receive final instructions for their exams on Friday. In the afternoon, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, they help with community work before wrapping up the day.
- **Friday:** Volunteer work begins at 9:30 AM with training and dive preparation. The dive and final exam take place at 10:30 AM. Student divers will complete their week and obtain their weekly certification. Newly certified volunteers will then be able to participate in all conservation dives in the following weeks. In the afternoon, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, they write an article about the mission they worked on during the week.
- **Saturday and Sunday:** Free exploration of Barcelona with the group of volunteers.

\*This schedule can be changed and/or amended depending on weather conditions, local conditions and unforeseen circumstances.\*

## Accommodation

You will stay in a cultural center in shared rooms with other program volunteers (2 to 4 people per room). Upgrading to a private room is possible for an additional fee, subject to availability and the time of year.

You will have access to free laundry and dryer services.

## Meals

All meals are included (breakfast, lunch, and dinner). The food is primarily vegetarian, but meat options are also available. If you have any allergies or dietary restrictions, please inform us in advance.

## Mandatory Orientation Day

A coordinator will be available for you, and you will have a meeting with them. You will also have a person assigned to assist you with practical situations. A neighborhood/city guide is also provided with recommendations for restaurants, bars, and more.

## Sights & Surroundings

Barcelona, the cosmopolitan capital of the Catalonia region in Spain, is known for its Renaissance art and architecture. It is the second most populous city in Spain and renowned for its high quality of life. Famous for its Mediterranean tapas and historic streets, it features neighborhoods such as Gràcia, Gòtico, and Born, known for their narrow, history-laden streets. Barcelona has a Mediterranean climate, with hot summers ideal for enjoying its Mediterranean beaches.