

Suggested 4 week itineraries for animal behaviour expeditions



There are three suggested itineraries for students with an interest in animal behaviour, these cover the howler monkeys in **Honduras**, macaque monkeys in **Indonesia** and if the student is more inclined towards marine studies they can look at cleaner fish behaviour on Indonesian coral reefs.

Honduras - Cusuco National Park

Itinerary

Week 1 - HM001 Jungle Training

Weeks 2,3,4 - HM103 Howler monkey behaviour and ecology

This expedition has the student working in forests of Cusuco National Park studying the populations and behaviour of the groups of howler monkeys that live in the area. The student will gain experience of living and working in the forest while studying the howler monkeys. Several different elements of the monkeys behaviour are studied including individual and group interactions, vocalisations and foraging.

For the first week the students joins the jungle training course where they are taught general forest ecology, including some of the main species in the area and their ecology. The course also highlights the specific requirements for working in the forest environment including safety considerations and conservation needs of the area.

After this the student will join the primate research group based in the community of Cofradia and work in the surrounding forests. During this time they will help with observational studies of the behaviour of several groups of howler monkeys. These monkeys are relatively sedentary which allows extensive observation and familiarisation of individuals and groups so specific behaviours can be monitored that are impossible with more mobile species. The student will use a variety of different methods to record behaviour and be involved in the analysis of the data. Over the three weeks the student will build up a very good understanding of the monkeys behaviour and is expected to become an important member of the research team.

Indonesia - Lambusango Reserve

Itinerary

Week 1 - IN001 Jungle Training and Tropical forest Ecology

Weeks 2,3,4 - IL102 Fundamental Ecology Research Projects

This expedition has the student working in forests of Lambusango Reserve studying the populations and behaviour of the macaque monkeys that live in the area. The student will gain experience of living and working in the forest while studying the macaques. Several different elements of the monkeys behaviour are studied including individual and group interactions, aggression levels and ranging behaviour. The macaques often come into farming land and their interaction with humans and their crop raiding behaviour is an important part of the study.

The first week of the course is the jungle training course where students are taught general forest ecology, including some of the main species in the area and their ecology. The course also highlights the specific requirements for working in the forest environment including safety considerations and conservation needs of the area.

After this the student will join the primate research group based in the community of Labundo working in the surrounding forests. During this time they will help with observational studies of the behaviour of several troops of macaque monkeys. These monkeys are encroaching on farming land and raiding the locals crops, as a result they are increasingly coming into conflict with the local people. This situation allows research into raiding behaviour and crop selection by the monkeys. Equally there are studies working with troops of monkeys in areas with different levels of human activity and disturbance, the student can join projects helping study how behaviour of the monkeys may differ between such habitats. Over the three weeks the student will build up a very good understanding of the monkeys behaviour and is expected to become an important member of the research team.

Suggested itineraries for animal behaviour expeditions



Indonesia - Wakatobi Nation Park

Itinerary

Week 1 - IH007 Indonesian reef ecology

Weeks 2,3,4 - IH112 Research assistant pool

A course covering elements of the marine environment based on the coral reefs and marine environment around the small Indonesian island of Hoga, situated in the Wakatobi National Park, one of the most biodiverse areas of coral reefs in the world. The course will allow the student to join a long running program studying cleaner fish behaviour on the reefs around Hoga island. Cleaner fish are those that feed off the parasites and dead skin of larger fish in a symbiotic relationship. The cleaner fish benefiting from gaining a food source while the larger fish are cleaned helping maintain their health. This is a well established relationship with several cleaner fish grouping together to form cleaning stations, while the larger fish that could otherwise easily eat the cleaner fish exhibit displays that indicate they wish to be cleaned and will not consume the cleaner fish. Although well documented, the behaviour of such fish is little understood and the student will help the research group by recording behaviour patterns in the field using various techniques and learn about the analysis and interpretation of such data.

On the first week of the course the student will take the reef ecology course where they will learn species identification of fish, corals and invertebrates. The course also involves elements of reef conservation, surveying and ecology.

The student will then join the research assistant pool for three weeks which allows them to join the cleaning fish research project. During this time they will study many different cleaning stations recording the behaviour of both the cleaner fish and the fish being cleaned. Additionally other behaviours and fish will be studied, for example there are false cleaner fish that look similar to normal cleaner fish, so much so the larger fish allow them to approach before the false cleaner fish takes a bite from the larger fish. The student will learn about how to record, process and analyse such behaviour.