

THE MONTENEGRO DOLPHIN PROJECT

VOLUNTEER AND INTERN RECRUITMENT



Join our team of researches in the Southeastern Adriatic!

OUR PROJECT

The Montenegro Dolphin Project (MDP) is the first long term research study of dolphins in Montenegrin waters. We aim to address questions about marine mammals abundance, distribution and behaviour, to define critical habitats and investigate the impact of major threats. In addition to our research effort, our attention also focuses on the promotion and implementation of awareness initiatives targeted at the local communities particularly youth. Joining our team of international researchers and students is a one time opportunity to gain important scientific, analysing and conservation skills on marine mammals research field.

MONTENEGRO AND ITS NATURE

The nature in Montenegro is wild and still uncontaminated: running from the majestic black mountains, to the crystal clear lakes and rivers and from the historic towns to the national parks, this small country offers an incredible variety of landscapes and outdoor activities. Montenegrin coastal waters are extremely rich in marine life, but yet barely explored. At least 2 species of marine mammals can be found here, the most common of which are the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) and striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*). Unfortunately these animals, like many others worldwide, are experiencing significant declines caused by human related activities. By choosing to study the Montenegrin dolphins with us, you can be part of the CHANGE for the good reasons!

PROJECT FIELD WORK AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Performing land-based and boat-based surveys;
- Collecting dolphin sighting and behaviour data, as well as anthropogenic data;
- Operating theodolite and managing its software, Pythagoras;
- Data entry and analysis;
- Photo-identification of bottlenose dolphins and striped dolphins;
- Organising and leading events, lectures, conferences, dolphin watch tours for stakeholders (from school kids to fishermen, policy makers, university staff)

TRAINING

The Montenegro Dolphin Project team will provide lectures, workshops and field work training as well as constant mentoring. You will be given the chance to learn some of the most widely used methodologies in marine mammals research such as:

- Theodolite operation and Pythagoras software
- Photo-ID and Discovery software

- Efficient usage of Excel
- Scientific data entry and its analysis
- ArcGIS mapping software to advance level
- R for statistical analysis
- Scientific project, manuscript and report writing

You may also use your time with us to develop your own scientific project and improve your skills as a field researcher.

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Our scientific work is supported by the precious help of volunteers, interns and students, coming from all over the world and motivated to leave a positive impact on marine wildlife protection and conservation. We offer both volunteering and internship positions: this is an extremely valuable opportunity for graduates, that wish to gain experience in the marine mammals research field, and undergraduates, that would like to obtain internship academic credits. However, we are also open to accept applications from anyone whose love for dolphins and willingness to learn are strong and sincere.

REQUIREMENTS

Required Skills:

- True interest for marine conservation, self-motivation, maturity and ability to work responsibly
- Ability to take initiatives and cohabit in a dynamic and multicultural environment
- Respect for the organization's rules and willingness to follow standards and procedures
- Fluent English (both spoken and written) and good communication skills
- Willingness to learn new skills and software applications
- Previous fieldwork experience is an advantage but not mandatory

Desirable Skills:

- Background in marine biology and knowledge of marine mammals
- Previous fieldwork experience
- Ability to operate Theodolite
- Previous experience in photo-identification (photographing and matching)

ACCOMODATION & FACILITIES

Accommodation is included in the participation fee. Volunteers will have a bed in a shared room with access to a communal kitchen and bathroom as well as a common room with sofas to relax or hang out with the team after work. The accommodation itself is basic, but there is everything you need including Wi-Fi, hot water and washing machines.

The place is located in Bar, a small coastal city in the south of Montenegro where the students can find everything they need in terms of pharmacies, supermarkets, restaurants etc. It is only 10 minutes walk from the seaside which offers beautiful stony beaches in Bar itself.

There are plenty of outdoor activities to choose such as hiking, diving, rock climbing and birdwatching. On the weekends, you will have the time to travel across the country and visit the nearby cities/countries and attractions.

PROJECT FEE

The project participation fee is 700 euros / month which **includes:**

- Accommodation
- Training
- Field work (Sea & Land Surveys)
- Use of the equipments
- Project related transportation within the country

Not included in the fee is:

- Transportation to /from Montenegro
- All participants should have health and/or travel insurance
- Meals

*****Recommendation Letter & Certificate of Participation will be provided after the placement in the Montenegro Dolphin Project (MDP).**

HOW TO APPLY

Please send your CV and cover letter to ozge.ertem@dmad.org.tr and explain us the reasons why you would be the perfect asset for our team of researchers and which goals you hope to achieve with us!

If you wish to have more info about our work and get to know us better, follow our websites and Social Media pages.

www.montenegrodolphinproject.org

www.dmad.org.tr



https://www.instagram.com/marinemammalsresearch_dmad/?hl=tr



<https://www.facebook.com/DMADforNature/>

