

Environmental Sustainability

Sample Itinerary

1 Week



	Activity
Day 1 Bienvenidos ~ Welcome	
1:00 PM	Arrivals and transportation to hotel. Depending on arrival times we can provide a light lunch.
2:00 PM	Trip to the grocery store to buy snacks and use ATMs
4:00 PM	Explore downtown Bucerias before a short orientation about local health and safety norms
6:00 PM	Welcome Dinner
8:00 PM	Return to hotel and settle in for the night
Day 2 Connecting with the Community	
7:30 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast available at hotel
9:45 AM	Orientation about Environmental Sustainability in the surrounding areas
10:30 AM	Head out on a typical Human Connections Tour: Hearing directly from local entrepreneurs, we'll investigate the complex relationship between tourism, the environment and the local community.
12:00 PM	Lunch at a local restaurant as final stop on the tour
2:30 PM	Return to the hotel to rest or explore Bucerias
3:30 PM	Depart for San Pancho
4:00 PM	Take a guided tour of Entreamigos, an innovative, environmentally friendly community center that has been transformative for the local community. Learn about their philosophy of education as the cornerstone of sustainable community development and cultural understanding.
5:00 PM	Free time to explore the beautiful beach town of San Pancho
7:00 PM	Dinner at La Chalupa, one of the oldest restaurants in town. We'll enjoy a traditional meal and reflect on our first day.
8:30 PM	Return to Bucerias
9:00 PM	Arrive at hotel
Day 3 Sustainability: A Community Effort	
7:30 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast available at hotel
9:30 AM	Depart for Entreamigos in San Pancho

10:30 AM	Q&A with Entreamigos leaders to understand their expectations for your volunteer project; which will take place there over the next day
12:00 PM	Break for lunch in San Pancho
1:00 PM	Begin volunteer project. The theme of the project will be environmental sustainability.
5:00 PM	Return to Bucerías for some time to rest before dinner
6:30 PM	Group dinner & reflection: Did you feel that your volunteer experience so far was effective? Why or why not? (Reflection by HC Staff)
8:00 PM	Return to hotel
Day 4 Local Flora and Fauna	
7:30 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast available at hotel
9:00 AM	Depart for Puerto Vallarta
10:30 AM	Tour the diverse botanical gardens of Puerto Vallarta
12:30 PM	Lunch at a traditional-style restaurant
1:30 PM	Depart for a jungle hike along the southern coast of Banderas Bay
5:00 PM	Return to the hotel for time to rest and freshen up
7:00 PM	Enjoy a relaxing dinner on the beach
8:30 PM	Time to explore Bucerias or return to the hotel
Day 5 A Different Approach to Sustainability	
7:30 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast available at hotel
9:30 AM	Depart for San Sebastian, a 17th century mining town deep in the heart of the Sierra Madre Mountains. In this inland town you will experience a totally different ecosystem.
10:30 AM	Stop in Lomas del Valle to meet with the founders of Fundacion ATD, a group of Mexican women who have pioneered environmentally sustainable community building projects.
11:45 AM	For lunch, we will enjoy a homecooked meal prepared by the women of ATD
12:45 PM	Continue to San Sebastian
1:30 PM	Take a tour at a local coffee plantation
3:00 PM	Meet with a local silversmith to learn how he makes his beautiful creations
4:00 PM	Free time to explore the town of San Sebastian
5:30 PM	Depart for Bucerias
7:00 PM	Dinner at a traditional local restaurant
9:30 PM	Arrive at the hotel
Day 6 Sustaining Our Air, Land, and Sea	

7:30 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast available at hotel
9:00 AM	Beach Clean Up in Bucerias
10:00 AM	Time to freshen up at the hotel
11:00 AM	For lunch, head to Boca de Tomates to enjoy a local delicacy on the beach. We'll see various local businesses and ecosystems, juxtaposed against Nuevo Vallarta's thriving tourist sector and large hotels in the distance.
1:00 PM	Embark on a 2-hour boat ride through a mangrove estuary that is home to a variety of local species, including crocodiles. Learn about the estuary's conservation efforts to protect this unique ecosystem from the encroaching city.
3:00 PM	Free time to explore Puerto Vallarta
6:30 PM	Enjoy a tapas-style dinner
8:00 PM	Depart for Bucerias
8:30 PM	Arrive at the hotel
Day 7 Responsible Tourism Excursion	
7:30 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast available at hotel
9:00 AM	Depart for Nuevo Ixtlan
11:00 AM	Arrive at the Nuevo Ixtlan hot springs and learn about how they are environmentally sustained through conscientious business practices
1:00 PM	Enjoy a local lunch
3:30 PM	Arrive back in Bucerias for some time to rest
5:00 PM	Depart for Punta de Mita
5:30 PM	Arrive at the home of Doña Elvira, a migrant from Chiapas, who will share with us the secret to her delicious, handmade tamales
6:30 PM	Free time in Punta de Mita to explore, relax on the beach, or rent a paddleboard
7:30 PM	Farewell rooftop dinner at a local beach restaurant
9:00 PM	Return to Bucerias
9:30 PM	Arrive at Hotel
Day 8 Hasta Luego	
7:30 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast available at hotel
Early Afternoon	Transportation to the airport and departures from PVR