

Using acoustic methods to assess human impact on dolphins in Sardinia (Mediterranean Sea), Italy

Program Information

PROGRAM SPECIFIC FIELD CONDITIONS

What are the average weather conditions during the time of the field school?

The weather in Alghero is usually perfect in May, featuring pleasant temperatures and moderate rainfall. Daytime temperature may reach approximately 21-24°C, while nighttime temperature is around 16°C. Alghero in June usually receives moderate rainfall, averaging around 38 mm for the month. Generally, the days are predominantly sunny. Wind conditions are extremely variable.

Please describe the site(s) where the students will work.

Students will work in the field during the morning. Fieldwork can be done at sea, on board a 10 m motorboat (partially sunny), or at the port in collaboration with fishers. In the afternoon, analysis work will be done in an indoor meeting room with air conditioning. Finally, students will spend a few hours a day at the camping site for individual study and research.

Are there special features of the program site?

Alghero is a beautiful walled town dotted with towers and bastions and sometimes even called little Barcelona. It is the capital of the Coral Riviera and has a characteristic landscape – several beaches, historic center, bays and even a natural park and a marine protected area. Alghero is, also, the city of the red coral. Waddling around the historical streets filled with tradition, you will notice immediately the shops that sell the Red Coral and jewelers made of it. The coral belongs to the species *Corallium rubrum* and has been known as the finest in the whole Mediterranean Sea.

Will there be other people onsite with the field school or working in the same area? For example, other researchers, staff, or community volunteers?

The students will interact with the staff only, no other researchers are present.

What does an average week look like ?

Students will work in the field during the morning (from about 8.30 am up to 1.30 pm). After lunch, in the afternoon, analysis work will be done from about 3.00 pm up to 6.00 pm. Finally, students will spend a few hours a day at the camping site for individual study and research. Students will have Sunday as a day off. Further, on the last day an excursion in the countryside will be provided.

What are the options for students to access money? Are there ATMs nearby? Should students plan to bring a certain amount of cash?

ATMs are available at the city center. Credit Cards are widely accepted. Cash is not necessary.

ACTIVITY LEVEL & ACCESSIBILITY

Please provide information about the physical requirements of the program.

Participants must be of good health, good physical fitness, must be comfortable on boats in near shore/offshore waters, able to swim, and occasionally work in harsh weather conditions. Participants who are habitually seasick in boats may find the daily work of this project quite uncomfortable. We suggest bringing suitable anti-seasickness medication, as suggested by the doctor.

Please comment how accessible your site is for people with mobility challenges. Would someone using a wheelchair be able to participate? Someone who uses crutches or other assistive walking devices?

Physical disabilities unfortunately cannot be accommodated by this field school. This is due to needing to board the research boat. Students must maintain balance and mobility while moving around the boat into various observation positions. Swimming while monitoring dolphins is also possible, but not required of students due to cold water temperatures. Some stairs are required to access the mobile camping units and the communal meeting space. In general, the terrain of Alghero and Sardinia can be uneven, steep, and rocky though walking paths are well-marked. Students should be in good physical and mental health and be able to walk without concern.

PROGRAM COUNTRY & CULTURAL INFORMATION

What do you love about the country and area you work in? What do you think students will be most excited to discover?

- Beautiful nature and sea of Sardinia.
- Old town and cultural traditions.
- Delicious local food.
- The informal and friendly atmosphere of MareTerra Onlus.

How large is the community where students will be staying? Will students have opportunities to interact casually with local residents? Please describe.

Italians are very sociable. Students will have the opportunity, if they want, to interact with the residents of the camp as well as with the students/collaborators of MareTerra Onlus.

Primary languages spoken by people in the area:

Italian, English

What are some things students may find surprising about the local culture?

One of the most distinctive aspects of Alghero's history is its Catalan influence. The city was founded in the 14th century by the Catalan-Aragonese, who left their mark on the city's

language, architecture, and culture. Today, many of the city's residents still speak an old Catalan. Discovering the charming old town of Alghero with its narrow winding streets and Catalan-style architecture buildings is amazing.

Are there cultural aspects that students should be aware of before they come, particularly behaviors that could be offensive or misinterpreted (for example, eye contact, dress, gestures)?

Nothing to highlight.

What cultural enrichment opportunities are students likely to have outside of the program?

The last day of the program students will have the opportunity to visit the countryside of Alghero, filled with Sardinian tradition, during a guided off road naturalistic and cultural tour. Further, students will have multiple chances to visit the city center during their free time.

Will students have opportunities to explore other areas of the country?

Students will have a free day on Sunday, when they will have the chance to visit the surroundings of Alghero (without the staff). The staff will provide suggestions, while all the information about excursions or transportation are available at the camping site reception.

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

Please describe student accommodations.

Housing consists of mobile camping units at [Laguna Blu Camping Village](#). Each unit also had one full bathroom with a shower, and one bathroom without a shower. A well-equipped kitchen will also be present with basic amenities (fridge, gas range, sink, cabinets, some dishes, pans, and cutlery). Each unit also has a dining table with seating, and an outdoor porch with furniture (table and chairs).

The camping village has many amenities and perks including a pool area, additional showers and bathrooms, laundry facilities, a small bazaar and a well-stocked market, and a restaurant and café. It is also across the street from a public beach.

The opening of the swimming pool, with free access, is scheduled for mid-May (weather conditions permitting).

Sunbeds and umbrellas are available for a fee (€5.00 for 1 sunbed, €5.00 for 1 umbrella per day).

Free Wi-Fi is available in the bar-restaurant area

Paid Wi-Fi is available in other areas:

- 1 day: €5.00
- 3 days: €12.00
- 1 week: €20.00

- 2 weeks: €32.00 (for 1 device)
- 1 week: €46.00
- 2 weeks: €68.00 (for 3 devices)

Please describe how/how often students can do laundry.

Washing machines and dryers (8 kg capacity) are available in the common bathrooms, located a short distance from the BAIA SARDINIA cottages; the cost is €6.00.

How are room assignments made? If rooms are assigned according to gender, how will you assign rooms for non-binary, trans and queer students?

Students will be free to decide their accommodation. Since rooms are double the possibility of sharing mixed gender rooms exists.

Are there options for single rooms? Would there be an additional charge (and approximate cost)?

No, single rooms are not available within the mobile home.

Will the program provide meals?

Students will be responsible for all their own meals and can easily access food from the camping village or in nearby shops/towns.

Please describe typical meals that are offered by the program. No meals are offered by the program, but vegetarian/vegan and gluten free food are easily available.

VISA AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Indicate the visa requirements, if any, for US citizens. If there is a visa requirement, what type of visa should students apply for?

Tourist visa is enough. No need for research permit or special visa.

TRAVEL (TO AND DURING THE PROGRAM)

If students will fly, what airport should they fly into?

Alghero-Fertilia airport (20 minutes to the camping site) or Olbia airport (2 hours to the camping site), or Cagliari airport (3-4 hours to the camping site). Public buses are available to reach Sassari, and then Alghero, from Olbia or Cagliari, but with reduced schedules. The Alghero airport is strongly suggested, since it is connected to many main Italian city airports (e.g., Rome and Milan).

Where will you meet students?

The meeting point is the camping site. A public bus from the Alghero airport is available every 20 min and stops at the camping site.

If the field site is not close to student accommodations, how will students get there? How long does it take?

The camp site is located ~15 minute bus ride or car ride to the center of Alghero. Students will likely be transported by project vehicles during the field/lab activities, but may have to take the bus to the field site or back to the campsite after dinner in the city for example (1 euro each way). The bus stop is located right across the street from the entrance to the camping village.

EQUIPMENT LIST

A laptop is necessary for the analysis work. Before arrival QGIS must be installed.

QGIS download page: <https://www.qgis.org/download/> (download the long term version)

QGIS does not require or specify any particular system requirements, however, to avoid your GIS software stalling and crashing and processes are elaborated at a proper speed, here we provide them:

System Requirements	Minimum	Recommended
Processor - CPU	Core i3 2.7 Ghz	Core i7 3.5 Ghz
Memory RAM	2 Gb	8 Gb or More
Hard Disk Storage	1 Gb	1 Tb for professional users
Graphic Card	1 Gb RAM	2 Gb RAM (NVIDIA GeForce)

PACKING LIST

- Identification/passport
- Travel documents
- Prescription medication for the entire program period
- Credit/Debit card
- Extra glasses/contacts if worn
- Rain and windproof jacket
- Hat/cap and sunglasses (polarized lenses will help)
- Laptop (both Mac or PC)
- Swimwear & beach towel
- Sunscreen
- Sandals, shower shoes
- Sneakers/comfortable walking shoes

MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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