

## Conservation of leatherback sea turtles

Biosphere Expeditions' citizen science project is studying Costa Rica's endangered leatherback sea turtles. The animals are huge and difficult to see. The giants weigh up to 500 kilos and cross several oceans on their journey. But to reproduce, they always come back under the cover of night to the beach where they hatched from the egg themselves. This has been happening since ancient times. Long before there were dinosaurs on earth.

The species protection project of the organization LAST (Latin America Sea Turtles) researches the behavior of the heaviest reptiles. But also the protection against poachers, who dig up the eggs from the black lava sand and sell them as an aphrodisiac miracle cure, is an essential aspect of the work.

Biosphere Expeditions is an ethical conservation organization that offers participants a once-in-a-lifetime vacation experience at a remote research station. Previous knowledge of scientific work is not required. In this way, everyone takes part in the research for a week and at the same time fulfills the wish for an active holiday in which you can experience a lot and still do good things.

Other aspects: Systematic nature observation à la Alexander von Humboldt / support and training by scientific staff / night patrol to protect against poachers / the egg laying of the giant tortoises / work in the breeding station (hatchery) / the hatchlings / dealing with poachers / the population

### material

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