

# MONTENEGRO DOLPHIN RESEARCH



**Join Our our team of  
Researchers in the  
South Eastern Adriatic**

# THE PROJECT

Montenegro Dolphin Research (MDR) is a scientific project run by DMAD - Marine Mammals Research Association. Our study is the first long-term study of marine mammals in Montenegrin coastal waters, with recent surveys additionally covering the northern coastline of Albania. We aim to address questions about marine mammal abundance, distribution and behaviour, define critical habitats and investigate the impacts of major threats, ranging from tourism to seismic practices. Our wider attention focuses on the promotion and implementation of awareness initiatives targeted at the local community.

Joining our team gives individuals the opportunity to gain both scientific and outreach skills and put these into practice in the field of marine mammal research.

## 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 two species of marine mammals can be found here, the most common of which are bottlenose dolphins followed by striped dolphins. 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!





## WHO ARE WE 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 have a positive impact on marine wildlife protection and conservation.

We offer both volunteering and internship positions: this is a valuable opportunity for graduates, that wish to gain experience in the marine mammal research field, and undergraduates, that would like to obtain internship academic credits. It could be used to develop a scientific project for a BSc or MSc thesis. However, we are also open to accept applications from anyone whose passion for marine mammals and willingness to learn are strong and sincere. We recommend a minimum stay of 2 months to complete the basic training.

## FIELD WORK AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Performing land-based surveys at least three times a week, including during sunrise and sunset hours;
- Performing boat-based surveys once every 14 days (occasionally more if possible);
- Collecting dolphins sightings and behavioural data, as well as environmental and anthropogenic data;
- Learning survey techniques (Spatial-temporal dolphin distribution, Theodolite operation, Behavioural data collection, Photo-identification, Human impact measurements) and using them in a practical setting;
- Operating the necessary software used in the field (Pythagoras, Logger 2010);
- Data entry, data manipulation and data analysis using GIS, Mark, Distance and R software;
- Cataloguing and matching dolphins using photo-identification software;
- Raising stakeholder awareness through conservation actions and promoting citizen-science activities;
- Using social media to disseminate our work to the wider public;



## TRAINING

Our team will provide lectures and field work training. **Volunteers** and **Interns** will be given the chance to learn some of the most popular methodologies in marine mammal research **including**:

- GIS mapping;
- Theodolite operation and Pythagoras software;
- Photo-identification;
- Discovery software and Logger 2010 software;
- Population size estimations through Mark and Distance
- Survey design
- Efficient usage of Excel;
- R for statistical analysis;
- Systematic data collection and data analysis;

For **Interns** it also **includes**:

- Personal project and thesis supervision
- Additional courses related to the selected subject;
- Project, report and manuscript writing skills

Additional training for a fee:

- Marine Mammal Observer & Passive Acoustic Monitoring, Certificated by ACCOBAMS;
- Acoustics using PamGuard (2 days)

## REQUIREMENTS

### Required skills:

- True interest in marine conservation, self-motivation, maturity and ability to work responsibly;
- Ability to use initiative and cohabit in a dynamic and multicultural environment;
- Respect for the organisation's rules and willingness to follow standards and procedures;
- Fluent English (both spoken and writing) and good communication skills;
- Willingness to learn new skills and software applications;

### Desirable skills:

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

## ACCOMMODATIONS & 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. The accommodation itself is basic, but there is everything you need including WI-FI, hot water and a washing machine. The supermarkets and restaurants are only ten minutes' walk from the house. There are plenty of outdoor activities to choose such as hiking, diving and rock climbing.

Want to find out more about DMAD or our research?

Visit our website: [www.DMAD.org.tr](http://www.DMAD.org.tr)

Or follow us on

Instagram: @DMADfornature

Facebook: @DMADfornature

## CONTRIBUTION FEE

The contribution fee for volunteers is €840 per month. For a timeframe longer than 2 months the fee is €780. For interns, it's €940 per month. For a timeframe longer than 2 months the fee is €880. All of which goes directly to supporting the projects.

### The fee **includes**:

- Accommodation and expenses (excluding self-quarantine and special requests);
- Transportation between the project sites within and between Montenegro and Albania;
- Training and lectures with all training materials provided in PDF format;
- Fieldwork (land- and boat surveys);
- Use of the equipment;

### And for **Interns** this also **includes**:

- Scientific support, average 30 hours supervision per month;
- Additional courses related to the selected subject;

### The fee does **not include**:

- Transportation to/from Montenegro or transfer to accommodation
- Health and/or travel insurance which is a mandatory requirement
- Meals
- Additional training Courses:
  - Marine Mammal Observer & Passive Acoustic Monitoring, Certificated by ACCOBAMS (€450)
  - Acoustics using PamGuard (2 days) (€100)

**\*\*\*Recommendation letter & certificate of participation can be provided**

## HOW TO APPLY

Please send your CV and cover letter to [info@dmad.org.tr](mailto:info@dmad.org.tr), explaining why you are a suitable asset for our team and what goals you hope to achieve with us! Please mention the period of interest and your duration of stay.