



SUMMER PROGRAM 2023

SCUBA DIVING & MARINE BIOLOGY IN COZUMEL, MEXICO



If you have a student that loves Marine Biology and Ocean Conservation, we invite them to join us! We are always getting feedback about students that want to travel with us, but their school wasn't able to offer this specific trip. So since our absolute passion is marine biology and scuba diving, we are delighted to invite all students to our summer program. We have been serving schools for countless years and this program is one of our all-time favorite opportunities! Seeing the students' progress while learning about the ocean and its inhabitants means so much to us, we are delighted to offer it to all students, everywhere.

Our Summer Program is run as a summer camp with counselors at 1:8 student ratio. All diving will be taught by our professional diving partners. Teens should be good swimmers and good students to apply for this program. Listening skills are a must. Online classroom theory for new divers will be required to be completed prior to travel, with confined and open water skills and diving performed while in Mexico. For those who are already certified, a week of Marine Biology and Ocean Conservation awaits you!

This program has limited capacity; please enquire early.

REGISTRATION LINK: [SST SUMMER PROGRAM 2023 – Arriving June 10th](#)

REGISTRATION LINK: [SST SUMMER PROGRAM 2023 – Arriving July 29th](#)



Hammock Expeditions, LLC
North Carolina, USA
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Camp Cozumel 2023				
Scuba Diving, Marine Biology & Ocean Conservation				
Day		Morning	Afternoon	Evening
1	Sat	Travel to Cozumel, Mexico, clear customs and meet SST Team	Transfer to Resort, Resort Tour + Welcome, Safety & Orientation	Dinner & Evening Show
2	Sun	Dive Day / Beach Day		Dinner & Evening Show
3	Mon	Dive Day / Beach Day		Dinner & Evening Show
4	Tues	Maya Jungle Tour - Tulum Archaeological Ruins + Cenote Snorkeling, Rappelling & Ziplining		Dinner & Evening Show
5	Wed	Dive Day / Beach Day		Dinner & Evening Show
6	Thur	Dive Day / Beach Day		Dinner & Evening Show
7	Fri	Free Time in Resort	Stingray Beach & Master Class	Dinner & Evening Show
8	Sat	Free Time	Transfer to Airport; return flight to USA	



DATES: June 10th – 17th, 2022 OR July 29th – August 5th, 2023

AGES: Open to students ages 15 – 19 at the time of travel

PROGRAM FEE: \$2499 per camper
 \$1000 deposit, remaining balance due by May 15th, 2023
 Pay by online check with no extra fees, pay by credit card with 3% charged for processing by banking services. **Registrations must be received by May 10th, 2023.**

NEW DIVERS: Prior to travel, new divers will be responsible for completing their theory work online through PADI. A course registration will be sent to each participant to do this, please allow for 2 to 3 hours a day for approximately 3 days for completion. On arrival in Mexico, new divers will spend their week working with course instructors and learning the skills required to be certified as an Open Water Diver. All equipment is included. You can expect 2 half-days of pool training and a minimum of 2 half-days of ocean dives when you're not studying. Your instructors will require you to successfully complete all water skills and at the end of the week, students will have their PADI written exam.

CERTIFIED DIVERS: Those that are already certified will be registered for a Refresher Course to evaluate your abilities, and then will have 4-days of 2-tank diving with equipment included. Also included will be two continued learning certifications. Certified diver groups will choose between Coral Reef Conservation, Tropical Fish ID, Underwater Naturalist, Aware Shark Conservation, Dive Against Debris Specialty, Project Aware Specialty and Peak Performance Buoyancy (chosen as a group amongst all certified divers).



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EXCURSIONS:

We will participate in two excursion days:

Maya Jungle Tour - Explore the impressive **Tulum Mayan Archaeological Site** in a Riviera Maya excursion with stunning views of the Caribbean Sea. Enter into the amazing Sac-Actun system, snorkel surrounded by awesome rock formations, ride through the jungle on all-terrain Mercedes Benz Unimogs, rappel down into a cenote (underground cave) and swim in a unique natural pool. Enjoy nature flying over the jungle's foliage on exciting ziplines and participate in a traditional Maya purification ceremony.

Stingray Beach – Everything you always wanted to know about stingrays! Touch them, hold them, learn about diets and life cycles, and then free swim with them. Stinger barbs have been removed for a safe and fun educational session.

MEETING POINT:

All passengers will be met at Cozumel Airport. After arrival and clearing customs, campers will be met in the arrivals areas. Simply exit the baggage area passing through customs, turn right and we'll be meeting everyone directly outside the main entrance doors.

PASSPORTS:

Passports are mandatory. Please ensure you have a minimum of 6 months validation prior to expiration. If you do not have a passport, register immediately. You will want to opt in for expedited service.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

All persons under the age of 18 must carry in their possession a notarized letter with signatures from both parents stating "I acknowledge that my son/daughter is traveling outside the country for a summer educational experience with my permission." We will give you the specific verbiage to use for your entry letter, however, please also verify with your specific airlines that it meets their requirements for boarding and international entry as additional detail may be required to be included.

FLIGHTS:

Campers will purchase flights on their own allowing for use of credits and sales offers to earn best value. The three main airlines that fly into Cozumel are United Airlines, American Airlines and Southwest. Please ensure campers have funds to check luggage on both ends for their flights. Standard checked bags range from \$30 - \$50 each way for the first piece of luggage and must meet size and weight restrictions. If campers are bringing their own dive equipment and require an extra bag, please be prepared for a higher checked baggage cost for the second piece of luggage.

RESORT HOTEL:

[Allegro Cozumel](#) - Located on the beautiful island of Cozumel overlooking the Mexican Caribbean Sea is Allegro Cozumel. This youth-friendly all-inclusive resort is about 20 minutes from the international airport and a 45-minute ferry ride from Playa del Carmen, Mexico. Guests will enjoy the nearby Palancar Reef which is considered **one of the top 5 dive destinations in the world**. Guests staying at Allegro Cozumel will also enjoy one of the very best beaches the island has to offer.

The hotel boasts 261 tropical theme rooms in two-story Polynesian style bungalows. Room amenities include rooms with 2 double beds to sleep two to three participants per room, air-conditioning, ceiling fan, cable television, bathtub and shower, balcony or terrace, coffee maker, hairdryer, hammocks, and in-room safety deposit boxes. The hotel is located in an isolated area, away from downtown.



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If you have a preferred roommate, please let us know when registering.

- MEALS:** Guests will need to bring funds for meals and snacks on travel days. At the resort, we'll have unlimited meals, snacks & beverages in four restaurants. Meals are served buffet-style and even folks with strict dietary conditions can find satisfying options. Students are personally responsible for knowing what they are consuming and ensuring they are choosing foods to protect any dietary conditions which may exist.
- RESORT ACTIVITIES:** When we're not studying or diving, here's some of the things we can enjoy at the resort: beautiful beach area with lifeguards, multiple swimming pools, jacuzzi, sauna, fitness center, three tennis courts plus one multipurpose court for basketball, beach volleyball, beach soccer, ping-pong, darts, giant chess board, kayaking, snorkeling, sailing (instruction & equipment), daily activities by the pool and beach areas (cooking class, Spanish class, water aerobics, etc.), plus nightly shows & entertainment. Our in-room curfew will be 10:00 PM daily; lights-out curfew is 10:30 PM.
- DIVE INSTRUCTION:** Pro Dive International is our watersports service provider with multiple **PADI 5 STAR Dive Centers**. All centers have been awarded the prestigious National Geographic Green Star Award. We have been working with ProDive for over ten years with our student groups.
- DIVER REGISTRATION:** All divers - beginner and certified - must fill out their diver's registration, agree with Safe Diving Practices, have a parent sign off on the PADI and ProDive Liability Release, and most important, commit to being medically fit for diving. For your Medical Release, go to [PADI MEDICAL RELEASE](#). Please know if any box is ticked as YES, you will need a **physician's release** prior to being able to participate in diving. The Physician's Release is shown on page 3 on the linked site. All forms will be required to be submitted prior to travel.
- CODE OF CONDUCT:** All participants must follow a strict Code of Conduct. Those that break the Code of Conduct will be reprimanded based on severity. In a severe instance, the camper's parents will be contacted and he/she will be ejected from the program at the parent's immediate expense.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- ✓ Airport transfers - Cozumel Airport to/from hotel
- ✓ 7-nights' accommodation in Cozumel at the Allegro Resort Hotel
- ✓ All meals, snacks & beverages while at resort hotel
- ✓ Full scuba program for either beginner or certified divers, as shown above
- ✓ Refresher program for Certified divers
- ✓ Marine Park fees for the Cozumel National Marine Park (4-days)
- ✓ Gratuities for Dive Instructors, Boat Crew & Equipment Providers
- ✓ Full-day mainland excursion for Maya Jungle Tour and Tulum Mayan Archaeological Park
- ✓ Local excursion to Stingray Beach
- ✓ Group transportation to excursions
- ✓ Roundtrip Ferry to mainland (Maya Jungle Tour day)
- ✓ Use of non-motorized watersports equipment at resort
- ✓ Day and evening resort activities
- ✓ Program chaperones at a 1:8 student ratio
- ✓ Travel pack with t-shirt, tote bag, luggage tag, and more



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WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

- ⊗ Flights nor checked baggage fees
- ⊗ Fully comprehensive travel protection/insurance (**mandatory**; available for purchase during registration or you may use a policy of your choice)
- ⊗ Transfers to/from home airport
- ⊗ Cost of visas / passports
- ⊗ Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
- ⊗ Hotel incidental bills – gift shop purchases, spa treatments, etc.
- ⊗ Meals on travel days while not on resort property (\$25 suggested per day)

Extra Notes:

- **Currency** - The Mexican peso (MXN) is this country's official currency. However, most all vendors accept American dollars.
- **Official language** - The official language of Mexico is Spanish and is spoken by nearly all Mexicans. Nonetheless, there are also more than 60 native languages, including Nahuatl and Mayan.
- **Equipment** – If divers opt to bring their own equipment, please understand that because all elements are bundled, there will be no reduction in the program fees and refunds will not be available. Please know you will also be responsible for any excess luggage fees charged by the airlines.
- **Log Book** – Log books are not included although a temporary training log will be provided.
- **Sunscreen / Sun Cream** – As a protected marine environment, please bring **bio-degradable sunscreen** if available.
- **Change of Sport** - If any participant originally signs up as a diver and during the course of their trip decides to just snorkel, please understand that no refunds are available.
- **Towels** – The resort provides towels for beach and pool use which you may change out at any time for a fresh towel.

Suggested Packing List:

- **We recommend you bring your own personal snorkel gear to include mask, snorkel and fins.** Although not required, having basic personal items is always helpful.
- Hat / Visor
- Sunglasses
- 2 Swimsuits & a cover-up (lunch is served pool side)
- 2-3 pairs of shorts
- 3-4 t-shirts/tops
- Males: 1 pair of closed-toe shoes for special restaurant evenings
- Females: 1 sundress for special restaurant evenings
- Sandals / Flip-flops plus Athletic Shoes / Trainers
- Personal Toiletries (soap and shampoo are provided)
- Waterproof Biodegradable Sunscreen
- Mosquito Repellent
- Cash / Credit card for meals on travel days, checked baggage fees, souvenirs, sundries and personal purchases

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CANCELLATION POLICY:

SST is required to pay all suppliers well in advance of your summer program date. All suppliers have their own cancellation policies, which apply to your booking. Should a cancellation become necessary, please inform us immediately in writing and request a written confirmation of your cancellation. Generally, hotel reservations and other items provided cannot be refunded if they are partially used by the remainder of the group, therefore, travel protection is mandatory for every traveler. In addition to the terms of our Suppliers, the following scale of cancellation charges will apply:

- After payment of 1st Deposit until the due date for the final payment: CANCELLATION FEE: \$500 per passenger.
- Between final payment deposit due date until 21 days before departure: CANCELLATION FEE: 75% of the total price of trip.
- 21 Days before departure until departure day: CANCELLATION FEE: 100% of the total price of trip.

IMPORTANT: You may be able to claim on your travel protection policy if your cancellation falls within the terms of the policy. For this reason we strongly recommend an “enhanced” or “Cancel for Any Reason” travel protection.

IMPORTANT: Finance handling fees, including credit card processing fees, are non-refundable at any time. These fees (generally 5%) are extracted prior to compilation of any cancellation fees.

CODE OF CONDUCT & RESPONSIBILITY:

1. All campers will agree to respect and obey those leading the trip, taking any direction required.
2. All passengers shall be respectful to hotel and destination staff and other guests utilizing the facilities. No foul language, physical demonstrations nor poor attitudes will be tolerated at any time.
3. Tampering with a fire extinguisher or alarm system is a crime. Hotels and communities reserve the right to impose sizeable penalties for tampering incidents and/or unnecessary contact of emergency services.
4. Please expect to provide full payment prior to your departure for anything you have charged to your room.
5. ONLY swim in areas with lifeguards present. Do not swim in the ocean or the pools after dark.
6. At no time should campers consume or have alcohol in their possession.
7. There will be no rough housing, baseball, football or other games in areas not specifically designated for this use.

8. No one should enter/explore areas of the resort not intended for guest use including back-of-house areas, roofs, back-of-house areas, etc.
9. At no time will excessively loud CDs, tapes, radios, musical instruments, singing or outdoor activities be permitted on the hotel premises.
10. All campers are responsible for picking up their litter and placing it in approved receptacles.
11. Campers will keep guestrooms in an appropriate standard so housekeeping personnel may enter and facilitate daily cleaning. All rooms will be inspected daily by our staff.
12. All campers will be subjected to an identified 3-step process for serious behavioral issues. Dependent upon the severity of the issue, campers may be immediately evicted at parental expense.
 - a. Step 1: Direct notification of Camper. Camper will engage in a formal meeting with Camp Staff to review actions and responses required.
 - b. Step 2: Notification of Parents with Intent to Evict. At this time, we will notify the parents of any incidents, repercussions and actions required by the camper in order to continue with the program.
 - c. Step 3: Notification of eviction from the program. At this time, parents will be asked to purchase an immediate air ticket for the camper to travel home, direct from Cozumel Airport. Parents will assume all financial obligations for said eviction inclusive of additional accommodation payments, forfeiture of booked accommodation payments, air flights, programming costs, transportation and other elements. We will ensure your camper arrives at the Cozumel Airport and checks-in for their flight, waiting until the flight has departed before departing the airport.

IF EVICTION IS REQUIRED

If eviction is required, please understand parents will assume all costs inclusive of airline ticket change (in some cases this might require a new ticket purchase), any additional lodging required, any food/beverage or other expenditures required to ensure your camper returns home safely. Upon request we may also assist in an escorted return home, however, please know in this case, parents will assume and be responsible for the adult escort’s roundtrip plane ticketing, overnight accommodations, any transportation cost, food and beverage costs and other



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required expenses. If this should need to take place, we will review all elements personally with you for further planning.

DRUG, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO POLICY

Under no circumstance should any camper be in possession of, nor use any drug, alcohol or tobacco product during the course of the trip, at any time. These elements are strictly forbidden. Any use of these products can and will most likely mean eviction/cancellation of the trip and forfeiture of any unused elements. No refunds are available for campers who have been asked to leave the program.

TRAVELING WITH PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE

1 - Instruct campers to keep all prescription medication in original containers and bring a photocopy or upload a picture of the current prescription so they can be more easily replaced if lost.

2 – Please submit detailed instructions on the medication your child takes, what it is used for, how to administer it and the frequency, and all other documentation needed so our staff may assist your camper.

3 – Staff will hold all medications and disburse these to your camper when necessary.

DRESS CODE

We understand that while on the trip, campers will want to feel relaxed and comfortable and we completely appreciate this. We do request though, that you specifically discuss a dress code with your camper and review what has been packed for their use. We need to be respectful to the culture we are visiting which means no excessively short shorts and no bathing suits that do not cover bodies effectively (we request appropriate and conservative dress please!). While on the trip, if your child is thought to be dressed inappropriately, they will be asked to change their clothes before they may continue on with the day's activities.

Please also recognize that as an educational beach trip, dress clothes, high heels, make-up and other personal décor are not needed for any aspect of this trip.

Please ensure a beach cover-up has been packed for ladies to use during lunches which are served at the pool restaurant and required for entry.

DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BE VACCINATED FOR COVID-19 PRIOR TO TRAVEL?

No. We feel this is a personal decision and respect your judgement concerning your health.

ARE MASKS REQUIRED?

At the time of this writing, masks are not required on airlines, but ARE still required on the ferry to/from the

mainland, in the Cozumel Airport and some additional locations. These processes are subject to change. Always bring at least one mask in case of need, preferably two.

CELL PHONE USE

Please check with your mobile carrier to ensure your camper's plan covers Mexico. If it is not covered, we suggest using wi-fi calling only with video chat through Messenger or WhatsApp.

MOSQUITO REPELLENT & SUNSCREEN

These two elements are hugely important! No one wants to feel miserable on a trip. Please make sure to pack enough of these products, or funds to purchase these once in resort. Although our staff will remind campers to liberally use these products, it is up to the individual camper to do this and protect themselves against any issues which may arise by not being responsible for their personal care. All campers should be of an age where they are able to do this to provide personal protection. If you camper is not able to do this responsibly, this opportunity may not be a good fit for their involvement.

RENTAL EQUIPMENT

It is the camper's responsibility to take care of all rental equipment issued to them. These items will be issued to them and should be returned with no more than standard wear and tear as perceived by the dive instruction company. If for any reason your camper breaks, misuses or loses any equipment issued to them, including mask, snorkel, fins, BCD, SPG, regulator or other pieces of equipment, please know that you will be responsible for replacement fees. Fees may be paid via credit card direct to the dive shop at negotiated costs.

CAN PARENTS COME?

YES – parents and families are welcome, but we ask for you to let your camper work within their group and leave family time for pre/post camp dates. In addition to the hotel we are staying at, many of our adult groups prefer to stay at the Occidental Grand (the next property over) and we are happy to help you with reservations, dive instruction and packaged diving. Please ask us if you would like to participate in our off-property excursions and we can determine if this will be feasible. We do ask that parents ONLY come if we are aware. We do not encourage parents and family members to show up unannounced; this only serves to distract campers who are trying to master the skills of scuba diving.



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