



**Tour:** Cozumel STEM & Scuba  
**Destination:** Cozumel, Mexico  
**Specialization:** Marine Biology, Oceanography, Technology, Physics, Mathematics, History & Culture  
**Itinerary:** 7-days / 6-nights (ask us about longer/shorter options)

Cozumel STEM & Scuba - Mexico			
Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
1	Travel by air to Cozumel Mexico; check into hotel, Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting; Dinner		
2	Scuba Registration	Theory Review / Pool & Open Water Training	Dinner & Resort Activities
3	Dive Day - Pool & Open Water Training		Dinner & Resort Activities
4	Full-day Mayan History Exploration excursion on Mainland		Local Cozumel Shopping Dinner at Senior Frogs (pay on own)
5	Dive Day - Pool & Open Water Training		Dinner & Resort Activities
6	Dive Day - Open Water Sessions	Lunch & Free Time at Chankanaab National Park + Royal Dolphin Swim + Snorkeling + Sea Lion Presentation	Dinner & Resort Activities
7	Awards Presentation Transfer to Airport; Depart for Home		



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



**STEM STUDY TOURS**  
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**OVERVIEW:** In this tour, students will learn how to Scuba dive and explore the brilliant creations under the ocean's surface. Each person attending will have an opportunity to earn their **Open Water Diver** certification. It's hard work to undertake but one of the most rewarding accomplishments you can achieve.

- + If your students or staff are already certified, they may opt to earn their **Advanced Open Water** certification or participate in diving without any specialized instruction program.
- + If your group is already certified, we can also offer a specialty science week with a focus on Coral Reef Conservation, Fish Identification and Research Compilation, or even a specialized **Marine Biology Week** with our resident biologist. Please ask us about specialty programs; we are happy to customize your tour (marine bio is our passion!).
- + If your groups is already certified, we are also able to pair 2 PADI courses for certification for certification. An example is earning certifications in Peak Performance Buoyancy and Drift Diving. There are many possible options.

**SKILLS REQUIRED:** Water / swimming appreciation & enthusiasm, problem solving, adaption to unexpected problems, the drive to be successful, and the ability to have fun through science and technology!

**LIMITATIONS:** Earning your Open Water Certification requires a lot of hard work! It also requires a lot of reading and studying. Those that are not committed to earning this goal may not earn their certification. For those that try diving and determine that it is not for them, or for those that are unable to achieve success in academic theory training, they are welcome to drop down to a Skin Dive (snorkel) platform.

## “A Divers Paradise....”

*- Jacques Cousteau*

Continually named in the top 5 dive locations in the world, Cozumel is Mexico's largest island, nestled just 12 miles off the coast of the Yucatan Peninsula and Playa del Carmen. Before becoming famous for diving, the island was a small community of fishermen until 1961 when Jacques Cousteau told the world he had found one of the most beautiful diving areas in his travels. Cozumel measures 28 miles long and 10 miles wide and is world renowned for its dazzling white sandy beaches and the remarkable clarity of the multi-hued azure Caribbean ocean in which it rests. The climate is subtropical & the people native to Cozumel are of Mayan descent.



Cozumel itself was a sleepy little fishing community until 1961 when **Jacques Cousteau** declared his love for the island. Since that time, Cozumel has become an underwater marine park to protect the delicate balance of its dazzling coral reefs and abundant variety of tropical fish. The underwater wildlife is stunning, and you don't



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have to be a diver to enjoy it. Simply put on a mask and snorkel and jump in! You'll feel like you've been dropped into a tropical fish tank.

What makes diving in Cozumel amazing is the clarity of the Caribbean Sea, with up to 200 feet visibility. Many famous oceanographers have praised these reefs for their beauty and abundant marine life. Due to this, Cozumel's National Marine Park was established in 1996 by federal decree, with the aim to protect and monitor the area. The park is a paradise for scuba diving. Cozumel's National Marine Park is the protected home to one of the most incredible coral reefs and marine inhabitants on the planet.



The park covers about 29,600 acres of safeguarded ocean and coastline estimated to be the home of **262 species of fish** swimming between **105 different types of coral**. These reefs are literally teeming with sea life. Drift diving is very common in Cozumel; allowing you to float effortlessly from one turtle to the next and glide along deep walls. The very same current that carries you also ensures great diving visibility. The coral reefs here are punctured by swim-throughs and tunnels which lead onto the giant sponges and coral banks of Colombia Reef. The reefs of the National Marine Park have something to offer every diver at any level, from advanced deeper dives to intro-dives for those first learning.



## The Mesoamerican Reef....

The Mesoamerican Reef region lies within the Caribbean Sea and touches the coasts of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras. It contains the largest barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere, stretching nearly 700 miles from the northern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula down through the Honduran Bay Islands. Dazzling arrays of different types of coral form this underwater wilderness and provide homes and food to hundreds of fish species and marine turtles. Along the shores, mangroves provide habitat for fish and shorebirds as well as protect coastal areas from the damage associated with hurricanes and strong storms.



For more information about the Mesoamerican Reef, please visit:

[www.worldwildlife.org/places/mesoamerican-reef](http://www.worldwildlife.org/places/mesoamerican-reef)

Students and staff participating in this trip have the following educational options to choose from:

### SKINDIVE / SNORKEL COURSE OPTION

Students do not have to participate in scuba diving to participate in Cozumel STEM. Those who desire to simply snorkel their way through the amazing waters of Cozumel are welcome to do so. With the abundance of activities available in the resort plus additional excursion options, snorkelers will enjoy an amazing time. Fins, mask and snorkel are provided along with guided instruction.

**For those individuals that initially start in a SCUBA course and decide they would prefer to switch to Snorkel, they are welcome to do so at any time.**

### PADI OPEN WATER DIVER

Cozumel STEM & Scuba includes:

- ✓ All training materials for **'Open Water Diver'** certification including your PADI e-course and a dive logbook for every participant. Students will earn their theory certification prior to departure (plan on 2 to 3 evenings of study to complete this). Once in Mexico, they will meet with their instructors for a theory review and start the in-person training to obtain their certification. Included in their certification are both Confined Water dives (pool) and also Ocean dives.
- ✓ All rental gear including wetsuit, BCD, regulator, fins, mask and snorkel for every participant



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- ✓ Ocean-based Instruction in classes of 1 instructor for every 6 pupils for participants that are not yet certified as an Open Water Diver; Classroom/Pool-based instruction in classes of 1 instructor for every 10 students
- ✓ Participants that have previously earned their Open Water Certification are in groups of 1 guide to 8 participants
- ✓ Instruction/Certification for divers who have already achieved their Open Water Diver certification and wish to obtain their **Advanced Open Water Diver Certification**
- ✓ Nitrox dives for those who hold an Enriched Air certification
- ✓ All 'ocean dives' noted in the itinerary will be 'boat dives.' Each participant will have 2 tanks for each of these boat trips.


*Note: If anyone is a certified diver but has not dived within the last 12-calendar months, they will be required to take a Refresher Course to ensure their skills are sharp before heading for ocean dives. The fee for this extra course is generally \$60 per person if required.*

It's important to note that there's a lot of studying involved in earning your dive certification. Participants will need to devote adequate time for this and will need to pass the "theory" training for their certification prior to travel. Plan on 1 – 2 days at home with your computer for online theory training. Once in Mexico, part of the certification process is a personal review of all studies. If your instructor doesn't feel you are prepared, you may be asked to sit out and review the training before re-engaging in activities. You will not be able to progress to the swim/dive portion of your training if you are unable to pass the e-learning examination.

### Fish commonly seen in Cozumel's snorkeling areas


Almost every time we get into the water we see angelfish, parrot fish, sergeant majors, blue tangs, ocean surgeons, blue runners, and grunts. The other fish shown here are more uncommon to see, and some, like the shark family, are rarely seen. You'll have to watch closely for some of these fish; they like to hide among the coral.

**Angelfish.** You'll commonly see these members of the Angelfish family at almost every reef in Cozumel. Their main body is about the size of a dinner plate, with graceful fins and tail adding to their size.




French angel      Gray angel      Queen angel      Rock beauty

**Parrot fish.** This species is named for the beautiful colors that often resemble a parrot and the sharp parrot-like beak used to break off small pieces of coral. Parrot fish are difficult to identify because several varieties change color (and sex) at various stages of their life (called phases).



Stoplight parrot fish. The color differences as this fish moves through different phases is very dramatic.      Queen parrot fish      Midnight parrot fish

**Small fish.** You'll find this colorful group swimming around coral heads where they can find protection from predator fish. We have seen all of these living among the elkhorn coral at the spot we call The Twins (B6).



Smallmouth grunt      Blue runner      Sergeant major      Bluehead wrasse

Four-eye butterfly fish      Juvenile French angel      Juvenile midnight damsel      Yellow tang

## Our Dive Partner

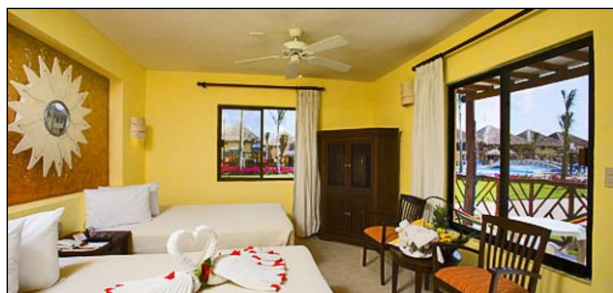


**Pro Dive International** - Pro Dive is a watersports service provider with multiple **PADI 5 STAR Dive Centers**. All centers have been awarded the prestigious **National Geographic Green Star Award**. Whether your visit to this magical place includes your very first scuba diving experience, scuba refresher course or snorkel excursions, the trained staff of Pro Dive are ready to provide you with professional service and a most memorable experience.

## Our Accommodation

**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 PARTICIPANTS PER ROOM – all in individual beds**, air-conditioning, ceiling fan, cable television, telephone, bathtub and shower, balcony or terrace, coffee maker, hairdryer, hammocks, iron & ironing board and in-room safety deposit boxes.



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Resort amenities and activities that are included with your package are:

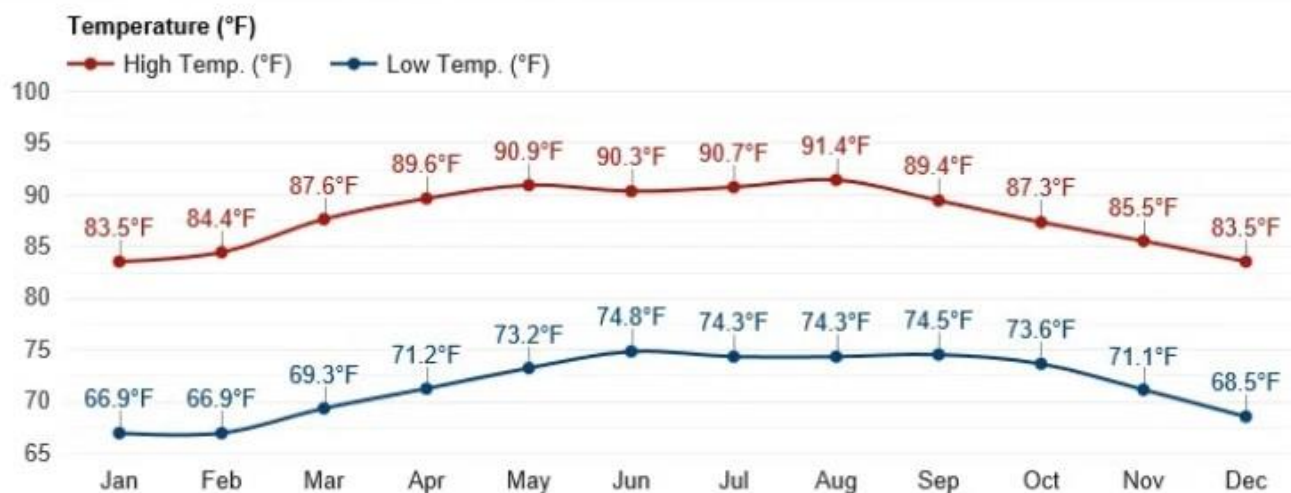
- ✓ Unlimited meals, snacks & beverages in four restaurants
- ✓ Full open bar for adult-age participants in five bars
- ✓ Multiple swimming pools plus kids' water park with slides & splash fountain
- ✓ Supervised activities for children (4-12 yrs) and Teens Club with activities for children (8-17 yrs)
- ✓ Jacuzzi, Sauna & Fitness center room
- ✓ 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)
- ✓ Nightly shows & entertainment
- ✓ Chaise lounges & towel service at the pool & beach areas
- ✓ General Resort gratuities

Other activities available that require additional cost include:

- ✓ Spa facilities
- ✓ Gift Shop
- ✓ Car rental
- ✓ Guest Laundry
- ✓ Currency Exchange
- ✓ 24-hour medical services (on call)
- ✓ Internet access

## Weather, Currency & Language

Average temperature Cozumel, Mexico



**Currency** - The Mexican peso (MXN) is this country's official currency. However, most all vendors accept American dollars.



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**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.

## Cozumel Reefs



Located in the Mexican Caribbean coastal zone, Cozumel is fringed by a complex coral reef ecosystem. Mangroves cluster along large parts of the shoreline in the extreme southern and northern parts of the island, providing habitat and protection for juveniles starting their life cycles. Shallow lagoons filled with turtle grass complete the rear zone of the reef creating a buffer leading up to a shallow reef forming an integral part of the breaker zone. Moving onto the deeper portions of the island shelf, divers will find themselves in the spur and groove zone, which is an interface between the massive coral structures lining the drop-off into the abyss, completing the transition between the land and fabulous dive sites.

The coral formations creating Cozumel's systems are not continuous, but a series of isolated formations and integrated structures characteristic of reefs found along island shelves. Covering a total area of 17 square kilometers, two distinct types of formations are dominant in the Marine Park; they are Platform and Edge Reefs.

**Platform Reefs** are less developed from a structural point of view, with their foundations or bases rarely exceeding a depth of 30 – 50 feet (10 – 15m). The age of these structures varies between 1,000 to 10,000 years old depending on the species to be found there, and the quality of the substrate upon which it is based. Perfect examples of platform reefs in Cozumel are Colombia Shallows, Paradise and Yucab.

**Edge Reefs** are characterized by continuous structures rising into coral peaks high above the edge of the drop off and extending to as much as 180 feet below the surface. These formations are mainly found in the south of the island, with perfect examples seen at Palancar, Colombia, Punta Sur and Maracaibo.

Cozumel is famous for its **drift diving**. Currents are usually mild (1 – 2 knots) allowing divers to glide effortlessly along the reefs. The Gulf Stream runs along the entire coast of Quintana Roo, flowing from the south to the north, with its intensity dependent upon weather conditions, seasons and the moon.

## Mayan Culture Excursion



If elected for inclusion, groups will have the opportunity to participate in a Mayan excursion day to learn about the history and culture of the Maya people. This day requires a very early start, departing the hotel at 6:15 AM



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to take the island ferry over to the mainland. Groups will have an opportunity to select one of the following 2 options:

-  **Maya Jungle Tour** - Explore the impressive **Tulum** 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 zip-lines and participate in a traditional Maya purification ceremony.
-  **Coba Maya Encounter** - Visit the archaeological site of Coba and discover the amazing Nohoch Mul temple. Visit a secluded Mayan village and enjoy its well-preserved natural lagoons, cenotes (underground rivers), jungle paths, and the natural reserve that protects the local flora and fauna. Rappel down thrilling cenotes and soar the canopy in zip lines, swim in hidden caves and walk through the jungle learning about the environment.

After the excursion is completed in the late afternoon, many schools opt to eat dinner in town once back in Cozumel (Senior Frogs is always a winner!), before heading back to the hotel. If you prefer to do this, please let us know so we may ensure an extra transfer is included in your pricing. Schools will be responsible for paying for dinner on their own.

## Important Notes

### **Required documents for those who are not presently certified as Open Water Divers:**

- ✓ Student record file & waiver
- ✓ Medical questionnaire - Please note that if any box is ticked positive, a physician's consent is required prior to the student/staff being able to participate in diving activities. This should be obtained prior to travel, however if needed, there are physicians available on the island. Please know this may disrupt your group learning and any extra fees required for screening or transportation will be assumed by the participant. [PADI MEDICAL RELEASE](#)

### **Required documents for all Certified Divers:**

- ✓ Diver's registration and signature on Safe Diving Practices
- ✓ Liability release
- ✓ Medical statement with Physician Release if required [PADI MEDICAL RELEASE](#)

**Additional Dives** – Divers that are certified as Open Water Divers may feel free to upgrade to add additional dives, night dives or other special certifications. These upgrades are at extra cost and may be booked in advance of travel; simply let us know your preferences. No diving is permitted 18-hours prior to your return flight time.

**Equipment** – If divers opt to bring their own equipment, please understand that because all elements of the tour are bundled, there will be no reduction in the 'package plan' 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 supplied for new divers only. If you are already certified, please remember to bring your log book to record your dives.

**Dive Insurance** - If you carry dive insurance, don't forget to bring your card.



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**Instructor / Boat Crew Gratuities** - **Tips are not included for dive instructors, skin dive guides, boat captains and deckhands and are at your personal discretion.** Tips for good service are generally estimated at \$10 USD per tank (generally x2 as 2 tanks per session/day) and are split amongst your instructor/guide and your boat captain and deckhand. Additionally, tips for your Instructor if earning your OWD may range from an additional \$40 - \$60 dependent upon the service you received from your instructor.

**Change of Sport** - If any participant originally signs up as a diver and during the course of the tour drops to a snorkeler, please understand that no refunds are available.

**Itinerary Scheduling** - Diving schedules may vary as to morning or afternoon dives. Specific schedules will be distributed upon arrival.

**Towel Cards** - Upon arrival at the resort each person will be issued with a Towel Card. The towel card may be exchanged at the pool for a fresh towel as many times as you desire, every day. The Towel Card **MUST** be turned in prior to leaving the resort as you will not be allowed to check-out until it is accounted for. **To discourage theft, the resort charges \$50 per towel card (or towel) that is not turned in.** If a participant loses their towel or card, they will be responsible for paying this fee. If you wish for Towel Cards not to be distributed to your students, please inform us.

**Sunscreen / Sun Cream** – As a protected environment, please ask your group to bring **bio-degradable** sunscreen if available.

**Pool & Beach Lifeguards** - Lifeguards are on duty at various resort locations. Please direct your students as to appropriate use.

### SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

- We recommend you bring your own personal snorkel gear to include mask, snorkel and fins. This allows you to use your gear for snorkeling off the beach and also at the Chankanaab National Park. It also allows the best comfort when using personal gear rather than rental gear. If you find you need to rent snorkel gear at Chankanaab, please understand this is at your own cost.
- 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
- Beach bag for personal gear
- Sandals / Flip-flops plus Athletic Shoes / Trainers
- Personal Toiletries (soap and shampoo are provided)
- Waterproof Biodegradable Sunscreen
- After Sun Spray / Gel / Lotion
- Mosquito Repellent
- Cash / Credit card for meals on travel days
- Cash for Dive Instructor / Boat Team / Ambassador gratuities (\$100 per person is suggested for combined gratuities)



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**Minimum Booking Numbers:**

16 students

**What's Included:**

Roundtrip international flights to Cancun or Cozumel  
Airport transfers to/from Mexico airport to hotel  
6-nights' accommodation in Cozumel at the Allegro Resort Hotel  
All meals, snacks & beverages while at resort hotel

**Choice of program:**

[OPEN WATER DIVER](#) – E-learning theory completed prior to travel, pool and ocean training in resort

[ADVANCED DIVER](#) – With 5 different types of Adventure dives. All training will be completed in resort

[PRE-CERTIFIED DIVERS](#) - 4 days of 2-tank ocean dives

[SKIN/SNORKEL](#) - 3 half-day ocean snorkels with boat/guide

[SPECIALTY MARINE BIOLOGY / DIVE PROGRAM](#) – Contact us!

Use of non-motorized watersports equipment

Day and evening resort activities

Personal Ambassador

Fund-a-Forest: A tree is planted in the name of each guest

Dollar\$ For Scholars: \$2 donation in the name of each guest

24-hour emergency cover

**What's Not Included:**

\$60 refresher course, if required

Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)

Transfers to/from home airport

Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary

Cost of visas, full or collective passports

Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel

Meals not taken at resort property

Sightseeing options not shown in Itinerary

Hotel incidental deposits & bills – internet, etc

Any gratuities – drivers, ambassador, dive team + boat crews

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming.  
If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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