



COZUMEL FAMILY & FRIENDS TRIP – AUGUST 2021



When:

August 7th through 14th, 2021. You may feel free to come for as few as 3-nights or a couple of weeks, the choice is yours.

Where:

We're staying at the [Occidental Grand](#) located in the southwestern region of the island of Cozumel. The resort is located off the Palancar Reef for divers. Cozumel is one of the top 5 destinations in the world for scuba diving.

Resort Info:

Our package is an all-inclusive package which means all meals and beverages, along with resort activities are included in your pricing. The Occidental has a large range of land and water sports, including diving clinics in the pool, 2 tennis courts with lighting, beach volleyball, kayaks, snorkeling equipment and water polo. The only things that are at extra cost are massage and spa services, rental vehicle use, plus off-shore diving, snorkeling and other excursions.

Food & Beverage:

The resort offers 7 restaurants including 4 à la carte specialties (Mexican, Mediterranean, Seafood and International), 2 buffet restaurants and a pizzeria open until 1:30 am. There are 5 bars offering a wide range of cocktails and alcoholic or non-alcoholic drinks, including the "La Misión" club with DJ music and a pool table.

Pools:

The hotel has 4 swimming pools: an activities pool, a relaxation pool for adults, a children's pool and a spa pool on the Royal Level.

Flights:

You can elect to book your own flight, or If you are flying from southern Missouri, we will have a group flight option from Springfield that will also include transfers to/from the resort once in Mexico. If you want to fly and then rent a car while there (not



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needed but always fun), that is fine too. For those flying in from elsewhere, we suggest you fly directly into Cozumel but you can also fly into Cancun if preferred. Its usually less expensive but time consuming with the shuttle/ferry/taxi to get over to the island. If you want to do this though, no problems, we're happy to share best practices with you to make it happen.

Luggage:

If flying on our group flights, please understand that luggage costs are payable independently during check-in at both the Springfield and the Cozumel Airports and are not included in your flight costs. A general carry-on bag, specific to the size and weight limitations of the aircraft carrier, is included with your group flight booking. If you are bringing diving equipment, you will probably want to budget for 2 bags each way (unless you are a great packer!).

Who's Going:

This trip is open to all our **Family & Friends**. We'll have a fun group, promise! We know Cozumel really well so you are in good hands!

Children:

If you want to bring children or grandchildren, it is fine. The resort also offers a Kids Camp to keep your young ones active and having fun!

What's Included:

Each quote will be independent and based upon how many rooms are needed and whether single, double or higher occupancy, how many nights, if airfare is needed, if transfers are needed, etc. All room fees will include the added resort occupancy tax.

Rooming:

You may elect to have a room with a king bed or two doubles. Pricing is based on how many rooms and if rooms are single or double occupancy. If you have children, they can either stay in the room with you, or you can opt for an adjoining rooms. All rooms have safety deposit boxes and complimentary wi-fi.

Scuba Diving:

Cozumel is one of the top 5 dive destinations in the world. Once we get closer to departure, we will determine who would like to add on a Dive package. We dive via boat on the Palancar Reef, with departure from the resort's pier. All dives are boat dives and all are 2-tank dives with the exception of night dives which are a single tank. A full dive shop is located on property. To dive, you must be a pre-certified diver, engaged in classes during your time here, or you can opt for a Discover Scuba day to see if diving might be an option for you. All options can be booked through our group to get group rates. You also have a choice of bringing your own equipment or renting equipment. If you are new to diving, please contact us and we will walk you through learning options. Not everyone in your party needs to dive. We'll welcome whoever wants to join our dive party! Every year we get new folks joining in, its great! We have literally taken hundreds of people to get certified for the first time, so we will be able to help you sort through what's needed and what you want to try. If a certified diver, you can choose from a 2-day or longer program. Most guests staying for 7-nights will opt for a 3 to 5-day diving program. If you want to do night diving, this will also be available once at resort and you can upgrade to include this (you will also need a tank light/flasher and an underwater light, both of which are available for rent at the dive shop if needed). If you are certified and have not dived in 12-months, please know that a refresher course is mandated. You will be signed up for this when you register for diving; the cost is about \$60. Finally, if you want to earn any additional certifications – Advanced, Adventure, or any number of specialties, - just let us know and we can include this in your individual dive package. No diving is permitted within 18-hours of your return flight time.



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Snorkeling:

You can feel free to snorkel right off the beach at our hotel, or opt to grab a place on a dive boat (afternoons only) and snorkel while the divers are out. If boat snorkeling, there is a fee payable to the dive shop. Let us know if interested and we will get group rates for you.

Snorkel Equipment:

Although you can check-out equipment from the dive shop, we always encourage everyone to bring their own personal gear for snorkeling – mask, snorkel and fins. Having personal equipment is always a good option! If you have questions, we are happy to help you review equipment options.

Whale Shark Snorkel:

During the summer months, the whale sharks migrate off the northern coast of Cancun, near Isla Contoy (21.49490165044772, -86.79444825594106). We will be offering an add-on for anyone interested in going on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! This is for snorkeling only, scuba is not allowed. It's expensive (about \$200 pp plus round-trip taxi/ferry) and a super early start (like 5 AM), but it will be awesome. Let us know if you are interested in adding on a Whale Shark Snorkel!

How do I book?

Reach out to Michele Hammock either by email (michele@STEMstudytours.com) by phone (417.598.9598) or by messenger for a specific quote for your needs. Your quote will be valid for a couple of weeks if you need time to think it over. If you decide to join us, we will set up a package specifically for your family on our site. You can elect to pay by ACH (online check) with no additional fees, or via credit card with a 3% processing fee included. A deposit of \$500 per person is required to confirm your tour (this deposit gets paid directly out to hold your rooms/flight so is non-negotiable). Please contact us for any questions!

Sample Pricing:

For two people sharing a single room for 7-nights, with no flights/transfers included, the estimated cost will be \$538 per person for our special Friends & Family rate. If single occupancy is required, plan on approximately \$280 in additional fees. If you are flying with us from Springfield, Missouri, your cost for 2 people sharing a single room for 7-nights will be approximately \$1313 per person which includes group hotel transfers once in Mexico. Scuba diving and snorkeling costs are in addition to the sample prices noted and we will book these as a group once everyone has registered.

Welcome to our Dive Tribe!



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