

The Yucatan: The Mayan Jungle

From dense tropical rain forests to barrier reefs, ancient Mayan civilizations to modern day Mexican villages, the Yucatan is a celebration of ecological and cultural diversity. Join us in the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve: home to the second biggest barrier reef in the world and one of the few large tracts of lowland tropical rain forest left in Central America. Jaguars, crocodiles, spider monkeys, tapirs, leatherback turtles, more than 330 species of birds, hundreds of species of fish, and approximately 1,000 human beings call Sian Ka'an home. *The Yucatan: The Mayan Jungle* workshop highlights conservation and sustainable development efforts as we explore the social, ecological, and environmental issues facing this incredible region.



The International Experience

The Yucatan International Experience brings the tropical rain forest to life. Students study coastal ecosystem diversity as they snorkel in Puerto Morelos and kayak in the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve. They learn the value of marine estuaries as they study mangrove and reef ecology. Deeper in the reserve, students stay at a research station where they study lowland tropical rain forests, exploring by morning, day and night. They learn to identify tropical plants and animals and study techniques for cataloguing tropical diversity.

The Sian Ka'an is home to thousands of native Mayan people who, in many ways, are helping to protect the Reserve. Visiting students will join local students from a small village in activities and service projects that help both cultures understand the lifestyles of the other. You will also visit ancient Mayan ruins within the Reserve as well as the spectacular ruins of Chichen Itza.

We finish our workshop with a trip to the colonial city of Valladolid and a final night in Puerto Morelos where we tie together concepts and experiences in an active discussion as the sun sets over the Pacific.

Please check our website for sample day-by-day itineraries and photos!



The Curriculum

Our Discover Classroom Earth Curriculum helps prepare students for their international experience *before they travel* with a series of ten hands-on, age-appropriate and user-friendly lessons. The two-hour lessons explore everything from culture to language and travel tips to leadership skills. Your workshop fee includes this curriculum as well as staff support in implementing it with your participants. Among other things, the Yucatan curriculum reveals the biodiversity of the tropical rain forest and the rich cultural history of the Mayan people.



The Service Leadership Project

Following the international workshop, we work with students back in their home communities to develop student-designed service projects that bring personal and community meaning to their international experience. Some students focus their energy on making a difference in their own home community. Projects may include initiating a recycling program at school, participating in an on-going stream clean-up project, supporting disadvantaged members of the community, or educating others about local conservation issues. Other students focus their attention on the region they visited. Projects may include raising funds to support the school they visited, educating others at home about conservation issues abroad, or supporting conservation organizations working in the region visited.



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Recommended Age and Maturity Level

This program is specifically designed for middle-school and high school students. However workshop activities can be modified for college or adult participants. Maturity level should be considered when determining whether students are appropriate candidates for this program.

Group Sponsors and Group Size

Global Explorers includes one complimentary spot for every 10 full-paying participants. The complimentary spots are generally reserved for the educators who organize the group locally with Global Explorers' support; they are referred to as Group Sponsors. Our minimum group size is 10 paying participants. Please contact us to discuss possibilities if you have a smaller group.

Included

All travel expenses within Mexico, all meals (unless specified), all lodging, all ground transfers, airport departure taxes, basic level of tips for guides and other services, a program t-shirt, workshop journal, textbook(s), curriculum and service project materials (for Group Sponsor), travel insurance, year-long support, guidance and mentoring for local Group Sponsor, and an on-site Global Explorers Representative during workshop.

Not Included

Airfare between your home city and Cancun, Mexico, passport, immunizations and any personal items.

Accommodations

In Puerto Morelos, students stay at a modern and comfortable hotel with all conveniences. In the Sian Kaan Biosphere Reserve, students stay at a biological research station with bunks and basic facilities.

Flexibility

We do everything we can to ensure a positive workshop experience. Because we can not control all aspects of our workshops, we may need to slightly alter the workshop itinerary on-site. We reserve the right to make these changes in the interest of enjoyment, education, logistics or safety. In order to make these changes smooth, we rely on your cooperation and flexibility.

Safety

We take this topic seriously and ask that all workshop participants do the same. We take an enormous amount of care in preparing our workshops to minimize safety risks and we have created rules and regulations accordingly. It is very important that all travelers obey the rules and regulations set forth by Group Sponsors, on-site Global Explorers staff, guides and lodge managers.

Physical Fitness Level

All of our workshops are designed for adventurous participants! We suggest participants prepare both physically and mentally for their workshops in order to get the most out of the experience. While the hikes and excursions included in this workshop are not strenuous, the conditions may be taxing for some travelers. Please call us for more details and discuss any concerns with your physician.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Nonrefundable \$200 deposit. Withdrawal 46-90 days prior to date of departure is 50% of program costs. Withdrawal 45 days or less prior to date of departure is 100%. We regret having to strictly adhere to these policies but we begin sending non-refundable payments for lodging and transportation and incur other costs long before the workshop.

2006 Price: \$1,895* ☆Includes 1 free teacher☆

*Please contact us if you have fewer than 10 students and we will adjust the price accordingly.

Come Discover Classroom Earth!

www.globalexplorers.org