

STEM U

SUMMER RESIDENTIAL CAMP

Tour:

COZUMEL DIVE CERTIFICATION & MARINE SCIENCE WEEK

Itinerary:

7-days / 6-nights total trip

Destination:

Cozumel, Mexico

Price:

\$3503 USD per student (flights purchased on own)

STEM U - COZUMEL, MEXICO

Scuba Certification & Marine Science Week

Day			Morning		Afternoon	Evening	
1	26-Jun-2026	Sat	Travel to Cozumel Mexico; Meet SST Team, Transfer to Hotel; Check in & Resort Tour			Welcome, Safety & Orientation	Resort Dinner & Activities
2	27-Jun-2026	Sun	Scuba Registration / Instructor Assignments	Theory Review / Confined Water Training / Refreshers	Ocean Dives 1 & 2	Resort Dinner & Activities	
3	28-Jun-2026	Mon	Confined Water Training / Free Time for Certified Divers		Ocean Dives 3 & 4	Resort Dinner & Activities	
4	29-Jun-2026	Tues	Full-day Excursion - Mayan History at Tulum + Adventure Excursion (ziplining, rappelling, cenote snorkeling and more) + Shopping in Playa del Carmen			Resort Dinner & Activities	
5	30-Jun-2026	Wed	Ocean Dives 5 & 6		San Miguel (Town Center) Exploration - Shopping & Strolling	SERVICE PROJECT Waves of Grace	Resort Dinner & Activities
6	1-Jul-2026	Thur	Ocean Dives 7 & 8 (Pre-Certified Divers Only)		Stingray Beach Education Program	Certificate Presentation	Resort Dinner & Activities
7	2-Jul-2026	Fri	Resort Activities Prepare for Departure		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.



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What is STEM U?

STEM U is the official summer travel program of **STEM Study Tours**, a U.S.-based educational tour operator specializing in immersive STEM experiences for schools and youth worldwide. Our mission is to take learning beyond the classroom through exhilarating, hands-on adventures in science, technology, engineering, and math - all while exploring the globe.

At STEM U, students dive into real-world applications of STEM in dynamic international settings. Each program is designed to spark curiosity, build global awareness, and introduce participants to cutting-edge technologies and diverse career paths. Along the way, students strengthen teamwork, leadership, and practical skills - gaining confidence and forming lasting connections that support future success.

Who Can Join?

STEM U programs are open to individual students ages 14–18, with travel offered on specific dates for programs. On our Mexico Scuba Week, students travel independently and book individual flights, allowing you to book the cabin/class of your preference and being able to utilize airline miles or other travel programs if desired. Our team will meet you as soon as you clear Customs & Immigrations and take responsibility for your student at that point.

Three student STEM U Weeks are offered in 2026: **Spain** for general STEM, **Italy** for Engineering, Physics and Math, and **Cozumel** for Marine Science and Scuba Diving Certification. Each year, we also offer one FAMILY destination, open to guests of all ages traveling together. In 2026, this trip is offered to **South Africa** for Wildlife Conservation.

Safety & Supervision

STEM U students are supervised by a team of trained Chaperones, led by a professional Tour Director. A licensed nurse or medical official travels with each group to ensure health and safety throughout the journey.

Students stay in shared accommodations by gender, with each participant assigned their own bed. If traveling with friends, please ask us for roommate friendship groups if you would like. All travelers must agree to and follow our Code of Conduct, which is reviewed and signed during registration.

What's Included?

STEM U programs are designed for ease and peace of mind. In Mexico, all ground expenses - including lodging, meals, activities, and supervision - are covered. Families only need to budget for flights, travel insurance, souvenirs and optional snacks / beverages when off property. STEM U Family Weeks have varied inclusions so you can enjoy family time alongside your tour time.

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)



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Cozumel.... Cozumel, Mexico is a vibrant island in the Caribbean Sea, renowned for its crystal-clear waters, thriving coral reefs, and rich cultural heritage.

As one of the world's top scuba diving destinations, Cozumel offers students a rare opportunity to explore marine ecosystems firsthand while immersing themselves in the rhythms of island life. From the ancient ruins of Tulum to the bustling markets of San Miguel, the region blends ecological wonder with historical depth, making it an ideal setting for experiential learning. The STEM U itinerary maximizes this potential, combining rigorous scuba certification training with marine science education, cultural excursions, and service projects that foster global awareness and environmental stewardship.

Participating in this program equips students with both technical skills and a deeper understanding of ocean conservation. Through confined and open water dives, students earn their scuba certification - a credential that opens doors to a wide range of careers. Certified divers can pursue paths in marine biology, underwater archaeology, environmental science, oceanography, and even commercial diving or underwater photography. For those interested in STEM fields, this experience lays the groundwork for future research, fieldwork, and advocacy roles that require comfort and competence in aquatic environments. The inclusion of service projects and educational programs like the Stingray Beach initiative further reinforces the importance of responsible tourism and marine protection.

Beyond the academic and career benefits, this trip cultivates resilience, teamwork, and curiosity. Students learn to navigate new environments, collaborate under pressure, and reflect on their role in preserving fragile ecosystems. Whether they're rappelling into cenotes or analyzing reef health, they're not just observing the world - they're engaging with it. This kind of immersive, interdisciplinary travel experience can be transformative, sparking lifelong passions and shaping future leaders in science, sustainability, and global citizenship.

"In the end we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught."

- Baba Dioum, Senegalese Conservationist

Day 1

Late lunch & dinner at resort

Travel on your own to Cozumel, Mexico where we'll meet you on arrival. After clearing customs and transferring to our hotel, we'll get settled in and have a leisurely lunch before our Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting & Resort Tour. Prior to travel, each participant will have completed all online theory requirements to start their dive training, so we'll recap this information and make sure everyone is set up for success. Later in the day, we'll have some fun to get to know one another before a resort dinner and evening activities.

Day 2

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Morning activities:



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Dive Registration – We'll start at the Dive Shop today to complete all our paperwork and get set up with our instructors. Pro Dive's watersports Centers have all been awarded the prestigious National Geographic Green Star Award. The Pro Dive team are our trusted partners and their Instructors will make sure every single person is set up for the very best marine experience.

Certified Divers: Scuba Refresher – Taking a scuba refresher is a smart way to rebuild confidence and ensure safety before returning to the water. It covers essential skills like buoyancy control, equipment setup, and emergency procedures, helping certified divers stay sharp and prepared. Whether it's been months or years since your last dive, a refresher sets the stage for a smoother, more enjoyable underwater experience.



New Divers: Theory Review with Instructors, Confined Water Training with Equipment – Students get to learn the skills they've trained for! From equipment set-up and use to the first round of skills and requirements in the water, they'll work with their dedicated instructors to master the tasks they'll need in the ocean.

Afternoon Activity:



All Divers: Ocean Dives 1 & 2 – Dive into the blue with your instructors to experience true marine science. 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. The Cozumel National Marine Park is a paradise for scuba diving. It's the protected home to one of the most incredible coral reefs and marine inhabitants on the planet.

Day 3

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Morning activities:



Certified Divers: Free morning in Resort – Enjoy free time at the resort. You can look forward to sailing, snorkeling, kayaking, tennis, basketball, volleyball, water aerobics, dance lessons, culinary classes, language classes and more. The resort Activities Team is here to make sure you are engaged and active!



New Divers: Confined Water Training – Its back to the pool to finish off our Confined Water Training to master your skills and perfect your dive practices. Working with your Instructors, you will go through a series of skill tests to make sure you are ready for your next ocean challenge. Today's tasks include emergency skills to be able to finish your certification practices.



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Afternoon activity:



All Divers: Ocean Dives 3 & 4 – The Cozumel Marine 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 coral reefs here are punctured by swim-throughs and tunnels which lead onto the giant sponges and coral banks of Colombia Reef.

Day 4

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Today's activities include:



Ferry to the Mainland – Take a ride on the wild side as we cross the channel by boat to Playa del Carmen on the mainland. It's a 45-minute ride but we'll sit in comfort in interior or exterior cabins as we make the passage. Grab a good book, close your eyes and listen to your music, or watch the waves roll past as we embark on a fun journey to explore the mainland!



Tulum Archaeological Park - The Tulum Archaeological Park is a stunning Mayan site perched on cliffs overlooking the Caribbean Sea. Once a thriving walled city and trade hub, it offers insight into ancient culture and history. Students visiting experience both breathtaking scenery and a deeper connection to the Maya civilization.



Adventure Sports: Ziplining, Rappelling, Cenotes – This adventure offers a thrilling mix of activities deep in the Riviera Maya jungle. Begin with an exhilarating zipline ride through the treetops. Next, descend into a cenote by rappelling, a truly unique experience that brings you into the refreshing, crystal-clear waters of a sacred natural pool. Finally, enjoy swimming and relaxing in the cenote, discovering the unique underwater rock formations that make these pools famous.



Playa del Carmen Shopping & Exploration – Before heading back to our island, enjoy a bit of time to explore Playa del Carmen. Playa del Carmen is a lively beach town in Mexico's Riviera Maya, known for its walkable streets and white-sand beaches. Students can explore boutique shops, gourmet restaurants, and picture-perfect backdrops to set up that perfect selfie. For students, it offers a balance of cultural immersion and recreation, making it a dynamic stop during their Mexican adventure.



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Day 5

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Today's activities include:



All Divers: Morning Dive - 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. Today, divers will enjoy this underwater paradise as they drift effortlessly along in search of amazing aquatic life!



San Miguel Town Excursion - In the lively town of San Miguel, students can stroll along the colorful waterfront and explore bustling local markets filled with handmade crafts and souvenirs. They can sample authentic Mexican flavors and enjoy refreshing treats like tropical fruit or homemade ice cream (extra costs apply). This is a chance to experience Cozumel's vibrant culture firsthand, from street art and music to the warm hospitality of the island's residents.



Waves of Grace Service Project - At Waves of Grace Community Church, students connect with Cozumel's youth through a meaningful service project and shared fellowship. The evening includes bringing donations for local children, enjoying a pizza dinner together, and joining in lively games like volleyball, kickball, and soccer. This experience offers a heartfelt opportunity to build friendships, give back to the community, and celebrate the joy of cultural exchange.

Day 6

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Today's activities include:



Pre-Certified Divers: Morning Dive – These are the last dives of the trip and only included for students who were pre-certified and have registered for 4-days of 2-tank dives. If you are a newly certified diver, or a student earning their advance dive certification, you can certainly sign up, it will just be at extra cost. This is a chance to catch glimpses of those last sharks and rays, follow that last turtle, and take a last glance at the amazing corals and sponges. Cozumel's underwater world is truly spectacular!



Stingray Beach Education Program - Get ready to splash around at Stingray Beach, where you'll meet friendly stingrays up close! You can feed them, hold them, and learn cool facts about their underwater world. It's the perfect mix of ocean adventure and unforgettable fun with your friends! Plus, you'll walk away with amazing stories to share and memories that will last long after the trip.



Certificate Presentation & Farewell Reflection - At the end of the week, each student is recognized to celebrate their achievements. Whether they've completed their Open Water Diver or Advanced Open Water Diver course – or simply joined the dives for fun - we ensure everyone has a title to honor their experience. This tradition not only acknowledges hard work and growth but is also a chance for the entire team to come together and truly process their experiences. Through guided discussions and thought-provoking questions, we'll unpack the amazing things they've seen, heard, and felt throughout the trip.

Day 7

Breakfast included at resort; lunch & dinner are on own during travel

Today it is time to say goodbye to Mexico as we pack up and head for home. As our team's mission is to expand minds through transformative travel experiences, we hope that as you settle into your seat for the journey home, that all you have experienced during your trip will leave you with a feeling of increased confidence, knowledge, understanding and yearning for your next adventure!

After a late breakfast at our hotel we'll leave for our onward journey home.

Adios Amigos!



[**REGISTRATION LINK**](#)



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Registration & Booking Notes

Documentation & Passport Requirements

- ❖ All participants must register using their full legal name exactly as shown on their passport (including middle names). Please double-check all details - name, date of birth, gender, passport number, and issue/expiration dates - to ensure accuracy.
- ❖ If your passenger does not have a valid passport at the time of registration, we ask for this to be applied for immediately after registration. At times, passports may take an extended amount of time to process so please apply as soon as registration is complete. All passport information must be received by us, through the registration portal, a minimum of 60-days prior to travel.
- ❖ Upon arrival in Mexico, we will collect all passports and hold these for safe keeping, re-issuing them for return flights home. Please know and understand the process if your student were to lose their passport as it can be trying at best. More information on this process may be found in our online Documents Library.

Payments

- ❖ An initial deposit is required at registration to confirm your trip.
- ❖ Deposits are paid through the portal by linking your bank account, no fee for payment services. 11 currencies are accepted: USD, GBP, EUR, CAD, AUD, NZD, CHF, DKK, NOK, SEK, PLN, HKD, MXN.
- ❖ Wire transfers and credit card payments are also accepted, however the banking center does charge a 4% fee for use.
- ❖ Remaining balances are divided into equal monthly payments, with all payments completed 60 days before departure.

Agreements & Parent/Guardian Forms

- ❖ During registration, families must review and agree to: [Booking Conditions](#), [Assumption of Risk & Liability Release](#) and our [Code of Conduct](#). A Photography Release is optional but appreciated.
- ❖ Each parent/legal guardian must submit [Permission to Travel Abroad](#), [Medical Release](#) (required to seek treatment if needed) and [Consent for Medicine Administration](#).
- ❖ Each student room will be routinely checked. Please be prepared to pay for any damages which your child may incur. These will be reviewed with you, but do understand, if your child has created damage, you are solely responsible for any bills associated with repair.

Travel Insurance

- ❖ Each person traveling must have a valid travel insurance policy that covers both travel and medical, valid for your specific travel dates. If you are a resident of the USA, you may feel free to obtain this through our partner, Travel Insured, a widely recognized insurance provider that serves our groups. Registration Link: [TRAVEL INSURED](#) Please ensure you are booked through this specific link as it is tied to our company and we will receive your travel insurance documents to keep on file.
- ❖ If you are departing from abroad and need an insurance referral, please let us know. This may generally be purchased at the time you purchase independent flights.
- ❖ If you are purchasing elsewhere, you will be asked to email in a copy of your travel insurance so we have it on file and can access it if needed. Please email this to info@stemstudytours.com and include the trip destination, the name of the passenger and the outbound travel date.
- ❖ Please remember that no insurance = no travel, so please insure this is in place as it is mandatory, a minimum of 60 days prior to travel.
- ❖ You may find additional information relating to travel insurance in our Parents Guide for STEM U.



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Communications

- ❖ Please download and read our [STEM U Parent's Guide](#) which covers many questions you may have and also gives helpful hints and details.
- ❖ Prior to travel we will have a group video chat for your student to meet us and answer any questions your family may have. If you have specific questions you would like answered before registering, please feel free to contact our offices during business hours (USA Central time zone).
- ❖ During travel, we will have two WhatsApp groups: one only for students for general tour communications, and one only for parents as a daily update on what the group is doing and how everything is progressing.
- ❖ We ask for students to not use their personal cell phones during activities, only using these after the day's activities are finished and the student has personal time.
- ❖ If a US citizen, we recommend all travelers register with the U.S. Department of State's [Smart Traveler Program](#).

Management & Supervision

- ❖ Every STEM U Camp is carefully managed with a dedicated Tour Director, supportive Camp Chaperones, and a qualified Medical Representative accompanying the group from start to finish. This ensures students are safe, supervised, and well cared for throughout the entire experience.



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Package Costs

Package pricing shown is per person based on shared rooms for students, with each student in an individual sleeping space. Please let us know about any friendship-group rooming requests when booking, we will always try to accommodate your requests. **As a reminder, flights must be purchased independently for Cozumel.** This allows you to use your airline and travel schedule of choice, class/cabin preference and make use of any travel programs or airline miles which may apply. We will meet your student in Cozumel after they clear Customs & Immigrations.

Student Price	\$3503 USD per person
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DEPOSIT / PAYMENT PLAN:

\$1000 to reserve your spot

Remaining payments divided and paid on the 1st in March, April and May 2026

Final balance by June 1st, 2026

Contact us if you need special assistance

INSURANCE: Travel insurance is mandatory. We partner with Travel Insured for our trips, or you may feel free to use any provider you wish and send us a copy of your personal coverage valid for the dates of travel. The choice is yours. If you do wish to use Travel Insured, please use this link so your insurance is tied to this trip: <http://www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=62443>. Unfortunately, you will not be able to travel without a policy in place and trip cost refunds will not be available due to lack of purchase.

Please click on the link below for registration. The registration process will require input of all personal information, passport details if known, places for medical conditions and dietary preferences, signature of required waivers, and more. All payments are made direct through the portal and guests may pay via ACH (online bank check) at no charge from select countries (USD, GBP, EUR, CAD, AUD, NZD, CHF, DKK, NOK, SEK, PLN, HKD and MXN). Guests may also make payment via credit card, however, please be advised that a 4% processing fee is charged by the processing agency.

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STEM U 2026: COZUMEL, MEXICO

SCUBA CERTIFICATION & MARINE SCIENCE WEEK

Minimum Trip Numbers:

12 students

If the minimum number of students is not achieved for the trip to move forward, you will be asked to book on a different adventure or get a full refund for your paid deposit. **Please do not book independent flights until the minimum number is achieved.**

What's Included:

- ✓ 6-nights' accommodation at Allegro Cozumel
- ✓ All meals, snacks and beverages while on resort property starting with a late lunch on arrival and ending with a late breakfast on departure (please budget for additional meals on travel days)
- ✓ Airport transfers in Cozumel plus to off-property activities
- ✓ Round-trip Ferry tickets to Playa del Carmen
- ✓ PADI Scuba - each student will choose one of the following options:
 - Open Water Certification with online theory prior to travel, confined water training in resort, and 3-days of 2-tank dives
 - Advanced Open Water Diver Certification with online theory completed prior to travel, classroom sessions in resort, and 3-days of 2-tank dives
 - 4-days of 2-tank dives in resort with no additional certification package, pre-certified divers only
- ✓ Refresher course for all pre-certified students
- ✓ All equipment use including wetsuit, BCD, regulator, SPG, fins and mask
- ✓ Certified instructor team and boat crews
- ✓ Guided Tour of the Mayan Tulum ruins
- ✓ Mayan Adventure excursion on the mainland to include ziplining, rappelling and cenote swimming
- ✓ Shopping excursions in Playa del Carmen & San Miguel
- ✓ Stingray Beach excursion with educational program
- ✓ Waves of Grace Youth Service Project
- ✓ Use of sailboats & sea kayaks
- ✓ Use of all resort amenities: 3 pools, table tennis, tennis courts, basketball, volleyball, snorkeling and more
- ✓ Activities Team operated day games and challenges; evening resort shows

What's Not Included:

- Roundtrip international flights to Cozumel, Mexico nor baggage costs
- Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
- Baggage handling - everyone should be able to pull / load their own bag
- Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary
- Meals other than ones provided for the entire group
- Cost of personal passports, visas or visa waiver fees
- Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
- Sightseeing / Entertainment not shown in Itinerary
- Hotel incidental bills – gift shop purchases, spa fees, etc.
- Credit card fees if individuals wish to pay via credit card instead of ACH
- Additional taxes, fuel surcharges or fees levied by governments / suppliers

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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