

A&SRC Explorers: Spring Break 2024 in Mexico FAQs

How much will the program cost?

The program fee is \$425. You will also be charged UTC tuition for 1 credit hour unless you are enrolled in at least 12 other credits for the spring semester.

What is included in the program fee?

The program fee is all-inclusive. It includes three meals/day, all excursions and activities, international and domestic flights, transportation on-site, transportation to and from the airport, lodging, 24/7 guide. You will only need to have money for your own personal expenses.

What credit am I going to get?

You will be enrolled in MLNG 2000: Encountering Global Cultures for 1 credit. This credit can be used for general education or elective requirements.

What will we be doing every day?

Our itinerary is filled with cultural activities and excursions. Each morning will start with breakfast and reflection. We will then hop on our bus and head out into Mexico's rich landscape. We will have plenty of experiential activities and individual free time as well. A tentative itinerary of our time in Mexico is below.

What happens if I decide not to go?

By applying and accepting your position in this program, you are committing to participating in the study abroad program and the spring course. If you withdraw from the program after the acceptance date of November 15, you may be liable for fees up to the total program fee cost of \$3,500. The study abroad program is an integral part of the MLNG 2000 course; therefore, withdrawing after the beginning of the spring semester is likely to prevent you from receiving a passing grade.

Do I need to know how to speak Spanish? What if I don't speak any Spanish?

You do not need to know how to speak Spanish to participate in this program! We will be conducting the entirety of the program and course in English with an English-speaking guide. Part of the course curriculum, however, is learning some basic and helpful phrases in Spanish so that you will be able to get around easily and safely.

Is Mexico safe?

Safety is UTC's number one priority. As with all study abroad programs, this program will be supported by the UTC Office of Study Abroad and the UTC Safety & Risk Management Team. All participants will be enrolled in comprehensive health and emergency insurance, the US Department of State STEP Program (<https://step.state.gov/>), and UTC's international risk management partner, International SOS

(<https://www.internationalsos.com/>). We will also be with an experienced guide who is trained in health and safety and has worked with US students in Mexico for nearly two decades.

We will be traveling in an area of Mexico that is very safe. Merida, located in the state of Yucatan, is completely approved for travel by the UTC Office of Study Abroad and the US Department of State. Information from the US Department of State regarding travel for US citizens is below:

Yucatan state – Level 1, Exercise Normal Precautions

Exercise normal precautions.

More information about the safety of Mexico can be found on the US Department of State website here:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/mexico-travel-advisory.html#Yucatan%20state>

Where in Mexico are we going?

We will be spending 8 days in Merida and surrounding areas. Merida (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C3%A9rida,_Yucat%C3%A1n) is located in the Yucatan Peninsula, in the state of Yucatan.

Where are we going to be staying?

We will be staying in a 4-star hotel during our time in Mexico. You will be sharing a room with at least one other student. Our tentative hotel is:

- Holiday Inn Express Merida Centro Hotel: Calle 60 No. 491, Merida, YUC 97000 Mexico; Front Desk Phone: +[52-999-6890194](tel:52-999-6890194); https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/merida/middt/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps-_-EX-_-MX-_-MIDDT).

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga & Arcos Learning Abroad

Merida, Mexico
ASRC Explorers Program Itinerary

March 9 - 16, 2024 (8 days)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					MARCH 8	MARCH 9
						Arrival Welcome Dinner Hotel: Holiday Inn Express Mérida Centro
MARCH 10	MARCH 11	MARCH 12	MARCH 13	MARCH 14	MARCH 15	MARCH 16
- " Sunday in Merida " + Walking Tour - Lunch in Merida - Visit to El Gran Museo del Mundo Maya - Group Dinner	- A Swim and Lunch on Progreso Beach - Group Dinner - Vaqueria Show	"Day in the Life" Visit Lunch TBD University Visit at UADY Paseo Montejo Tour (students have dinner on their own w/ program cash - 400 MXN)	- Visit to Hacienda Sotuta de Peon for a Tour - Light Lunch - Cenotes Santa Barbara Dinner at Cenotes Santa Barbara	- Visit to the Ruins of Kabah - Tour of the Ruins of Uxmal - Lunch at Uxmal - Visit to Choco-Story and its Mayan Ritual Dinner	- Museo de Musica - Morning in the Market - Lunch in Mérida - Free Afternoon No Group Dinner (students have dinner on their own w/ program cash - 400 MXN)	Departure