



# Caribbean Cruise

**Short-term Faculty-led Study Away Program • Spring Break 2013 • March 9-17, 2013**

Course Name: **International Field Study in Geography**

Course Number: **GRY 470**

Credit Hours: **2 undergraduate**

## Course Overview & Objectives:

The principle objective for this course is to illustrate some of the methods and techniques for collecting and processing field data in Geotourism Geography. Students will put these methods into practice by experiencing cruise and land-based tourism, interacting with grass roots tourism initiatives, and interacting with local community members and citizens. Students will experience local tourism unlike typical mass market tourism, as all shore excursions will be individualized for the group.

Based on these experiences, students will develop an evaluation of a destination based on Geotourism concepts and will provide a tourism evaluation for the local groups exploring the relationship between cruise tourism and land-based tourism, offer suggestions and recommendations to the community for tourism improvement and development.

## Program Fee: \$1,288

**Program Fee Includes:** Round-trip MSU van transportation to/from Springfield/Galveston, overnight stay in Texas City, TX, seven nights onboard "Mariner of the Seas", all meals onboard & entertainment, sightseeing tour in Galveston, shore excursions at all Ports of Call, including gratuities, applicable taxes and port charges.

## Program Fee Excludes:

Meals to/from Galveston, tips to shipboard personnel, personal expenses, and \$400.96 MSU tuition for 2 hours of undergraduate credit.

## Applications are due by November 1, 2012.

A nonrefundable deposit of \$500 will be billed to your student account. Please see Application & Payment Procedures for MSU and Visiting Students on reverse.

*Students must be 20 years of age at time of travel.*

## Scholarship Eligibility & Financial Aid

Study Away scholarship funds in variable amounts up to \$2,000 are available to students studying abroad during winter intersession 2013, spring 2013, and summer 2013 terms. The scholarship is need-based for full-time, degree-seeking students with a minimum 3.0 GPA applying for an approved Study Away program. This may be a semester, summer, or short-term faculty led program offered during the terms listed above. Students must complete the application by **October 15, 2012** to apply funds to this program.

## Informational Meeting:

**January 16, 2013 - 6 p.m.**  
Temple Hall Room 326

## Application Due:

**November 1, 2012**

## Pre-travel Class Meetings

**February 27, 2013 - 6 p.m.**  
Temple Hall Room 326

Depart Springfield for Galveston:  
**March 9, 2013**


Depart Galveston for Springfield:  
**March 17, 2013**

Post-travel Meeting, Papers Due:  
**April 10, 2013**

## Interested in going?

Contact the Program Director,  
Linnea Lantia, Department of  
Geography, Geology, and Planning:  
(417) 836-4486  
[Liantia@MissouriState.edu](mailto:Liantia@MissouriState.edu)

# Study Away!



**Missouri State**  
UNIVERSITY

An EO/AA Institution

Missouri State University Study Away Programs  
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## Course Schedule & Itinerary

### COURSE OUTLINE

During the course, students will evaluate the tourism facilities, programs, and environment in Belize, Honduras, Mexico and Texas. This course will teach students the components necessary to conduct evaluations of tourism destinations and their economic and environmental impact on the destination. The research focuses on the geography of the MesoAmerican Reef system, and compares and contrasts their Geotourism initiatives and the impact that cruises have on the islands. Through field tours in the area students will examine topics such as culture, heritage, politics, planning, historical development of trade and community, tourism facilities, potential sources of tourism and physical geography. The course will examine the beginnings of tourism planning and development from the perspective of the Port of Call and the Cruise Lines. Students may also undertake a survey for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines.

At each Port of Call, students will be involved in full day excursions to nature based tourism destinations. There will also be visits to accommodation facilities including Anthony's Key Resort in Roatan, Honduras and Diamond Resort in Cozumel.

### STUDY TOUR

On-board and Port of Call sessions:

#### March 9, 2013

Depart from Missouri State campus in two (2) 12 passenger vans. Drive south to Galveston (724 miles, aprx. 12 hours). Overnight Galveston at hotel.

#### March 10, 2013

Breakfast at the hotel before boarding a tour train for a tour of the island, including the historical districts, port and maritime sights. Following the tour, students will board Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's "Mariner of the Seas" and set sail at 4:30pm.

#### March 11, 2013

Full day at sea. This afternoon there will be a one hour class meeting followed by a tour of the bridge to see how a ship of this size navigates, including GPS and GIS systems. We will look at the charts and mapping to show how a ship chooses its route.

#### March 12, 2013

Full day at sea. This morning there will be a one hour class meeting in one of the meeting rooms, then a tour of the galley facilities to see the operation for feeding the 5,000 plus people on board, as well as learning about their sustainable efforts to recycle and make minimal impacts on the marine environment. We will also have a session with the Chief Purser who will explain how a cruise ship operates.

#### March 13, 2013

Reach the first Port of Call of Roatan, Honduras at 8:00am. Students will meet the director of the GoBlue Central American MapGuide, and visit a number of the sights from the Map as well as many of the local business owners and tourism officials. We will also visit the project that is cleaning up the island of plastic left behind by tourists, and turning them into art projects. Finally we make a stop at Cordelia Banks to see the protected reef sharks of the Shark Legacy Project. The ship sails 5:00pm.

#### March 14, 2013

We dock in Belize City, Belize at 8:00am. Today's tour begins at the Belize Tourism Village where we'll meet our guide and board the boat for the 45 minute ride out to the 2nd largest barrier reef in the world, followed by Caye Caulker and the Caye Caulker Ocean Academy. Return to Belize City in midafternoon. The ship sails at 5:00pm.

#### March 15, 2013

The ship docks at the Port of Cozumel, Mexico this morning at 7:00am. Board your air-conditioned motor coach for a short drive to the ruins of San Gervasio, the sanctuary of the goddess Ixchel, the main Mayan entity on the island. Students will also visit the MesoAmerican Reef Tourism Initiative (MARTI). The ship sails at 4:00pm.

#### March 16, 2013

Full free day at sea. Late afternoon two hour tour wrap-up in meeting room.

#### March 17, 2013

The ship docks this morning at 7:00am. After customs we will pick up vans from parking lot and drive back to Springfield.

### POST-TRAVEL CLASS MEETING

Focus group regarding program evaluation and recommendations.

### Course Credit & Requirements

Pending successful completion of these components, students will receive a letter grade based upon:

- An 8-10 page paper based on one of the Geotourism experiences.
- On-board and land-based exercises that will be identified in the daily coursebook for students to reflect upon.
- A reflection journal is a graded component of the course and students will be asked various questions to reflect upon on a daily basis. The journal is returned to the student after the course has been graded.

**Required Text:** *None Required*

## Application & Payment Procedures

Missouri State University students and others who are approved by a Program Director may apply. Instructions are included on the program application.

**MSU Students:** A non-refundable deposit of **\$500** will be billed to your University account upon application (deadline Nov. 10, 2012). You will receive a final billing on Dec 1, 2012, for the balance of the program fee (\$788). MSU course tuition (\$400.96) will be billed to your University account and is due according to the university payment plan.

**Visiting Students:** A non-refundable deposit of **\$500** (check or money order) must accompany your application (deadline Nov. 1, 2012). A check or money order for the **balance of the program fee (\$788) will be due by Dec. 14, 2012**. MSU course tuition (\$601.44) will be billed to your University account and is due according to your payment plan.

**IN ORDER TO ENSURE PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY AWAY PROGRAM, THE ENTIRE AMOUNT OF THE PROGRAM FEE MUST BE RECEIVED BY DEC. 14, 2012. PAYMENT CAN BE MADE ONLINE OR AT THE BURSAR'S OFFICE.** Estimated program fees are based on rates in effect on the publication date of this flyer and may be subject to change. Program participants agree to a potential increase of up to 10% if rates increase before or during travel.

### Cancellation & Refund Policies

If the program is canceled due to lack of participants, students will receive a full refund of all monies paid. If a student wishes to withdraw from the program for any reason, s/he must submit a written notification of withdrawal to the Program Director and the Study Away Director; the date of withdrawal will be the date the notification is received by the Study Away Office. The 15% deposit and any monies already spent on behalf of the student wishing to withdraw will not be refunded. Additional monetary penalties for withdrawal will be outlined in the program flyer. Once the program has started, students withdrawing receive no refund under any circumstances. Any plans by a participant not to travel and return with the group must be submitted in writing to the Program Director and the Study Away Office.

The cruise line has penalties as follows:

- i. No penalty if cancelled by 12/23/12
- ii. Between 12/24/12 and 1/12/13 - \$250
- iii. Between 1/13/13 and 2/9/13 - 50% of cruise cost
- iv. Between 2/10/13 and 2/23/13 - 75% of cruise cost
- v. From 2/24/13 - No refund

The program will be cancelled if enrollment is fewer than 10 participants. In this event, students will receive a full refund.