

Guatemala Maya Field School In the Mirador Basin

Idaho State University-
Institute of Mesoamerican Research



ISU's Guatemala Archaeological Field School is located in the remote Mirador Basin in the northern department of Peten. The research encompasses one of the most exciting research projects on the ancient Maya, and is focusing on the origins, incipient dynamics, and collapse of Preclassic Maya civilization. Under the direction of Dr. Richard Hansen, you will have the opportunity for research and exploration in the largest and earliest ancient Maya cities with teams of scholars from a variety of disciplines. The ISU field school offers the student the opportunity to be on the cutting edge in the application of sophisticated technology, excavation and research strategies and methodologies, innovative conservation measures, and theoretical considerations relative to the origins and demise of complex societies. Experts and scholars from more than 52 universities and research institutions will provide the intellectual backdrop.

FIELD WORK DESCRIPTION

The Mirador Basin Project offers the student unique field experience in Lowland Maya archaeology. Students will hike into the Basin from a small village, providing observations of the variations of the tropical flora, fauna, and archaeological sites in the Basin. The primary base will be the site of El Mirador, where students will be assigned to specific excavation, conservation, and investigation projects depending on skills and interests. Students will work closely with technicians and experienced scientific personnel. Students will gain an understanding of excavation and research strategies, Maya ceramics, lithics, bone and shell collection, architectural consolidation and conservation, and chronometric methods. Students will gain an understanding of Maya art and architecture, archaeology, and tropical forest ecology. A basic understanding of mapping using sophisticated technology in tropical forests, radar instrumentation, and remote sensing will be available. Additional knowledge relevant to the excavation, stabilization, consolidation, and conservation of Preclassic Maya art and architecture will be obtained from experts working on site.

You will go to Antiqua each day on the 19th, 20th, and 21st for a conference on Maya Tombs, and then fly to the jungle where you will hike in with a team.

DURATION & TRAVEL

-Field School: June 18- July 30, 2009

-Guatemala Archaeology Conference on Maya Tombs June 19- June 21.

-Roundtrip Airfare: Purchased
Flores/Santa Elena, Peten,
Guatemala.

ACCOMODATIONS

Students will be housed in personal tents at the field camp locations. A list of mandatory equipment and personal belongings can be accessed at the ISU Anthropology website. Meals will be provided.

TUITION AND FEES

Academic Course 1-6 credits

Guatemala Field Research

Undergrad Anth 486 (05)

\$236/credit/resident

Graduate Anth 586 (05)

\$236/credit/resident

Independent Study:

482 (06) 1- 3 credits

(\$236/credit/ resident;

582 (06) 1-3 (\$236/credit/resident

Non -resident fees apply:

\$364/credit, undergraduate

\$4049/credit graduate

Non-ISU students must apply to

ISU. Undergraduate fee is \$40.00

and graduate fee is \$55. Admission

applications can be accessed at:

www.isu.edu/enroll/admis.shtml

ADDITIONAL FEES

-\$1000 Field School Fee

-Roundtrip airfare to Guatemala

-Medical Evacuation Insurance

INQUIRIES

ISU Anthropology Department

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Visit our web site at

<http://www.isu.edu/departments/anthro/guatemala> & www.miradorbasin.com

**Application Deadline: May 1,
2009**

All field school information such as application form, waiver form, medivac insurance details, list of requirements, and equipment and supply list should be accessed at the department's website.

**All fees must be paid by May 1,
2009.**