



RÍO AZUL REGIONAL  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT



# DIG IN THE MAYA JUNGLE

Río Azul Regional Archaeological Project (RARAP) Mirador–Río Azul National Park, Petén, Guatemala  
Maya Archaeology Field Program • Summer 2026



## WHY THIS FIELD PROGRAM?

Students join an active international research project working deep inside a protected tropical forest. You will excavate real Maya sites, analyze artifacts, experience life in a real archaeological camp, and contribute to long-term research.

### WHERE STUDENTS WILL STAY

Students stay at the Ixcánrio Archaeology Camp, a remote facility in the Mirador-Rio Azul National Park. The camp provides limited generator-powered electricity and satellite internet, sleeping quarters in two-person tents, toilets and basic showers, and full-time Guatemalan cooks provide three meals a day.

### WHAT STUDENTS WILL DO

- Conduct excavations at the Maya site of Rio Azul
- Participate in all aspects of archaeological fieldwork, including mapping, survey, and ceramic, lithic, and skeletal analysis
- Learn about remote sensing data interpretation
- Learn about tropical forest ecology and conservation

### DATES & ELIGIBILITY

- One 4-week session: May-June 2026
- Open to students 18+
- Limited enrollment (10–20 students)
- Deadline: Rolling until full; priority deadline March 31, 2026

### ACADEMIC CREDIT

- UT students: Contact **Dr. Fred Valdez** – Department of Anthropology, University of Texas at Austin at [fredv@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:fredv@austin.utexas.edu)
- Other students: Must arrange credit through their home institution

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
SCAN THE QR  
CODE



**NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE REQUIRED.** Training is provided on site. This program is ideal for students considering archaeology, anthropology, geography, environmental studies, or heritage management.

### DIRECTED BY

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