

Furman University Study Away Program: Program Expectations

Program Title: Food and Culture Expedition: Charleston & Belize

Locations: Charleston & Belize

Dates: May 10-26, 2024

Program Description: This May Experience is a journey of gastronomy, heritage and cultural exploration, that explores the fascinating world of Gullah and Garifuna culture in Charleston and Belize. These two distinct communities have rich histories, vibrant artistic traditions, and captivating cuisines. Together we will celebrate diversity, promote cultural exchange, and indulge in the rich tapestry of culinary and cultural experiences offered by these remarkable communities.

Academic, Environmental, Physical & Health Expectations for Participation

Below is a list of academic, environmental and physical expectations and requirements for participation in this study away program. The list captures most, but not all, requirements. If you have questions about the expectations and requirements, please check with the study away office or the program directors. Students requiring a physical or academic accommodation should contact the Student Office for Accessibility Resources (SOAR) no less than 4 months prior to the start date of the program.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS	Frequency	STUDY AWAY ENVIRONMENT	Frequency
	Always, Sometimes, Never/ Required or Optional		Always, Sometimes, Never/ Required or Optional
Course work in a foreign language	Never	Foreign Language Environment	Predominantly English; other languages
Course work in English	Always	Terrain (Mountains, Tropical, Forest, Desert, Hilly, Flat)	Charleston-Flat, coastal / Belize-Mountainous, coastal, tropical
Laptop Required	Always	Population: Rural, Urban, Remote, etc.	Charleston-Urban and Rural / Belize-Rural
Smart phone required (videos, photos, blogs)	Always	Environment (high altitude, air pollution, dusty, sandy, humid, dry, hot, cold)	Charleston & Belize-Warm and humid, low altitude, sandy, coastal breeze
Traditional Classroom	Never	Mosquito Borne Risk of Illness	Moderate risk
Group Work	Regularly	Is tap water safe to drink	Safe; filtered water will be provided in Belize
Academic Assessments (tests, journals, presentations, essays)	Reflective essays, informal presentations, final project	Other Risks (natural disasters, crime, pickpocketing, etc.)	Low risk
Interactions with local residents	Often	Cultural Dress Code	Occasionally in public spaces in Belize
Field Work/Research	Occasional	Curfew	None
Internship/ Volunteer Work	Service learning project in Belize	Motion Sickness	Van transportation
Other		Other	

PHYSICAL EXPECTATIONS	Frequency
	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Lifting/Carrying Own Luggage	Often
Carrying equipment or program supplies	Carrying supplies from markets
Standing 60+ minutes	Sometimes
Ability to walk up one or more flights of stairs (elevators may not be available)	Sometimes
Hiking (easy to strenuous; frequency; miles)	Moderate 3-4 hour hike
Walking 3+ miles per day	Rarely
Use of public transportation (buses, trams, trains, subways)	Never
Other	

HEALTH & DIET	Frequency
	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Vegetarian and Vegan Options Available at all meals	Limited options of vegans; can accommodate vegetarians
Food Allergy Accommodations	Should discuss with program directors
Group Meals	Often
Cooking for oneself	Cooking for groups a few times
Host family prepares meals	Four nights with host families
Healthcare easily accessible	Always
Quality of Healthcare	Charleston - Excellent / Belize - Good
Other	

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS	Frequency
	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Host Family	Four nights in Belize
Roommate	Always
Shared Apartment	
Dormitory	
Hotel	Vintage Motel in Charleston for 3 nights (bunk beds) / Belize - 5 nights
Other	Charleston - Historic home at the Penn Center for 4 nights
Cell phone signal available	Yes, but possibly not strong
Internet signal available	Charleston - Always / Belize - Possibly
Refrigerator Access	Most of the time
Air Conditioning	Always
Other	

WATER ACTIVITIES	Frequency
	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Swimming	Optional
Snorkeling	Optional
SCUBA	Never
Boat, canoes or other water activities	Fishing activity on a boat
Sea sickness	Possibly
Other	Will have access to the beach in Charleston and Belize

Center for Disease Control Recommendations:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/belize>