

Juniper GIS Offers GIS training in Mahahual, Mexico this June

Join Juniper GIS for a focused hands-on GIS course that combines the opportunity to improve your field skills in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico with increasing your GIS knowledge and capabilities. This course, as a one-week or two-week option, will teach participants core and advanced GIS skills using conservation related data and scenarios, and is an ideal course for anyone planning to use GIS in the conservation or natural resources arena. Attracting students from all over the world, participants will have the opportunity to start developing a network that will help them now and in the future as they practice GIS in their profession.



Classroom at Punta Gruesa



Dive boat and beach at Punta Gruesa

The course is hosted by Global Visions International (GVI), in conjunction with Amigos de Sian Ka'an, a local conservation group dedicated to preserving the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve. The instructor will be John Schaeffer and there will be an assistant to ensure that all students get the highest quality instruction. All students must bring a laptop; if they do not have ArcGIS, we will provide an evaluation copy of ArcGIS 9.3. Students will earn 40 or 80 hours towards the GISP (Geographic Information System Professional) certificate.

The course will be held at GVI's Punta Gruesa Research station, situated 35km north of the tranquil village of Mahahual, and just 8km south of the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve (Mayan for "where the sky is born"). Located 5 hours south of Cancun and just north of Belize on Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, the area lies on the spectacular Caribbean coast and is surrounded by coral reef, pristine wetlands and further inland, dense jungle.

The cost is \$1,500 for one week or \$2,500 for two weeks, and includes return transfers from Playa del Carmen, all food and accommodation at the site, and training materials. The first course runs from June 14 -19; the second course runs from June 20 - 25. You should arrange flights to Cancun at least 1 day either side of your course dates. Certified scuba divers will be able to dive in order to collect coral data during the 2nd week of the course. All diving equipment is included, except basic personal equipment (mask, fins, snorkel, wetsuit and time device). Pre-departure support and discounted services, 24 hour emergency phone, 24 hour in-country support. For more information, go to <http://www.gviusa.com/courses/Central%20America/Mexico/GIS-course-mexico/home>. If you have specific questions on the course content or other questions, contact John Schaeffer at john@junipergis.com. Check the GVI or Juniper GIS websites for a possible second course offered in Costa Rica in September.

