



**ECOLOGY PROJECT**  
INTERNATIONAL

# BELIZE

## TROPICAL ECOLOGY

EXPLORE THE MAYA FOREST | SNORKEL THE BELIZE BARRIER REEF | ASSIST WITH BAT RESEARCH



### BOUNTIFUL BELIZE

The country of Belize is home to incredible biodiversity. Its crystal-clear waters, swaying seagrass beds, and lush jungles offer critical habitat for bats, birds, unique mammals, and a host of marine life. On this field course, you'll investigate the diversity of these rich ecosystems both in the rainforest and on the coast.



### YOUR FIELD WORK

Alongside our scientific partners at a research station in the Maya Mountains, you'll contribute to terrestrial research projects including neotropical bat surveys and herpetology studies. You'll also spend time in the spectacular Belizean cays, where you'll collect data on the second largest barrier reef in the world.



### CULTURAL IMMERSION

Embark on an ethnobotanical stroll to discover the T.R.E.E.S. orchard, guided by an expert who will explain the traditional and medicinal uses of local tropical plants used by the Mayans. Celebrate the end of course and learn about Belizean Afro-Caribbean culture through the rhythms and beats of a Kriol Sambai drumming band.

• INSPIRING STUDENTS WITH NATURE & EMPOWERING THEM WITH SCIENCE •



# BELIZE TROPICAL ECOLOGY SAMPLE ITINERARY

## DAY 1: ARRIVE IN BELIZE

- Meet your instructor team
- Head to your home base at the Toucan Ridge Ecology and Education Society (T.R.E.E.S.) research station

## DAYS 2-4: EXPLORE THE RAINFOREST

- Dip your toes into freshwater stream ecology
- Prepare and conduct bat mist netting surveys
- Engage in a scientific exploration of white-lipped mud turtle behavior and habitat using telemetry

## DAYS 5-7: INVESTIGATE & PROTECT THE BARRIER REEF

- Travel from T.R.E.E.S. to the Belize Barrier Reef and arrive at Tobacco Caye, your spectacular island home
- Snorkel the Caribbean waters and explore the barrier reef through active investigation and observation, deepening your understanding of this diverse ecosystem
- Contribute to local conservation initiatives by gathering data on coral reef health, manage invasive lionfish populations, and participate in a beach clean up

## DAY 8: IMMERSE YOURSELF IN BELIZEAN CULTURE

- Explore field investigations conducted by tropical biologists in the rainforest and then carry out your own research
- Immerse yourself in the vibrant Belizean Afro-Caribbean culture as you celebrate the end of course with the rhythmic beats of the Kriol Sambai drumming band

## DAY 9: DEPART FROM BELIZE CITY

Length	Research & Service Hours	Coursework Hours	Focus
9 Days	20	30	marine & freshwater ecology, rainforest ecology, conservation



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