



**ECOLOGY PROJECT  
INTERNATIONAL**

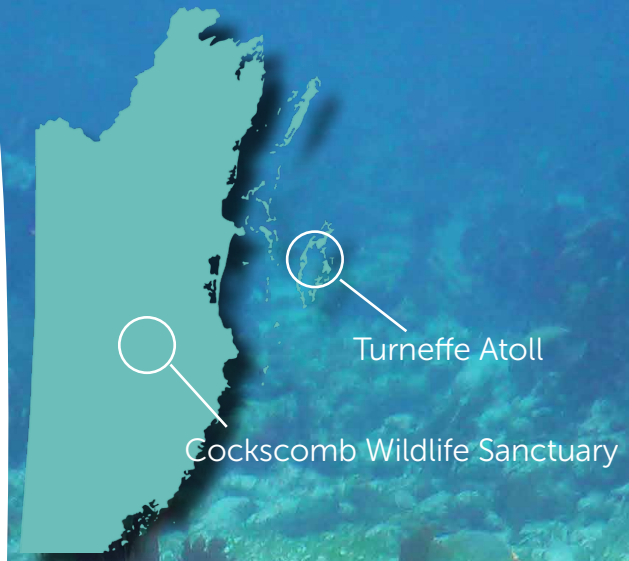
# BELIZE MARINE ECOLOGY PROGRAM

**The Atoll:** Step off the plane and onto a boat headed for Belize's stunning Turneffe Atoll, the country's largest, where you'll be based for five days. Get ready for world-class snorkeling right outside your door on the second largest barrier reef in the world! Experience an abundance of coastal wildlife and unique habitats - from rare bird species that live in mangrove forests, to dolphin pods and a dazzling abundance of fish and coral species below the waterline.

**Your Field Work:** Under the guidance of EPI's instructor team, you'll learn how to monitor dolphin pods and coral reef health, with a particular focus on the invasive lionfish and its effects on the ecosystem. You'll be amazed at both the fragility and resilience of this unique coastal ecosystem as it responds to human and climatic forces.

**Into the Jungle:** After completing your fieldwork on the Caribbean coast, your course heads inland to the Belizean rainforest, where the Cockscomb Basin National Wildlife Sanctuary awaits. You'll spend your time on hikes to picturesque waterfalls surrounded by lush tropical forest, and you'll set up and check on remote cameras as part of a jaguar & large mammal monitoring project. Your trip ends with a visit to a local Mayan cultural center for a lesson in chocolate-making.

Length	Research Hours	Coursework	Focus
9 days	15+	30+ hours	reef, rainforest, and dolphin ecology, coral reef conservation



## Highlights .....



**Snorkel & monitor dolphin pods and coral reef health**



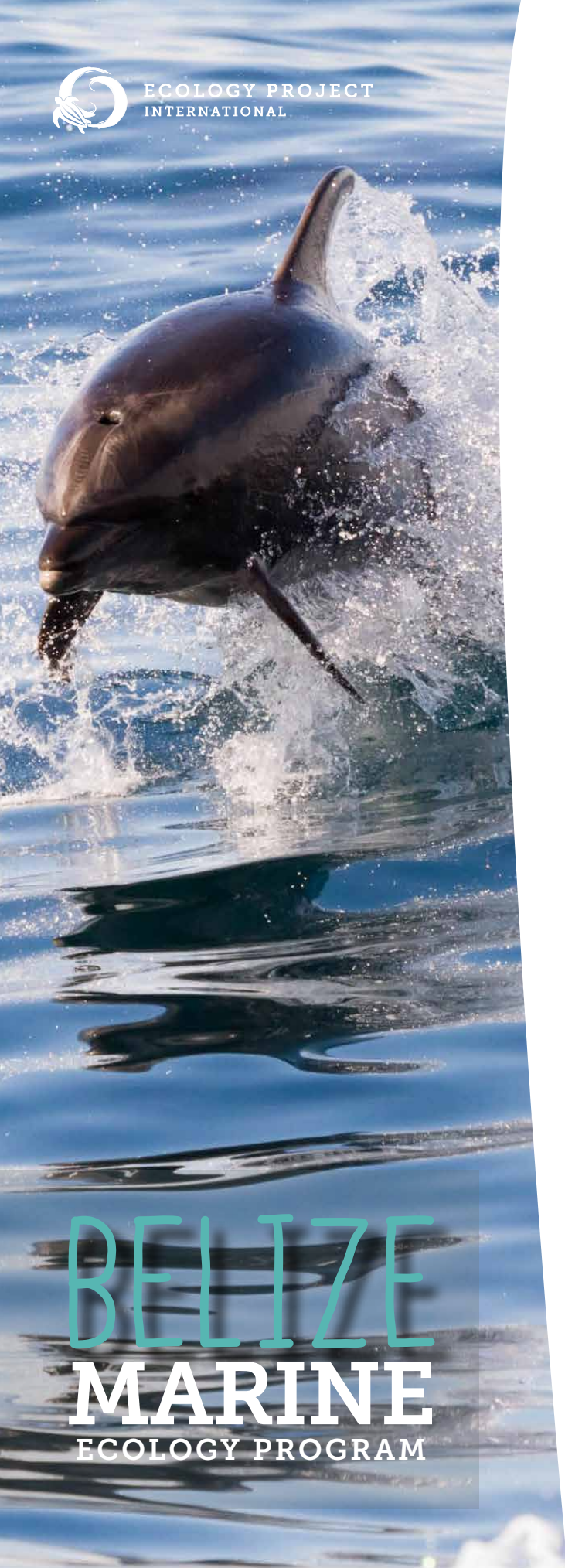
**Track jaguars & large mammals**



**Explore the Belizean rainforest**



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## Sample Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrive in Belize City

- Meet your instructor team
- Head straight to your field station (either the atoll or the rainforest, depending on your finalized itinerary)

### Days 2-5: Marine Ecology on Turneffe Atoll

- Dive into lessons on lionfish, reef ecology, and conservation issues in Belize
- Locate and survey resident dolphin pods from research station boats
- Snorkel in azure waters and explore coastal mangroves
- Conduct in-the-water reef transects to collect data on invasive fish species and coral health

### Days 6-7: Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary

- Head inland to a jaguar sanctuary deep in the rainforest
- Collect mammal tracking and camera data for tapirs, peccary, jaguars, and other forest mammals
- Bird-watch and hike to a gorgeous waterfall
- Go on a night hike to experience the abundance of nocturnal life in the rainforest

### Day 8: Cultural Exchange

- Visit the Mayan Cultural Center and enjoy a Mayan meal
- Learn how to make chocolate and tortillas (the traditional way)

### Day 9: Depart from Belize City Airport

Program Partners:

