



# ECOLOGY PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

# BELIZE MARINE ECOLOGY PROGRAM

**Port Honduras Marine Reserve:** Escape the crowds and head to Southern Belize and the crystalline waters of the Port Honduras Marine Reserve. A protected area established through local conservation efforts, the reserve is home to a wide array of habitat. The reef system and mangrove cayes support one of the most productive fisheries in the Caribbean. With a resident dolphin pod and a population of endangered West Indian Manatees, it's a stunning locale to study marine ecology.

**Your Field Work:** Under the guidance of EPI's instructor teams and local marine biologists, you'll learn how to monitor the reserve's resident dolphin pod. By collecting this data, you'll help researchers understand the social structure, population dynamics and migration of the species—an essential step in protecting the species from proposed oil exploration outside the reserve.

**Culture & Conservation:** No visit to Belize would be complete without an experience of its diverse cultural heritage. You'll work side-by-side with Kelchi Mayans dedicated to restoring the forest near their home. On the coast, you'll do a beach clean-up near the village of one of Belize's most unique cultures, the Garifuna.

Length	Research & Service Hours	Coursework Hours	Focus
9 days	5	30	reef and dolphin ecology, reforestation



Toledo District



## Highlights



Monitor & collect data on dolphin pods



Snorkel along a protected coral reef



Explore the coastal forests of Southern Belize



ECOLOGY PROJECT  
INTERNATIONAL



# BELIZE MARINE ECOLOGY PROGRAM



## SAMPLE ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrive in Belize

- Meet your instructor team
- Head south to the Toledo District for your first night on course

### Day 2: Reforestation & Cultural Experience

- Support reforestation efforts along the Columbia River
- Make tortillas & chocolate and/or visit Mayan ruins
- Head to Payne's Creek Field Station

### Days 3-7: Marine Ecology

- Dive into lessons on 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
- Bird-watch and hike in Payne's Creek National Park
- Do a beach clean-up and plastics assessment

### Day 8: Research Presentations & Course Graduation

- Travel to Central Belize for your final night abroad
- Enjoy a nature walk
- Present your research findings and celebrate your completed course

### Day 9: Depart from Belize City Airport

Program Partner:

