



**ECOLOGY PROJECT
INTERNATIONAL**

BELIZE MARINE ECOLOGY

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 manatee population and sea grass beds. By collecting this data, you'll help researchers understand the social structure, population dynamics and movement of manatees within the reserve and monitor sea grass meadows which are important habitat for manatees and many other species.

INTO THE JUNGLE: After completing your fieldwork in Southern Belize, your course heads inland to the Belizean rainforest, where the Cockscomb Basin National Wildlife Sanctuary awaits. You'll spend your time hiking to picturesque waterfalls surrounded by lush tropical forest and learning about the sanctuary's 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 & Service Hours	Coursework Hours	Focus
9 days	14	30	Marine biology, rainforest ecology, conservation



Toledo District

HIGHLIGHTS



Collect data on manatees and seagrass



Snorkel along a protected coral reef



Explore the Belizean rainforest



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HOUSATONIC CC

3/14/20 – 3/22/20

\$3895

ecologyproject.org/housatonic2020

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1: ARRIVE IN BELIZE

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

Days 2-5: MARINE ECOLOGY

- Head to Payne's Creek Field Station
- Dive into lessons on reef ecology and conservation issues in Belize
- Locate and survey manatees from research boats
- Snorkel in azure waters, explore coastal mangroves, and monitor seagrass beds
- Survey yellow-headed parrot roosts
- Explore the pine savannah and wildlife found in Payne's Creek National Park
- Do a beach clean-up and learn about climate change

Days 6-8: RAINFOREST ECOLOGY & CULTURE

- Head inland to a jaguar sanctuary deep in the rainforest
- Bird-watch and hike to a gorgeous waterfall
- Learn about the sanctuary's monitoring project on tapirs, peccary, jaguars, and other forest mammals
- Visit a Mayan cultural center and learn how to make tortillas and chocolate.

Day 9: DEPART FROM BELIZE CITY AIRPORT

BELIZE
MARINE
ECOLOGY

Program Partner:

