

# Belize Coral Reef Ecology Program for Educators



**Hosted by International Zoological Expeditions  
South Water Caye and Blue Creek, Belize  
<http://ize2belize.com/>**

*Instructors: Dr. Gary Gaston, Dr. James Darwin Thomas, or Ms. Cara Rieckenberg*

Session I: July 3 to July 10

Session II: July 31 to August 7

**Seven night program cost: \$984.00**

**International Zoological Expeditions (IZE) recognizes the needs of  
teachers' professional development goals.**

The National Science Education Standards for Professional Development have been integrated into the Belize Coral Reef Ecology Program. These standards include:

- Learning essential science content through the perspectives and methods of inquiry.
- Integrating knowledge of science and learning.
- Building understanding and ability for lifelong learning.

**International Zoological Expeditions strives to promote  
environmental literacy.**

Our Belize Coral Reef Ecology Program focuses on:

- Questioning, analysis, and interpretation skills.
- Knowledge of environmental processes and systems.
- Skills for understanding and addressing environmental issues.
- Personal and community responsibility.

## **Why you should participate in this program...**

*"Belize has some of the most accessible coral reefs in the world, and IZE has facilities right on the reef. You will see the organisms you will be studying, and return home with a lifetime of memories."*

~Dr. Gary Gaston

*"It is increasingly clear that the coral reefs of the world are undergoing large scale changes, the cause of which continues to be the subject of much debate and speculation. Research in this area will provide a finer focus and detail regarding the intricate and complex workings of coral reef ecosystems."*

~ Dr. James Thomas

## What will you do?

Learn about and explore the wonders of the sea while swimming and snorkeling the unique setting of the Belize Barrier Reef. This field program will provide direct experience with principles of ecology and marine biology.



The day is structured for a balanced experience. Lectures, labs, snorkeling, data recording, and research is matched with time for collaboration with peers as well as down time for your intended summer break.

## What will you learn?

The program focuses on marine life in a coral reef environment. You will learn to:

- Identify local fish, invertebrates, and plants.
- Observe biological interactions, such as competition, predation, and symbiosis, among members of these communities.
- Explain how abiotic factors regulate populations and communities, and affect ecosystem dynamics.
- Perform field techniques, including sampling procedures, and the estimation of population density and community diversity.
- Compare methods used to study coral reef community ecology.
- Perform monitoring and census techniques in several reef community types.
- Synthesize and incorporate information from articles in peer reviewed journals into your journal and presentations.



## Besides personal gear, what will you need for the program?

- Field notebook/journal
- Snorkeling gear

## What is provided with the program?

- All texts, guides, manuals and documentation
- Laboratory facilities
- Boat and snorkeling access to mangrove swamps, sea grass meadows and coral reefs

## What can you expect?

- Authentic experiential learning experiences in the field
- Qualified instructors with diverse backgrounds and experience in the topics as well extensive experience on the Belize Coral Reefs
- A balance between involved classroom lectures, intensive labs and extensive time in the water (*It is highly recommended that you are a strong swimmer.*)
- Introductions to the coral reef, mangrove and seagrass ecosystems of the Caribbean Sea
- Practical experience in marine ecology research
- Opportunities for oral reports, personal and team projects
- Opportunity to conduct a brief research project and presentation
- Opportunity to collect data for the Coral Watch Reef Monitoring Project



## Where will you stay?

Participants will be lodged on site in dormitory facilities with private bathrooms and showers.



## What does the cost of the Coral Reef Ecology Program include?

- All instruction
- All texts, guides, manuals and documentation
- Lodging and meals on site
- Program sponsored excursions
- Ground and boat transportation in Belize

**What is not included in the cost of the Coral Reef Ecology Program?**

- Passport
- Airfare from the states
- Meals not on site
- South Water Caye Marine Reserve Park Fee (\$10)



**International Zoological Expeditions will provide the support you need to build understanding, ability, and to foster responsibility for your own personal development goals.**

The Belize Coral Reef Ecology Program for Educators is designed with a flexibility that makes it perfect for educators at any grade level. It can be used not only to meet the above goals, but also as a platform by which to design a field class for your students.

We are there to provide assistance in documentation needed for funding, grants, or continuing education units.

---

*\*An optional experience of a three night Blue Creek Village and Rain Forest Lodge trip extension in Southern Belize is available for \$479.*

