



# BELIZE

with Texas Association of Biology Teachers

June 27 - July 3, 2017



*Join a TABT liaison on this 7-day expedition where you will not only see but interact with the incredible land and marine life Belize has to offer! Observe the ecology of the rainforest along the Western Highway and learn about the impacts it has on this tropical country.*

*Continue your journey by snorkeling the Belize Barrier Reef at Tobacco Caye which provides firsthand opportunities to explore a coral reef ecosystem and the life it sustains!*

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Evaluate the Sibun River watershed with water quality testing kits.
- Learn about the connection between inland activities and coastal environments.
- Explore the Belize Zoo which host more than 125 animals.
- Identify the common and unusual species that call Belize's coral reefs home.
- Experience the nocturnal life of Tobacco Caye with an exciting night snorkel.



# ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## JUNE 27 - WESTERN HIGHWAY

Upon arrival at the international airport, transfer along the Western Highway to the Tropical Education Center, adjacent to the Belize Zoo. The Zoo and Tropical Education Center are situated on 29 acres of tropical savannah and exhibit over 125 animals, all native to Belize. All of the animals living at the zoo were rehabilitated or rescued as orphans from poaching situations, the illegal pet trade, injury, or exposure due to habitat loss. Founded in 1983, the Belize Zoo has been internationally recognized for its outstanding conservation efforts and excellent simulated natural environments. After settling in at the dorms, there will be some time to explore the grounds before dinner. Later, meet in the education center for a review of the course. This evening take an exciting night walk at the zoo to observe nocturnal wildlife. Be on the lookout for snakes, a Harpy Eagle, ocelot, pumas, and jaguars! *Overnight at Belize Zoo's Tropical Education Center. (BLD)*

## JUNE 28 - WESTERN HIGHWAY

Today there will be a talk on the tropical savanna ecosystem followed by hiking along trails for a firsthand experience of what you have learned. As you walk through the dense vegetation, observe the interactions between the ecology of the savanna and its wildlife inhabitants such as Yellow headed Parrots, armadillos, and grey foxes. Other wildlife observations may include iguanas, peccary, coatis, and a variety of tropical birds. Later, work on a service project at the Belize Zoo. *Overnight at Belize Zoo's Tropical Education Center. (BLD)*

## JUNE 29 - WESTERN HIGHWAY

Today, take a morning hike in a forest environment, and then explore the watershed during a float along the Sibun River. Use a water quality testing kit to measure various components of the environment. This evening enjoy a discussion on how inland activities impact the coastal environments in Belize and around the world. *Overnight at Belize Zoo's Tropical Education Center. (BLD)*

## JUNE 30 - TOBACCO CAYE

Transfer to the Riverside Cafe in Dangriga Town for an opportunity to purchase supplies in the well stocked shops and produce market. While the stay on Tobacco Caye includes meals, you can purchase snacks here. Next board the boats and begin the ride out of the mouth of the Stann Creek River across 12 miles of turquoise lagoon. In approximately 35 minutes, arrive at the base for marine exploration, among some of the world's richest biodiversity. The Belize Barrier Reef wraps around Tobacco Caye, providing safe and convenient access from shore. After lunch, have snorkeling gear fitted and receive a briefing on how to effectively use equipment and interact with the coral reef before beginning the first snorkeling experience on the reef. Later, enjoy some beach volleyball and then dinner. Tonight, the first classroom session is an introduction to natural resource management in Belize and the South Water Caye Marine Reserve marine protected area. Finish with a fish identification session featuring video of common and unusual inhabitants of the coral reefs. *Overnight at Tobacco Caye Lodge. (BLD)*

## JULY 1 - TOBACCO CAYE

Spend the day exploring the ecosystems of South Water Caye Marine Reserve. Belize's largest protected marine area provides the

canvas for a full day of adventure. Today's sites include Whale Shoal patch reef, South Water Caye fore reef, Smithsonian Institution's CCRE Facility at Carrie Bow Caye, Man O' War Caye Bird Sanctuary, and Twin Cayes Mangrove boardwalk. Lunch on South Water Caye Beach then return to Tobacco Caye. After dinner, the second classroom session will focus on marine ecology and how mangroves, seagrass beds, and coral reefs interact with the terrestrial environment and each other to create the marine world. *Overnight at Tobacco Caye Lodge. (BLD)*

## JULY 2 - TOBACCO CAYE

Half day of snorkeling amongst the spur and groove coral of the fore reef and alongside the roots of the mangrove forest. Lucky visitors may spot resident West Indian Manatees while cruising through the inner waters of Tobacco Range. Lunch is followed by leisure time to snorkel from the shore. After dinner, experience an exciting night snorkel in the lagoon. Step off the dock into a nocturnal world of cephalopods, moray eels, arthropods, and echinoderms. Underwater lights are provided but must be turned off temporarily to observe the phosphorescent dinoflagellates. *Overnight at Tobacco Caye Lodge. (BLD)*

## JULY 3 - DEPARTURE

This morning after breakfast transfer by boat to Dangriga then transfer to Belize City International Airport. Connect with your flight to United States. (B)

## PROGRAM PRICING

**\$1,525** (10 participants)

*Includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities listed in itinerary, local guides/drivers in each region for duration of program.*

*Does not include gratuities, items of a personal nature, or international airfare, estimated at \$700 from Dallas.*

## THE FINE PRINT

*Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room add \$290. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to secure your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable until March 24, 2017 excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than March 24, 2017. Cancellations received after this date are not refundable.*

*Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information visit [travelinsured.com](http://travelinsured.com) or call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.*



PHOTO BY JDLROBSON

## FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Contact Debbie Sturdivant Jordan at 866-748-6146 or email [debbie@holbrooktravel.com](mailto:debbie@holbrooktravel.com) or Alton Biggs at [altonb@ix.netcom.com](mailto:altonb@ix.netcom.com)  
Visit [holbrook.travel/tabtbz2017](http://holbrook.travel/tabtbz2017)