

Tentative Itinerary
BELIZE MARINE TREC MARINE STATION
AMBERGRIS CAYE, BELIZE

APRIL 25--DAY 1

MEET AT STANDIFORD FIELD, LOUISVILLE, KY AT 5:30 AM
DEPART 6:54 AM FOR DALLAS VIA AMERICAN AIRLINES
AA FLIGHT #1921

DEPART 12:40 PM FOR BELIZE VIA AA FL #2193

ARRIVE IN BELIZE CITY AT 2:38 PM

PROCEED VIA LOCAL AIR CARRIER TO SAN PEDRO ON AMBERGRIS CAYE, A 27-MILE LONG
ISLAND WHERE WE WILL CHECK INTO THE CLUB ED.

DON'T EXPECT LUXURY BUT IT DOES HAVE A SWIMMING POOL

- INITIAL ACTIVITY--GENERAL ORIENTATION, CHECK-IN, FIELD NOTEBOOKS
GENERAL BEACHCOMBING AND BIRDING ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE. MORE THAN 30 SPECIES OF
BIRDS NEST HERE INCLUDING REDDISH EGRET, CORMORANTS AND EGRETS
- EVENING--BEACH BBQ WITH BAND AND THEN CHICKEN DROP

On the last trip, the hotel owner demonstrated how to barbecue with coconuts. A one-man band—Barefoot
Skinny—performed

APRIL 26--DAY 2

• MORNING-- THE BELIZE BARRIER REEF EXTENDS FROM THE TIP OF MEXICO'S ISLA JUJERES TO
SAPOLILLA CAYE IN THE BAY OF HONDURAS. IT IS THE LONGEST (180 MILES) UNBROKEN LIVING
CORAL REEF IN THE WORLD. THIS IS UNSPOILED MARINE LIFE AT ITS BEST.

SNORKEL TRES COCOS

DEVELOP SPECIES LIST

- AFTERNOON--GUIDED ISLAND TOUR FOR
INVESTIGATION OF SHORE LIFE: PLANTS, BIRDS AND OTHER ANIMALS
- EVENING--MARINE BIOLOGY PRESENTATION BY DR. MATTES, UPDATE FIELD NOTEBOOKS

APRIL 27--DAY 3

- Morning and Afternoon--Snorkel and Picnic on Mexico Rocks, Cave and Pontoon Wreck
EVENING-BEACH SEINE OR OTHER ACTIVITY UPDATE FIELD NOTEBOOKS

This was interesting and not very difficult. Last time we found needlefish, blue crabs, shrimp and a lot of other
stuff.

April 28--DAY 4

MANGROVE EXPERIENCE AT MANGROVE ISLES, SHARKRAY ALLEY AND SOFT CORALS

- MORNING--IDENTIFY RED, BLACK AND WHITE MANGROVE;
DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE EXTREME IMPORTANCE OF MANGROVES IN TROPICAL
MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

MANGROVES ARE THE BREEDING AND NURSING GROUNDS FOR THE ENDANGERED AMERICAN
CROCODILE AND MANATEE. THEY ALSO PROVIDE SHELTER AND ROOKERIES FOR MANY BIRDS
INCLUDING THE FRIGATEBIRD AND REDFOOTED BOOBY.

EVENING--BANQUET AT ELVI'S KITCHEN--DR. FORSYTH'S RETIREMENT PARTY

April 29--DAY 5

- MORNING--TRAVEL TO THE ISLAND OF CAYE CAULKER
SNORKEL CORAL GARDENS SOUTH AND THE NORTH CUT
LUNCH AT SANDBOX RESTAURANT AND TOUR TOWN

History and Geography

Caye Caulker, located 21 miles northeast of Belize City and 11 miles south of Ambergris Caye, is the second largest
of the Belizean cayes. The island is about 4 miles long, but the town is only

about a mile long. Like Ambergris, Caye Caulker was primarily a fishing community; but its economy is becoming increasingly tourism-based. Caye Caulker is a popular destination for scuba divers, snorkelers, anglers, and tourists who just want beach-oriented relaxation.

1. EVENING LECTURE

APRIL 30--DAY 6

- Morning--Snorkeling in Stingray Alley and Diving Nearby Sites
- Evening--Night Snorkel. On the last trip, we saw a lot of bioluminescent organisms.

MAY 1--Day 7

- MORNING--SNORKEL HOL CHAN MARINE SANCTUARY

THIS AREA IS CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE PREMIER SNORKELING SPOTS IN THE CARIBBEAN. LOCATED ABOUT 4 MILES SOUTHWEST OF SAN PEDRO, HOL CHAN (MAYA FOR LITTLE CHANNEL) IS A 30-FOOT CHANNEL THAT IS A BREAK IN THE BARRIER REEF.

IDENTIFY OVER 220 KINDS OF FISHES INCLUDING SQUIRRELFISH, SPOTTED EAGLE RAYS AND MANY OTHERS, HUNDREDS OF INVERTEBRATES, HARD AND SOFT CORALS
FISH AND CREATURE FINAL EXAMINATION IN WATER AT REEF

MAY 2--DAY 8

TRAVEL TO BELIZE CITY AND THEN VIA VANS TO MAYA MOUNTAINS AND CAHAL PECH CABINS

1. MORNING--RIVER CAVE EXPLORATION

2. You'll be given an orientation and safety talk, before setting out on an unforgettable subterranean float trip. Sitting in inner tubes with headlamps to light your way, you'll float down an underground river, and marvel at the glittering stalagmites and stalactites, and other unique cave formations. The river occasionally emerges into daylight, only to re-enter another cave moments later.

- AFTERNOON--BELIZE ZOO AND TROPICAL EDUCATION CENTER

THIS WILL BE A CLOSE-UP LOOK AT NATIVE JUNGLE ANIMALS; SMALL BUT WIDELY REGARDED AS ONE OF THE MORE BEAUTIFUL ZOOS

EVENING--EXPLORE CAHAL PECH MAYAN RUINS--BRING FLASHLIGHT FOR NIGHT EXCURSION

MAY 3--DAY 9

1. MORNING AND AFTERNOON--MAYAN RUINS AT XUNANTUNICH (LOFTY MAIDEN OF THE ROCK)

IMPRESSIVE EL CASTILLO TOWERS ABOVE THE CANOPY. THIS IS THE SECOND HIGHEST MAN-MADE STRUCTURE IN BELIZE

THIS LATE CLASSIC SITE, THE LARGEST IN THE BELIZE RIVER VALLEY, AND THE LONGEST ESTABLISHED SITE IN BELIZE, PROVIDES A HILLTOP LOCATION WITH A PANORAMIC VIEW OF HOUSE MOUNDS, PYRAMIDS, PALACES AND THREE PLAZAS. THE LARGEST PYRAMID IS DECORATED WITH FRIEZES AND MASKS IN THE CLASSIC STYLE

- THE PANTI MEDICINE TRAIL LATER WE WILL VISIT TREK STOP FOR LUNCH AND TOUR THE BUTTERFLY FARM AND NATURE CENTER. AT PANTI MEDICINE TRAIL WE TAKE A SPECIAL WALK TO LEARN ABOUT THE ABUNDANT MEDICINAL PLANTS THAT GROW HERE.

This was a great experience for the last group. Some purchased the natural rain forest remedies for a variety of ailments.

- EVENING--MEETING, DISCUSSION AND FILLING OUT FIELD NOTEBOOKS

MAY 4--DAY 10

TIKAL MAYAN RUINS

- WINDSHIELD ECOLOGY FROM VANS--WE WILL SEE A VARIETY OF BIRDS AND VEGETATION AS WE TRAVEL TO TIKAL

Many of the remnants of Tikal reveal the culture of this ancient city. The great temples are just the beginning. The Mayans excelled in many different fields, and testaments of their achievements are found throughout the area.

The ball-courts, wooden lintels, unique calendar, and glyphic writings all reveal clues about life in a society that thrived for over 1,000 years. Exploring these aspects of Mayan life gives the visitor an even greater appreciation of the accomplishments of this once great civilization. Tikal, a city that boasted a population of perhaps 100,000, was highly structured and immersed itself in spiritual practice. The city flourished during the classic, and late classic periods, AD 300-900. Many of the massive buildings that are visible today were constructed during this time. The monuments paid tribute to the rulers of the past, and were meant to please the deities. In addition to their obvious achievements in construction, the Maya also excelled in the arts, astronomy, and glyphic writing. Though little is understood, what is known is fascinating.

MAY 5--Day 11

Morning--FINAL EXAM AND TURN IN NOTEBOOKS

Departure for International Airport to Return to Indiana

AA FL #2194 3:43 PM ARRIVE DALLAS 7:45 PM

AA FL #550 DALLAS TO SDF LOUISVILLE 8:45 PM

ARRIVE SDF 11:53 PM