



### **BOUNTIFUL BELIZE:**

The country of Belize is home to incredible biodiversity. Its crystalline waters, swaying seagrass beds, and lush jungles offer critical habitat for bats, tropical birds, sea turtles, and a subspecies of endangered West Indian manatees. Beneath vibrant jungle canopies and along sparkling white sand beaches, life in Belize abounds. You'll have the chance to explore and learn about these rich ecosystems firsthand on the Belize Marine Ecology program.

### **YOUR FIELD WORK:**

You'll begin your adventure at the Toucan Ridge Ecology and Education Society (T.R.E.E.S.) research station. Alongside our T.R.E.E.S. research partners, you'll contribute to terrestrial research projects including neotropical bat surveys and herpetology studies. From there, you'll head to Gale's Point, where you'll dive into practical field research techniques as you conduct vegetation surveys and manatee population assessments. You'll finish your trip with a visit to Half Moon Caye, just steps from the Belize Barrier Reef. Here you'll have a chance to engage in coral reef studies and immerse yourself in island life.

### **BELIZEAN CULTURAL IMMERSION:**

T.R.E.E.S. is an organization deeply connected to education and outreach in the local community. When you're not helping them with ecological studies in the field, you'll experience Belizean culture with a tour of Gale's Point Village and a Kriol drum presentation.

# BELIZE MARINE ECOLOGY

## **COURSE CREDIT**



By participating in this program and completing course work, students will earn a total of **4 credits** for both:



**BIO - 31B** "Regional Field Biology" with Dr. Tonya Huff



**GEO - 32** "Regional Field Geology" with Dr. Aaron Sappenfield

Please contact the professors for more information about this program.



# BELIZE MARINE ECOLOGY SAMPLE ITINERARY

## Day 1: ARRIVE IN BELIZE

- Get to know your instructors
- Head to your home base at T.R.E.E.S. in the Maya Forest

## Days 2-4: BATS AND HERPETOLOGY - IN THE FIELD & LAB

- Dip your toes into freshwater stream ecology
- Prepare and conduct bat mist-netting surveys
- Gain insight on the local amphibian and reptile species on a night walk

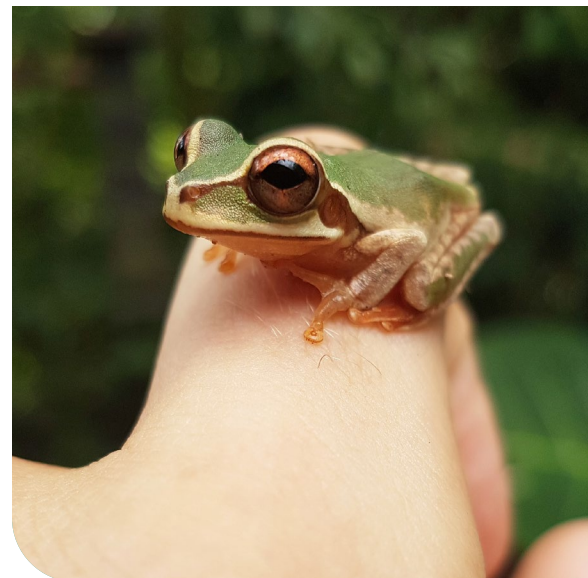
## Days 5-6: GALE'S POINT - MANATEE & TURTLE RESEARCH

- Depart T.R.E.E.S to travel to Gale's Point, located on the shores of Belize's Southern Lagoon
- Explore the mangrove forests of the lagoon by boat, conducting manatee and vegetation surveys
- Collect data on sea turtle nests or conduct population assessments for hicatee turtles (depending on time of year)

## Days 7-11: BARRIER REEF & CULTURAL EXCURSION

- Travel by boat to Half Moon Caye
- Experience island life firsthand
- Collect data on coral reef health as you snorkel the Belize Barrier Reef
- Learn about life as a seabird through a visit to a red-footed booby seabird colony

## Day 12: DEPART FROM BELIZE CITY



Length	Research & Service Hours	Coursework Hours	Focus
12 days	20	30	marine & freshwater ecology, rainforest ecology, conservation