During this comprehensive exploration of Belize, students will examine a wide range of topics including conservation issues, ecosystems, Maya history, and governmental and non-governmental social services. Visits to schools, health care facilities, and senior centers are complemented by active exploration of the country’s historical and natural resources, with hiking, tubing, swimming, snorkeling, and more.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Meet with representatives from the country’s largest special education school, a residential mental health facility, a residential senior citizen facility, and other governmental and non-governmental institutions.
- Discover the history of the Maya civilization with visits to the Tikal and Lamanai ruins and into the Actun Tunichil Muknal cave.
- Learn about conservation issues and compare jungle, reef, and mountain forest ecosystems during guided hikes and meetings with researchers.
- Visit Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary and hear from rangers about the history and importance of the sanctuary.
- Snorkel the Belize Barrier Reef, the world’s second largest reef system.
- See how a pioneering project in voluntary grassroots conservation is sustaining the habitat of the black howler monkey.

**WHAT’S INCLUDED?**

- Bilingual local guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting

**EDUCATIONAL CONNECTIONS**

- Environmental Studies
- Conservation
- Experiential Learning
- Cultural Immersion
Can you help me understand these text portions better? I'd like to develop a natural language understanding model to assist with this. Is there any way you could provide more information or context about these specific areas?
features and what they have revealed about Classic period Maya culture. Check in at the hotel, situated within the park. Overnight at Jungle Lodge. (BLD)

**JULY 18 - MAYA CENTER**
This morning after breakfast check out of Jungle Lodge and transfer to San Ignacio. Visit Octavia Waight Center. This is a residential facility for senior citizens and is one of the more active centers in the country. During the visit, hear from the administrators on their work, including challenges and successes. Have lunch in San Ignacio and then transfer to Maya Center. Visit the museum and then continue to lodging situated at the entrance of the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary. Overnight at Nu’uk Che’il Cottages. (BLD)

**JULY 19 - MAYA CENTER**
Following an early breakfast, visit the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary (Jaguar Reserve). Cockscomb Basin is home to almost 300 species of birds, including the Scarlet Macaw, Montezuma Oropendola and toucans. Situated in the shadow of the Mayan Mountains, the reserve encompasses 124,000 acres of tropical moist forest, which includes Victoria Peak, at 3,675 feet, the second highest point in Belize. It is one of the most impressive locations for viewing Belize’s lush tropical forests. Spend the day exploring the organized system of well-maintained trails. These include Ben’s Bluff Trail, which leads to a ridge where jaguars have been studied using radio telemetry. Upon arrival the park manager will provide a talk on the history and importance of the sanctuary. Then visit the interpretive center, followed by hiking on the trails. Later, have the opportunity to cool off in one of the numerous swimming holes and eat a packed lunch. Overnight at Nu’uk Che’il Cottages. (BLD)

**JULY 20 - TOBACCO CAYE**
This morning after breakfast check out and transfer to Riverside Cafe in Dangriga Town to meet the guide of the marine program. Bid farewell to the mainland guide, and then board a motorboat for the 30-minute transfer to Tobacco Caye. While the stay on Tobacco Caye includes meals, you may wish to purchase snacks at Riverside Cafe because the island is small and there are not any stores to purchase items there. 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, get fitted for snorkeling gear and receive a briefing on how to effectively use equipment and interact with the coral reef, and then enjoy some beach volleyball and then dinner. Tonight the first classroom session will be 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 Dorms. (BLD)

**JULY 21 - 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. Have 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 Dorms. (BLD)

**JULY 22 - TOBACCO CAYE**
Half day of snorkeling amongst the spur and groove coral of the fore reef and alongside the roots of the mangle 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 Dorms. (BLD)

**JULY 23 - DEPARTURE**
This morning after breakfast transfer by boat to Dangriga, and then transfer to Belize City International Airport. Connect with your flight to United States. (B)

**LAND PRICING**
$3,600 (14 participants)

Includes accommodations, activities, entrance fees and meals as listed in the itinerary, in-country transportation, bottled water on the bus, local guides, and carbon offset.

Cost does not include gratuities, items of a personal nature or round-trip international airfare.

**AIR PRICING**
$790 estimated (round-trip from Tampa)

**THE FINE PRINT**
Cost is based on triple/quad occupancy; double and single supplements available at an additional cost. A completed enrollment form and $200 deposit must be submitted to Holbrook Travel to hold your space on the trip. Payments are refundable until April 5, 2017, excluding a $100 cancellation fee. Cancellations received after this date are non-refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel’s agency number is 15849.
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:
Enroll online at holbrook.travel/spcbelize
Contact Sara Brzezinski at 727-712-5455 or Brzezinski.Sara@spcollege.edu

PHOTOS BY:
Bernt Rostad, Steffi Lopez, Chris H from England, Tom Carr, and Dave Johnson