Example itinerary
for Belize expedition

MAY 2014
Blue Ventures
Blue Ventures is an award-winning marine conservation organisation dedicated to conservation, education and sustainable development in tropical coastal communities.

“Our experiences with Blue Ventures and our time spent at Bacalar Chico Dive Camp have been wonderful! Their scientists are knowledgeable as well as good educators, and the support staff at the dive camp have always been professional during our visits. Collectively, they do an outstanding job promoting conservation through education.”

WAYLON HILER
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY, MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE

EXAMPLE TWO WEEK ITINERARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18th May</td>
<td>Arrive Philip S.W. Goldson</td>
<td>Transfer from airport to Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve Dive Camp (BCDC) via: Private bus from airport to Belize City (30 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Airport</td>
<td>Water Taxi to San Pedro town on Ambergris Key (75 minutes)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Boat from San Pedro to Bacalar Chico Dive Camp (75 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th to 24th May</td>
<td>Bacalar Chico Dive Camp</td>
<td>SCUBA training and marine science training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th May</td>
<td>San Pedro or Bacalar Chico Dive Camp</td>
<td>Day-off: rest day at Bacalar Chico Dive Camp or trip to San Pedro for shopping, internet use, etc</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th to 30th May</td>
<td>Bacalar Chico Dive Camp</td>
<td>SCUBA and snorkel surveys for data collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31st May</td>
<td>Depart Bacalar Chico Dive Camp</td>
<td>Belize City to airport for international flight</td>
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Belize Expedition overview and itinerary

Blue Ventures’ Belize Project, launched in March 2010, conducts comprehensive biological monitoring of two connected Marine Protected Areas: Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve and Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. The results of these monitoring activities are shared with management agencies, the Belize Fisheries Department and the Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development, in annual reports, through participatory conservation action planning sessions, and internal review sessions.

Our research site is located at Bacalar Chico National Park and Marine Reserve, located at the northern extreme of Ambergris Caye. As a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site, the conservation of Bacalar Chico’s beauty and biodiversity is of global significance.

Coral reef monitoring in Bacalar Chico aims to assess the effectiveness and provide technical input for the science-based management of Bacalar Chico’s exception marine resources. Monitoring fish species diversity, abundance and biomass helps to understand how the reefs are responding to management interventions. Surveys of benthic community composition, coral species diversity, and coral bleaching and disease help in assessing the long term health and resilience of the region’s reef ecosystems to future environmental disturbance and climate change.

Our research aims to identify strategies and targets that Blue Ventures, communities and local NGOs can work towards to develop sustainable local environmental management plans for the region. These plans focus on improving the quality of life of the local communities who depend on these marine resources while maintaining the biological diversity and productivity of the reefs.

The Blue Ventures Expedition in Belize is based between two sites, one in the village of Sarteneja and the second at our Dive Camp within the Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve.

For 2-week expeditions planned for schools, colleges and Universities the training programme and research programme will be developed in collaboration with the teaching staff based on curriculum needs. Training materials are sent to all participants before the expedition to allow the student team to prepare for science training in advance of their trip and to collect meaningful data during the trip.

Expedition fees

The cost for the example expedition is £1,675 per student for a minimum group size of 12 students with one accompanying staff member. The price for an expedition that includes only snorkelling and boat surveys and does not include SCUBA diving is £1,475 per student.

I would highly recommend a BV Expedition – it was one of the best experiences I have had. The diving was awesome and I met some fabulous people. The locals in Belize made me feel so welcome and I was very sad to leave.

SANDRA CHEUNG, BELIZE EXPEDITION

What is and isn’t included in the expedition fees

Included in your expedition cost:

- Expedition accommodation for the duration of your stay in locally constructed cabanas. There is a maximum of 4 people per cabana in bunkbeds
- All group transfers to and from Phillip S.W. Goldson International Airport – see itinerary overview for details
- Three meals per day, including water tea and coffee during the expedition dates while at Bacalar Chico Dive Camp. Meals during transit and off-site are the responsibility of the individual. It may not be possible to cater for all dietary requirements. For details of typical menus please contact Blue Ventures
- Science Training with our team
- Dive training by a qualified PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor, PADI course-books and certification for PADI Open Water and PADI Advanced Open Water
- SCUBA Diving
- SCUBA Diving equipment: Buoyancy Control Device (BCD); Regulator and alternate air source; weight belt; weights; cylinder; surface marker buoys (SMBs); and Delayed surface marker buoys
- Comprehensive logistical support and pastoral care from our team of permanent staff
- Health and safety provision from our Expedition Manager and SCUBA Diving Manager.

Not included in your expedition cost:

- International Flights
- Personal diving equipment: wetsuit, mask, snorkel, fins, knife, dive watch or dive computer and A4 dive slate – Blue Ventures can provide detailed lists of requirements
- Personal field equipment: e.g. sleeping bag; torch and mosquito net
- Malaria prophylaxis and some vaccinations, please contact your family doctor or local travel clinic for the latest information on requirements for Belize
- Medical checks for fitness to participate in the expedition – some Doctors will charge for this service
- Belize Visa cost
- Travel insurance, comprehensive policies are recommended
- Divers Alert Network membership (which includes comprehensive dive insurance)
- Spending money for drinks, snacks and souvenirs.

www.blueventures.org
Example itinerary for Belize expedition

MAY 2014

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As someone who is living and working in Sarteneja, I can say that Blue Ventures has an excellent relationship with the community, and has had since it was established.

JOEL VERDE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SACD

For information on Blue Ventures and its award-winning work, please visit:
blueventures.org and
www.blueventures.org/newsroom/our-awards