Glovers Reef Atoll, Belize

Photos by JESSICA BENSLEY ©
Under the guidance of Professors Dr. Josh Drew and Dr. Elisa Bone (pictured on the right), 10 students from Columbia University visited Glover’s Reef Research Station, Belize as part of their educational field component in Marine Conservation and Ecology.

17-25 March, 2013

Day 1: March 17, 2013
Day 2: March 18, 2013
Day 3: March 19, 2013
Day 4: March 20, 2013
Day 5: March 21, 2013
Day 6: March 22, 2013
Day 7: March 23, 2013
DAY 1: TRAVEL DAY.
NYC. BELIZE CITY. DANGRIGA.

We left La Guardia on the 6.30am flight to Charlestown, missing one. By 11.30am via several time change zones we were in Belize City. Our driver met us and we set about on the 3 hour journey South to Dangriga, our overnight stop via a quick tour of Belize Zoo. The Belize Zoo is a 29 acre tropical centre housing over 45 native Belizean species; many of them injured and unable to make it in the wild on their own. The Belize Zoo makes a strong attempt to educate the people of Belize on their indigenous animals and habitats with an emphasis on respect and conservation.
GENERAL RULES:
NO USE OF Gill NETS OR Long LINES IN THE MARINE RESERVE.
ALL DIVE BOATS MUST FLY A 'DIVERS DOWN' FLAG WHEN DIVERS ARE IN WATER.
SCUBA TOURS AND SNORKEL TOURS MUST BE ACCOMPANYED BY A LICENSED TOUR GUIDE EIGHT TO ONE.
NO PERSON SHALL HARASS, REMOVE, DAMAGE, OR HAVE IN POSSESSION ANY FLOWER, FLOWER WITHIN THE WATERS.
NO STANDING ON CORAL OR WITHIN THE BACK REEF AREA.

CONSERVATION ZONE:
NO PERSON SHALL ENGAGE IN COMMERCIAL, SPORT OR SUBSISTENCE FISHING. PERSONS ARE ONLY ALLOWED TO FISH FOR SUBSISTENCE PURPOSES OFF DOCKS AND ONLY FLY FISHING IS ALLOWED.
FLY FISHING FOR TARPON, BONEFISH AND PERMIT ONLY.
NO ONE IS TO ANCHOR IN THE FORE REEF AREA.
DIVERS SHOULD REGISTER WITH RESERVE MANAGER PRIOR TO ENTERING THE CONSERVATION ZONE.
EVERY BOAT OPERATOR SHALL OBSERVE THE LOW WAKE ZONE WHEN APPROACHING SNORKELERS OR DIVERS.
NO PERSON SHALL ENGAGE IN WATER-SKIING OR JET SKIING WITHIN THE CONSERVATION ZONE.

PRESERVATION ZONE:
BOATS ARE ONLY ALLOWED TO GO TO BIRD CAVE AND VIEW BIRDS FROM THE BOAT. NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO WALK ON THE ISLAND.
NO PERSON SHALL OPERATE A MOTOR BOAT WITHIN THE PRESERVATION ZONE EXCEPT VISITING BIRDS CAVE.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
EMAIL: SWCMR @ YAHOO.MAIL.COM
PHONE: 501-603-5825
12 YEARS AND OLDER MUST PAY AN 
$0.00 BZ PER DAY OR $30.00

Dangriga Market: Fish and vegetables in abundance.
DAY 3: Fore Reef. Conservation Reef

In the fore reef the following were seen: rays, jacks, spotted eel, barracuda, damselfish. Snorkeling in the Conservation Reef: the following were seen: parrot fish, french grunt, sturges, butterfly, angel, trump, squirrel, spiny lobster, lion fish, schoolmaster and tarpon.
DAY 4: Conservation Zone & Mangroves

- Tunicates
- Combo Platter
- Red Mangroves
- Bryozoans
- Turbinaria Tricostata
Day 5: Intertidal Zone

- Fireworm
- Stomatopod
- Sea Cucumber
Day 5: Non-Conservation Zone
Day 5: Non Conservation Zone. Marisol Channel, Sea Grass.
DAY 5: Marisol Channel

Actiniaria, Giant Anemone

Amphinomidae, Bearded Fireworm
Day 5: Non Conservation Zone.

Bone fish, Sharpnose puffer fish, damsel, balloon fish, trump fish, hamlet, soldier fish, butterfly, grey slay and flounder were seen.
Day 6: Conch Hunting & Reef Crest

On the Reef Crest grouper, snapper, lobster and a reef shark were seen.
GLOVER’S REEF ATOLL

The Glover’s Reef Research Station is a marine research facility within the Glover’s Reef Marine Reserve (GRMR). Owned by the Wildlife Conservation Society, the station is located approximately 45 km off the coast of Belize on the Glover’s Reef Atoll, the southernmost of Belize’s three coral atolls. Electricity is generated by solar installations. Rain water is harvested from the roofs and the toilets operate on a composting system.