

# CCV Study Abroad Fall 2019 Fact Sheet

## ENV-1230-VM02: Current Environmental Issues-Belize

### Course Information

Our focus will be Earth's biodiversity. We will explore different concepts of what biodiversity is, and how to assess the health of our biological systems. We'll investigate the many threats to biodiversity, both human and natural, and examine and critique the tools we have to conserve and restore diversity around the globe. Using Vermont as a case study and living laboratory, the class will go into the field with invited guests/experts to look at local issues and see how they connect with global trends. We will also do a service project with The Nature Conservancy or a similar organization. Students will research a topic, write a paper, and give an oral presentation to the class.

On our trip to Belize, we will stay at two locations run by International Zoological Expeditions. We'll have 5 nights at South Water Caye, a small island located right on the Belize Barrier Reef, part of the second largest barrier reef in the world. Our island enclave is home base for snorkeling, kayaking, and paddle boarding amongst the corals and mangroves. We will also take several short boat excursions to nearby reef sites, frigate bird rookery, and a Smithsonian marine research facility.

We then travel to Blue Creek for five nights in the heart of primary rainforest. Here we will enjoy swimming in the aqua colored waters of Blue Creek, exploring the amazing plant and bird life, hiking or tubing in nearby caves, and hunting for local iguanas (catch and release)! We will also have a chance to meet with villagers at Blue Creek Village, an adjacent traditional Mayan village, to learn about their customs and how they maintain an intimate connection with their natural environment while adopting some modern conveniences.

Our trip will also include a visit to an ancient Mayan ruins site and lunch and drumming lessons at a drum school of the Garifuna ethnic group in a coastal village. See [www.ccv.edu/studyabroad](http://www.ccv.edu/studyabroad) for more information and application packet.

### Trip Highlights:

- Explore South Water Caye
- Snorkeling, kayaking, and paddle boarding
- Boat excursions to nearby reefs, frigate bird rookery and a Smithsonian marine research facility
- Explore Blue Creek
- Hiking or tubing in nearby caves
- Meet villagers from a traditional Mayan village
- Visit ancient Mayan ruins

### Course Meeting Information

This is a hybrid course comprised of five on ground meetings at CCV Montpelier, an online component, and a 10 day travel experience. On ground meetings will be held from 10am to 3pm at CCV Montpelier on:

- September 14, 2019
- October 12, 2019
- November 9, 2019
- December 14, 2019
- January 18, 2020

Travel dates for this course are January 4-13, 2020.

CCV General Education Requirements: This three credit course fulfills the Scientific Method or Global Perspective and Sustainability requirement.

## Trip Itinerary in Brief

Day 1: Depart from Burlington for P.S.W. Goldson International Airport, Belize City, Belize

Days 2-5: South Water Caye

Days 6-9: Blue Creek

Day 10: Depart from P.S.W. Goldson International Airport, Belize City, Belize for Burlington, VT

## Course Fees

The course fee is \$2960 and includes:

- Ten day study away in Belize
- Airfare to and from Burlington, VT
- Lodging
- Daily meals
- Ground and water transportation
- Activity fees

Not included in course fee:

- Course tuition
- Transportation to and from Burlington, VT
- Parking fees
- Airline taxes and fees
- Spending money

Financial Aid and/or the payment plan can be applied towards the course fee. The course fee is subject to change based on course enrollment and airline fuel and tax surcharges. Course tuition is separate.

## Disruptive Person Policy

- This is a tightly structured, highly academic program NOT a vacation.  
**Students should understand that they will be doing a moderate amount of physical activity and should be in good health.** The average walking distance per day is 8 miles, with an 11 mile walking distance on some days, frequently over uneven surfaces.
- Students with a criminal record should be prepared to discuss this with airport security.
- Students who think they may have any outstanding warrants should know they may be detained.
- Using illegal drugs and excessive drinking are not permitted.
- All issues pertaining to student behavior and course participation are subject to special conditions of participation and those of the college in general as noted in the student handbook (e.g. Disruptive Student policy)
- Any additional airline taxes or fees due to fuel costs will be announced and be will the student's responsibility to pay.

## Enrollment Details

CCV Study Abroad application packets are available on the [CCV website](#). Submit a completed application packet to [linda.schlott@ccv.edu](mailto:linda.schlott@ccv.edu) or drop off a copy at your local CCV center. Please retain the original copy.

The application packet has four sections:

1. Conditions of Participation
2. Publicity and Passport Information form
3. Authorization for Emergency Medical Care and Emergency Contact Information form
4. Statement of Purpose

We are only accepting 18 students into the program.

To qualify for CCV study abroad a student must:

1. Be in good academic standing. Instructors' comments will be taken into consideration as a part of the approval process.
2. Demonstrate the ability to pay: financial aid/payment plan/cash.
3. Submit a completed application packet.
4. The Experiential Learning Committee will review applications in the order received. Notification of approval for study away will be as soon as possible after receipt of application.
5. Once the student has been approved, the student will be contacted by Linda Schlott. Linda will enroll students into the course.

Approval for study away does not guarantee a place in the course. Enrollment for approved students happens on a first come, first served basis, as with any other course.