



# ReefCI Internship 4 Week Program Overview and Itinerary

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## Internship Program Overview

The objective is to provide a real insight into marine conservation methodologies and provide hands-on conservation work experience, while also having lots of fun with great diving on a beautiful remote Caribbean island. The 2 or 4 week program is suitable for individuals or groups that seek:

- High value work experience for those who are interested in working or studying within a science or environmental field.
- Non-scientists who are interested in a trip with a more intensive conservation element

### What will you be doing?

ReefCI's Internship Program includes all the programs offered in our [Marine Conservation Program](#); however, it is a more intensive conservation and learning experience. Participants will participate in the following conservation work:

- Lobster Surveys
- Queen Conch Surveys
- EcoMar Coral Watch (Coral Bleaching and Data Collection)
- ReefCI Check (Reef Habitat Surveys and Fish and Coral Identification Dives)
- Whale Shark Watch
- Spearfishing Invasive Lionfish

## Value for the Internee

- Learning to dive or further your PADI dive qualifications and dive experience
- Individual contribution/chapter in ReefCI's published Annual Report
- Monitoring experience and understanding of a broad spectrum of research methodologies
- Comprehensive knowledge of Caribbean fish, invertebrates, and coral species
- In-depth understanding of threats to the local marine environment
- Experience in giving fun and educational conservation presentations to tourists
- Experience in working with the Belize Fisheries Department
- Practical insight into Marine Park Management and liaising with fisheries officers
- Community outreach participation
- Real-life insight into the effect of marine/sustainable fishing regulations on a small local fishing town
- We aim to include some conservation photography and videography if time permits



## Internship Program Itinerary (4 Week Program)

### Week 1

Primary Focus: Diving Skills

- ReefCI induction and orientation
- Session on conservation methodologies and techniques
- PADI dive course (open water or advanced)
- Peak performance buoyancy session (for qualified divers)
- Coral identification, fish identification, invertebrate identification, and coral bleaching and disease identification
- Community outreach participation
- Choose specialty/area of focus for the annual report (Coral Watch, Lionfish, Commercial fish species, Lobster, Queen Conch, Whale Sharks, ReefCI Check)
- Fun dives!

### Week 2

Primary Focus: Surveys and Chosen Specialty

- Further coral identification, fish identification, invertebrates identification, coral bleaching and disease identification
- Presentation workshop with Belize Fisheries Department on marine park management
- Research, survey, lionfish spearing dives
- Training for presentation to Tradewinds sailboat tourists on the marine environment and the general health of the reef
- Beach clean up
- Fun dives!



### Week 3

Primary Focus: Chosen Specialty

- Comprehensive study and analysis of data for given specialty
- Compilation of data for Annual Report
- Educational session with local children (seasonal)
- Teach and support the ReefCI guests about coral, fish, invertebrates, and coral bleaching and disease identification
- Informal presentation to Tradewinds sailboat tourists
- Beach clean up
- Survey dives
- Lionfish spearing dives
- Fun dives!

### Week 4

Primary Focus: Written Section for Annual Report

- Comprehensive study and analysis of data for given specialty
- Lionfish spearing derby! Followed by dissection, analysis of stomach contents, preparation and cooking!
- Conduct the presentation for ReefCI guests on general marine environment and threats to the reef
- Workshop on sustainable fishing practices with local stakeholders
- Complete written section for annual report
- Present your findings to ReefCI team, guests and other interns
- Wrap-up party: barbecue, presentation, and awards

Potential Additional Activities:

- PADI Specialty course in underwater photography
- PADI Lionfish specialty course

*\*The above itinerary and activities are subject to availability and weather conditions.*



## What is Included in My Internship

All diving, PADI Open Water or Advanced course, diving equipment (excluding wetsuits, booties, masks and snorkels), island transfers, all meals, accommodation, and training for conservation work and participation in our 4 week internship program. We leave for the island on Monday mornings and return on Friday's. So, you will need to arrive and depart Belize during the weekend. Most of our guests arrive in Belize on the Sunday and leave the following Saturday, depending upon what else they may wish to do in Belize or how many weeks you are staying with us. Please see our recommended [weekend accommodations](#).

## Pricing

Prices are as follows:

- 2 week internship: \$2325US per person
- 4 week internship: \$4315US per person
- Additional weeks: \$995US per person
- PADI Open Water or Advanced course (\$50 USD administration fee)

Please also be aware that we are working in the Sapodilla Cayes, which is a Marine Reserve. The Belizean Department of Fisheries charges a marine park fee of \$25 USD **per week** to help maintain the National Park. Fee is paid in country.

## Additional Extras

Weekend visits to Mayan ruins, jungle kayak trips, Mayan villages, waterfalls, caves, zip lining, tubing, and much more can be found on our [weekend activities](#) page.

Come join us in sunny Belize!