The Program Setting

The project is located within the Programme for Belize conservation area, a 260,000-acre nature reserve in northwestern Belize. The research area is home to over 80 known ancient Maya sites, many rare birds, two species of monkeys, jaguars, and other fauna and flora of the tropics.

Program Dates
May 21st-June 18th, 2015

Courses Offered

Maya Archaeology Belize
ANTH 197 (No Pre-Requisites)

Archaeological Field School Belize
ANTH 469

This class provides an introduction to archaeological field techniques including site-survey, excavation, mapping, profiling, and recording.

Program Fee: $2600

Includes:
- Room and board while in camp.
- Project-related ground transportation
- Laundry service once per week
- Use of necessary field equipment and supplies
- Operational and administrative costs and fees
- Weekend field trips to archaeological sites
- Hotel room & food stipend on the trip to Guatemala and Belize City

Does NOT Include:
- Round trip airfare to Belize
- Tuition ($400)
- Textbook
- Passport and associated expenses
- Medicine, prescriptions, immunizations
- Personal spending
- Air travel insurance

Expected Learning Outcomes
- Lay out, excavate, and record materials associated with an excavation unit.
- Demonstrate a grasp of mapping equipment and procedures.
- Describe natural and cultural impacts on artifacts, ecofacts, and feature preservation.
- Recognize artifacts and features for a given context.
- Process, inventory, and conduct a preliminary analysis on artifacts in the lab
- Function as an integral part of a larger field research station.
Program Overview

This is a 4 credit-hour course designed to introduce students to the methods used to collect and analyze archaeological data in a hands-on field setting. The course will take place over the span of 4 weeks at a remote archaeological field camp in Belize, Central America. Students will receive instruction in archaeological excavations, making technical drawings, survey and instrument mapping, and basic field laboratory procedures at the Medicinal Trail Site. In addition, students will have the opportunity to learn about the Prehispanic Maya through lectures and field trips.

Medicinal Trail Community

The Medicinal Trail site is located in the northwestern Belize portion of the Three Rivers Region in the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area, owned and operated by the Programme for Belize. The site is located approximately 6 to 8 km east of the major site of La Milpa in the La Lucha uplands atop a ridge with numerous associated landscape modifications.

The Medicinal Trail site is a dispersed hinterland community consisting of multiple courtyard groups and landscape features.

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