



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Belize Study Abroad

1. When is the trip?

*This trip is scheduled for COA's Spring Break 2023. The dates are April 8-14. Priority Registration Deadline is May 31, 2022, to be locked in at the current price. *Rolling registration will continue until November 9, 2022, while space is available. The price of the trip is subject to increase based on the date of registration.*

2. Who is eligible to participate?

COA students have first priority. However, COA faculty and staff as well as community members may join. All participants must be at least 17 years of age at the time of the trip.

3. How much does the trip cost?

Students (travelers under the age of 23 with three or four participants per room): \$3,110

Adults (age 23 and over with two participants per room): \$3,505

*Price includes required **Travel Protection Plan Plus (\$126.00)**, which allows a traveler to cancel for any reason and receive a majority refund. (Additional fee may apply.)*

Automatic monthly payment plans available: Pay just \$50 upon enrollment and the balance will be divided into equal monthly payments, charged automatically to your credit card or checking account. As of April 12, 2022, your monthly payment would be just \$293.40.

(Manual plan also available; learn more on explorica.com/paymentplans.)

4. What is included?

Cost includes van travel from COA to the Norfolk airport and back, round-trip airfare, in-country transportation, hotels, breakfast and dinner daily, most lunches, services of the professional tour director, guided tours/sightseeing, and visits to attractions not listed as optional.

5. What is not included?

The trip fee does not cover any costs associated with obtaining a passport, any airline fees for checked baggage, or some lunches when small groups may be allowed to go on their own (with chaperone) to choose their own lunch location. Participants are also responsible for their own meals on the air travel days.

6. What are the current Covid-19 related requirements for entering Belize?

*Effective **March 1, 2022**, fully vaccinated travelers no longer require a negative test but must show proof of vaccination for entry into Belize's airport, land borders or sea ports. If unable to show proof of vaccination or if unvaccinated, the traveler must present proof of a negative PCR result taken within 72 hours of arrival or a negative Antigen Rapid test taken within 48 hours of arrival.*

7. Are there additional requirements for entering Belize?

*Yes, effective **February 15th, 2022**, all foreign tourists entering Belize must purchase travel health insurance. As of **April 12, 2022**, the cost of this insurance is **\$18.00** for a 21-day coverage period. This insurance provides financial protection and coverage for medical treatment if needed.*

8. What if the trip does not occur because of closures, government regulations, or travel restrictions due to COVID-19?

The program leader can move the tour to a new location with no fees associated, or if you have to cancel, with the required Cancel for Any Reason Travel Protection coverage (see #3), your cancellation fee will be just \$75. Note: the cost of the Travel Protection Plan itself is non-refundable.

9. Is there any financial assistance for students?

Through the generosity of the COA Foundation, regional Rotary Clubs, and Study Abroad Program fundraising, we are able to offer partial scholarships to COA students who meet certain criteria. Because the amount available depends upon the total number of students participating, we cannot give you an exact figure at this time. Priority Study Abroad Scholarship Applications Deadline is September 15, 2022.

10. Are there fundraising opportunities through COA?

Yes, the COA Study Abroad program has partnered with Tidal Wave Auto Spa in Elizabeth City for Car Wash Fundraisers. Study Abroad participants sell \$10.00 Car Wash Coupons good for a \$20.00 Car Wash. Car Wash fundraisers will be repeated in the Summer and Fall. Additional fundraising opportunities are possible.

11. Does Explorica offer fundraising opportunities?

Yes, Explorica offers fundraising opportunities through Personal Fundraising pages on their website. Every paying trip participant receives their very own fundraising page on explorica.com, and the page is generated automatically upon enrollment. Participants can personalize their page, or just use the provided default content, and begin accepting donations immediately. Here's a quick overview of how it works: As soon as a paying participant enrolls, they can access their personal fundraising page by logging in to their Tour Center and clicking on the "Go to my fundraising page" link in the "Tour Account" module. The page is ready to use as-is, but participants can personalize it by uploading a photo of themselves, writing a personal statement, and/or adjusting their fundraising goal.

12. What is the North Carolina Scholar of Global Distinction Program

North Carolina Scholar of Global Distinction Program participants who successfully complete the program receive "Graduated with Global Distinction" on their transcripts, an honors graduation stole, and a joint certificate from COA and World View at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill recognizing this accomplishment. This honor can be listed on resumes or university applications. To successfully complete the NCSGDP, students will meet the following requirements:

- *Complete at least 15 credit hours of globally intensive courses*
- *Participate in eight international activities and dialogue*
- *Gain global experience (30 hours of participation in either study abroad or a domestic intercultural experience)*
- *Give a capstone presentation related to their global learning participation*

13. How do I sign up for the Belize 2023 trip?

Contact Leslie Lippincott at leslie_lippincott@albemarle.edu to receive a program participation application and a scholarship application (students only). Upon approval, create an account on the trip website portal and pay the \$50 deposit.