

BONAIRE EXPEDITION  
Environmental Management Program Field Trip  
Coordinator: George Buckley

Greetings:

The Environmental Management Program is joining with HABITAT on the Dutch island of Bonaire in the Netherlands Antilles to offer a field program in marine and terrestrial ecology on July 10-17, 2008 in concert with the United Nations International Year of the Reef initiative. This is not part of the summer school and is a non credit program.

We will study coral reefs in the turquoise blue, warm waters full of fish and other marine life, mangrove areas and the abundant terrestrial fauna and flora including varieties of cactus, lizards and land snails. HABITAT, founded by Captain Don Stewart -a leader in coral reef preservation- is directly on the water, with dock access to the shallow water coral reefs of the Bonaire Marine Park.

Bonaire is a warm, sunny and windy Dutch island located some 65 miles from Venezuela near Aruba and Curacao. It has drinking water distilled from the sea and one of the world's largest and most ecologically managed solar salt facilities. The Bonaire National Marine Park is recognized the world over as an early leader in coral reef protection and management.

The program includes::

- daily lectures about marine and terrestrial ecology
- several guest presentations by local officials
- field trips
- boat trips to two coral reefs
- snorkeling directly on the fringing coral reef by Habitat.

Included in the costs are the above mentioned programs and the following:

- round trip airfare from Boston to Bonaire,
- shared cottage rooms at Habitat
- service charges and taxes
- daily buffet breakfasts
- simple field lunches
- five suppers at the local restaurant,
- transfer from the airport to and from Habitat,
- an island tour
- trip insurance.

Cost of the above for snorkelers is \$1950.00; payable in three installments of \$650 on May 5, June 2 and June 23.

Costs for SCUBA divers (exclusive of rental regulator/BC) are \$2100; \$700 on May 5, June 2 and June 23 and include two boat dives, four days of shore diving, tanks, air and weights. Fees paid are nonrefundable except in cases where trip insurance would cover emergency situations. Your plane ticket would have some residual value minus fees.

Costs that are not included are:

- One supper, Departure tax of \$34.00 and the Marine Park pass at \$25.00
- SCUBA Regulator/gauges/BC can be rented for five days for \$115.00.
- snorkelers and divers need to have their own masks, fins and snorkels.
- strong sun block and long sleeved shirts for snorkeling and diving are recommended.
- if you wish more individualized wanderlust, pick up trucks can be rented by the day or the week

All participants need to have:

- US Passports valid until at least December 2008
- health insurance that is valid Internationally
- basic snorkeling skills
- those planning to SCUBA dive need to be certified by an Internationally recognized agency ie. YMCA, PADI, NAUI, CMAS, BSAC and have an up to date dive log book.
- those not certified as SCUBA divers who wish to be, should contact a local YMCA for information on training.

If you are interested in this program please contact George Buckley at gbuckley@fas.harvard.edu or 617-998-8597