



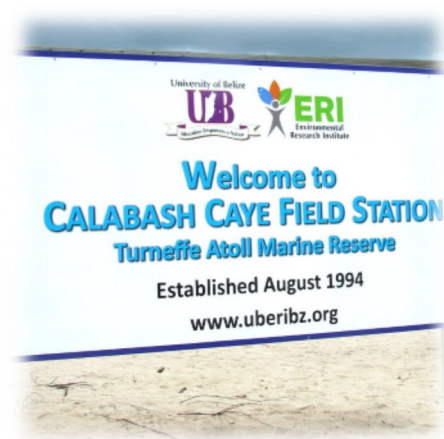
About CCFS

The **Calabash Caye Field Station (CCFS)** was established on September 27, 1995, and is Belize's first nationally owned and managed marine research facility. Since 2009, the University of Belize Environmental Research Institute (UB ERI) has been in charge of the field station providing marine science education to both Belizean and foreign students, and continues to host numerous visiting groups and researchers.

Location and Environment

CCFS is located in the Turneffe Atoll. Turneffe is the largest of three atolls within the Belize Barrier Reef System and is approximately 33 miles east of Belize City. Travel time varies from 1–2 hours depending on vessel and weather conditions. The field station sits on a 5-acre plot on Calabash Caye in the southeastern part of Turneffe.

The Caye has a dense cover of coconut trees and littoral forest and is fringed by red, black, and white mangroves. On the eastern, exposed side, there is a well-developed fringing reef separated from the shore by shallow seagrass beds. The mangrove, seagrass and reef habitats within the atoll are still relatively healthy and intact. The atoll provides a habitat for a number of threatened and endangered species including the American crocodile, Hawksbill sea turtle, Antillean manatee and Nassau grouper. It also has endemic species such as the white spotted toadfish found nowhere else in the world or Belize.



CALABASH CAYE FIELD STATION

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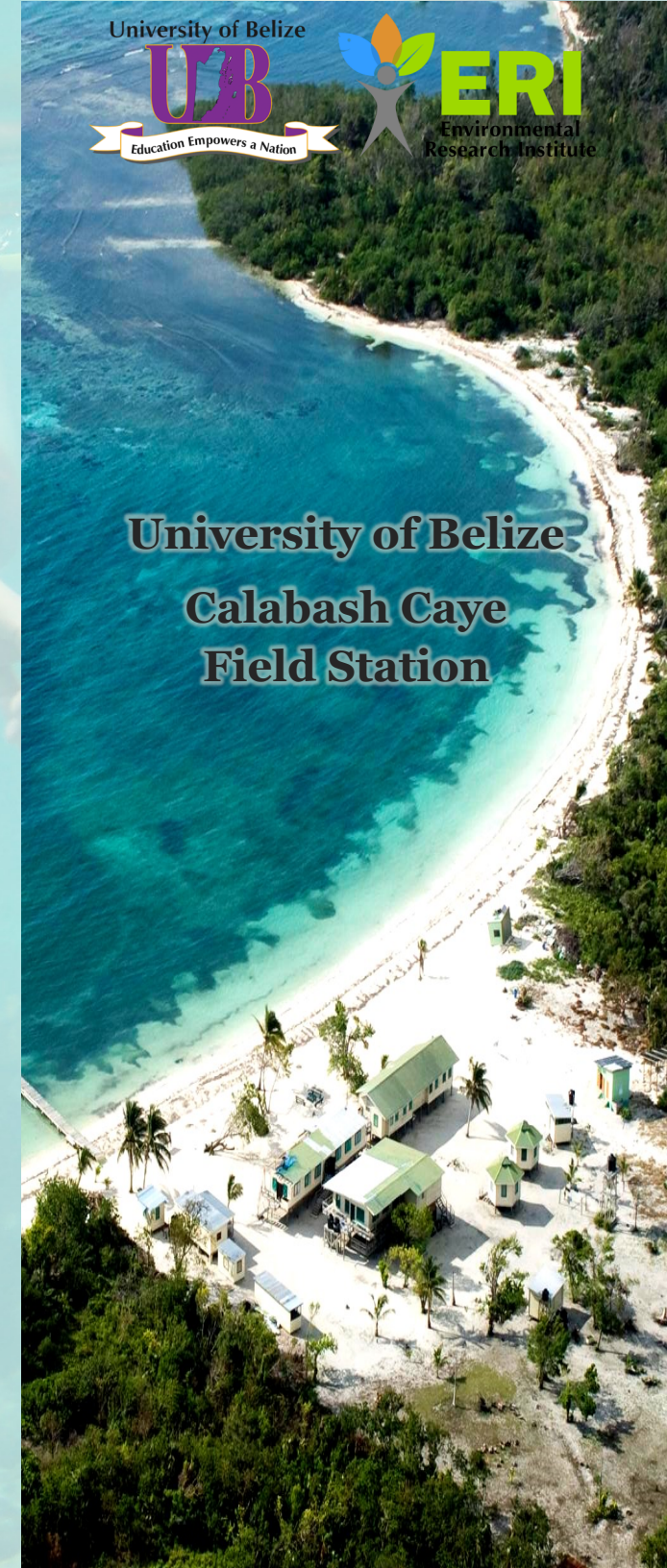
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Visit Us!



University of Belize Calabash Caye Field Station



Facilities

The CCFS has private rooms, dorm style and cabana accommodations. The showers and toilets for dorm and cabana occupants are housed separately, and are designed for bioremediation to clean waste water. The CCFS is also carbon neutral, powered 24 hours a day by solar and wind energy. Other amenities include:

- ◆ a lecture hall;
- ◆ a reference library;
- ◆ a small dry lab with microscopes, scales, oven and other basic equipment;
- ◆ a wet lab;
- ◆ a kitchen and dining hall;
- ◆ a full service dive locker.; and
- ◆ multimedia equipment, including a LCD projector.



Vessels

The CCFS has 3 fully equipped boats. Diadema is a 38 ft. vessel with a capacity of 36. Pelicanus & Rhizophora are both 25 ft. skiffs with capacities of 7 and 10 passengers, respectively.



Educational Opportunities

Local and foreign high schools and tertiary level schools can visit the field station for field trips and courses. The CCFS can provide guest lectures on the marine ecology of Belize and engage students in hands-on monitoring experiences.



Research and Monitoring

The UB ERI promotes and conducts research to provide a sound scientific basis for the management of the Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve under the following areas:

- ◆ Sustainable Fisheries & Aquaculture
- ◆ Coral Reefs
- ◆ Climate Change
- ◆ Coastal Ecosystems
- ◆ Invasive Species
- ◆ Ocean Research
- ◆ Endangered Marine Species

In addition to research there are various long-term monitoring programs conducted at the CCFS, including:

- ◆ Coral reef, mangrove, seagrass ecosystem monitoring
- ◆ Coral bleaching monitoring
- ◆ Coral Spawning
- ◆ Monitoring of herbivores
- ◆ Lionfish monitoring
- ◆ Seagrass Net Monitoring
- ◆ Fish Spawning Aggregations (SPAGs)
- ◆ Fisheries monitoring

All diving at CCFS is conducted through an AAUS Certified Scientific Diving Program.



CCFS offers summer internship positions to students from tertiary level institutions to participate in these research and monitoring programs, and to gain invaluable field experience.

Safety and Communication

Safety is a priority at the CCFS and there are strict policies that guests are asked to observe regarding water, diving and personal safety. All divers must present proof of dive certification and must have dive insurance. The field station is connected to the mainland and the world through wireless internet and a fixed cellular telephone that utilizes calling cards. Cards can be purchased from the Station Manager.

There is also a VHF system in place for communication within the atoll, the mainland in case of emergencies, or with the Coast Guard. All vessels are equipped with marine and handheld radios. In case of serious accidents the CCFS has an emergency response and evacuation plan that all guests are familiarized with. For hurricanes and tropical storms there is an evacuation plan with clearly outlined instructions in such an event.