

Coral Reefs of the British Virgin Islands, Travel Study Course

Marine Biology - Digital Photography
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Course Description

Global climate change poses challenges to the inhabitants of every ecosystem, but the effects are already evident in one of the world's most fragile, coral reefs. Research efforts by organizations such as The **National Center for Coral Reef Research** (NCORE) at the University of Miami and The Coral Reef Research Foundation in Palau have been documenting these changes for years and continue to monitor a variety of characteristics of reefs around the world. This travel study course will introduce the students to coral reef research and allow them to establish/add to a body of data collected from several reefs located in the British Virgin Isles. Data visualization and documentation of the coral reefs will be accomplished by the use of underwater digital photography. Over time subsequent classes will expand the data set and a detailed record of the changes in reef size, structure, and inhabitants will be made available to document the effects of climate change on these reefs.