

Nestled alongside the Belize River, and just a short distance from the city, is the Community Baboon Sanctuary. Here, adventurers can wander among the luxuriant tangle of trees, vines and epiphytes in search of the black howler monkey. Few visitors fail to locate these tree dwellers, as their loud, rasping howl can be clearly heard over a mile away; serving as a beacon for locating even the most camouflaged of these primates.

Off the Belizean Coast lies the second longest barrier reef system in the world, and Belize is becoming famous for its excellent reef diving conditions. Here adventuresome divers can seek out dive sites and marine creatures which may never have been visited by divers before.

Farther off shore, Half Moon Caye National Monument, which is located on the extreme edge of Lighthouse Reef Atoll, affords spectacular wall diving. On this tiny islet, reptiles and red-footed booby birds allow visitors to approach them for macro encounters.

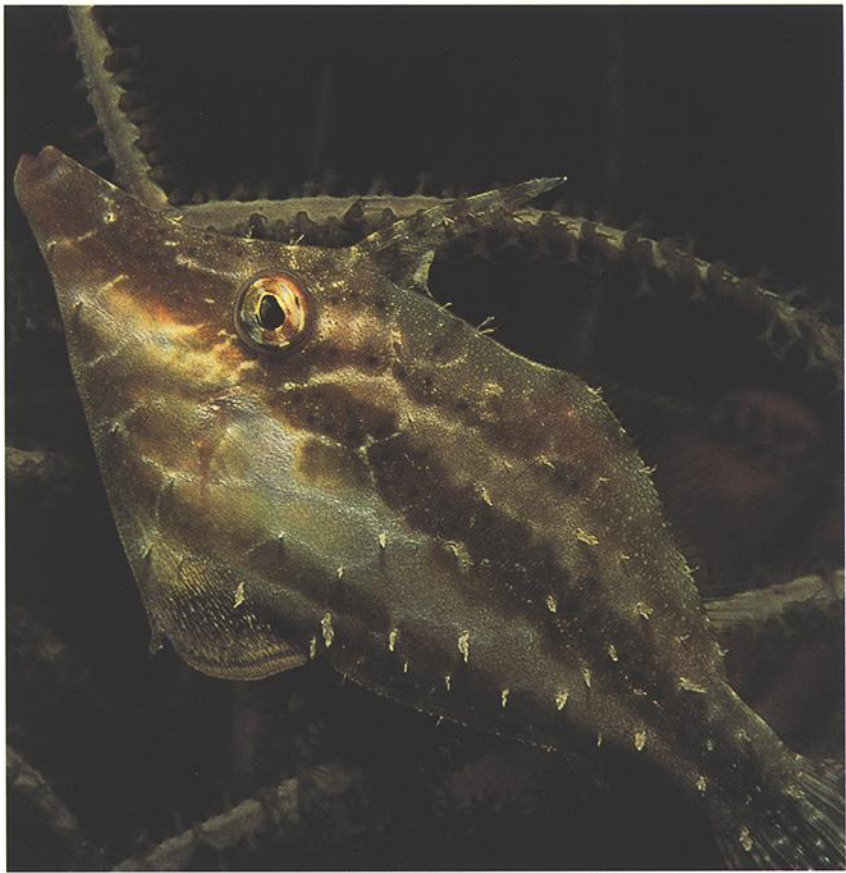
Just north of Half Moon Caye is the world famous Blue Hole. Experienced divers can descend here on a trip back through time, swimming among suspended stalactites from the pleistocene era.

Across the Caribbean Sea to the south, the Ramada Turquoise Reef Resort attracts many eco-tourists to its pristine environment. Located on Providenciales in the Turks and Caicos Islands, the resort is named for the striking shallows just off its beaches, which refract shades of blue from electrifying opal to a most brilliant turquoise.

Here, you may enjoy a once in a lifetime opportunity to swim, snorkel or dive with the island's resident dolphin, "Jo-Jo" The impact this dolphin has made on visitors and locals alike, has prompted the government of Turks and Caicos to declare Jo-Jo a national treasure. Under this decree, Jo-Jo is now protected by rights similar to those enjoyed by the terrestrial citizens of this island country.

The Turks islands are separated from the Caicos islands by the spectacular 22 mile wide, 7,000 foot deep Turks Island Passage. This area is a scuba diver's paradise, as well as a winter route for thousands of North American hump-back whales heading to their breeding grounds in Silver Banks.

Not far from the glitzy milieu of the Ramada Hotel Condado in San Juan, eco-minded tourists may wish to explore the Caribbean's only national rain forest. Established in 1876 by the Spanish Crown, "El Yunque", or the Dwarf Forest, is the only tropical ecosystem in a U.S. national forest



A RARELY SEEN SARGASSUM FILE FISH EXHIBITS IT'S CAMOUFLAGE.



TWO DIVERS ENCOUNTER A GREEN MORAY EEL BENEATH A LIMESTONE LEDGE.

This palm forest draped with lush ferns and vines receives daily showers and downpours. Bromelads cling to branches and harbor a vast variety of tree frogs. Amongst the palms grow 225 species of trees, 88 of which are quite rare, and 23 of these grow nowhere else in the world. There are also 50 species of orchids and 68 species of birds which thrive under this jungle canopy. Eco-tourists can easily and safely transit these exotic jungle trails, due to the continual management by the U.S. Forestry Service.

of the United States Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture