

Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System

The reserve is located on the inner side of the Belize Barrier Reef and is 18 kilometres (11 mi) or between 8 to 25 kilometres (5.0 to 15.5 mi) off the coast of the mainland of Belize. It is over 40 kilometres (25 mi) long. e1d22a826c Mesoamerica(n) or Meso-America(n) may also refer to: e1d22a826c Community support for the creation of a reserve in Bacalar Chico was largely influenced by the Hol Chan Marine Reserve's success in generating revenue from entrance fees and sustaining tour guiding operations. In 1995, the San... e1d22a826c In 2008, the barrier reef and its enclosing lagoon was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List for its outstanding beauty, its unique geography as a reef entirely encircling Grande Terre, and its exceptional marine diversity (in particular... e1d22a826c == Location == e1d22a826c

Bacalar Chico National Park and Marine Reserve The reef lies within the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, the Bacalar Chico National Park and Marine Reserve (BCNPMR) is a protected area and UNESCO World Heritage Site on the northern part of Ambergris Caye in Belize. and barrier reef, and the largest lagoon on the island of Ambergris caye, Laguna de Cantena e1d22a826c

== Geography == e1d22a826c Villa Blanca Reef is located on the western coast of Cozumel, situated near San Miguel de Cozumel and the port area of the island. The site lies on a narrow insular shelf characterized by stepped terraces, with depths ranging from shallow zones down to mesophotic depths exceeding 50 meters. Ocean currents in the region, including the Yucatán Channel current, influence the reef's ecological processes and contribute to sediment transport and nutrient circulation. e1d22a826c

Belize Barrier Reef The Belize Barrier Reef is a 300-kilometre (190 mi) long section of the 900-kilometre (560 mi) Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, which is continuous from Cancún on the north-eastern tip of the Yucatán Peninsula through the Riviera Maya and down to Honduras, making it the second largest coral reef system in the world after the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. It is Belize's top tourist destination, popular for scuba diving and snorkeling and attracting almost half of its 260,000 visitors. limits. The Belize Barrier Reef is a

300-kilometre (190 mi) long section of the 900-kilometre (560 mi) Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, which is continuous The Belize Barrier Reef is a series of coral reefs straddling the coast of Belize, roughly 300 metres (980 ft) offshore in the north and 40 kilometres (25 mi) in the south within the country limits. It is also vital to the country's fishing industry e1d22a826c

Barrier reef (disambiguation) including the Belize Barrier Reef, straddling the coast of Belize, within the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Great Barrier Reef, in Australia, the world's A barrier reef is a type of coral reef formed offshore. It may also refer to: e1d22a826c

Villa Blanca Reef It lies outside the boundaries Villa Blanca Reef is a coral reef situated along the western coast of Cozumel, an island off the eastern shore of Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula. It lies outside the boundaries of Arrecifes de Cozumel National Park and features both shallow and mesophotic coral ecosystems. located within the northern sector of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, the second-largest coral reef system in the world. The reef is located within the northern sector of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, the second-largest coral reef system in the world e1d22a826c

== Geography and ecology == e1d22a826c

New Caledonian barrier reef The New Caledonian barrier reef surrounds Grande Terre, New Caledonia's The New Caledonian barrier reef is a barrier reef located in New Caledonia in the South Pacific, being the longest continuous barrier reef in the world and the third largest after the Great Barrier Reef of Australia and the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef. third largest after the Great Barrier Reef of Australia and the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef e1d22a826c

South Water Caye Marine Reserve "Development of Mangrove Islands within the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve South Water Caye Marine Reserve is the second largest marine reserve in Belize. Borski, Christine (19 August 2013). It is part of the Belize Barrier Reef System, which was named a World Heritage Site in 1996, and is designated an IV Habitat/Species Management Area. It was designated a marine reserve in 1996 by the Belize Fisheries Department and is managed by that organization. It covers 117,875 acres (47,702 ha) of mangrove and coastal ecosystems in Stann Creek District. Retrieved 29 May 2026. Mesoamerican Reef Fund e1d22a826c

Mesoamerica (disambiguation) "mid/middle America") is a historical region and cultural area in southern North America and most of Central America. similarities Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, system of coral reefs in the Caribbean Sea along the coast of Yucatán and Central America Mesoamerican Biological Mesoamerica (lit e1d22a826c

Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System It is the second-longest reef system in the world. The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System (MBRS), also popularly known as the Great Mayan Reef or Great Maya Reef, is a marine region that stretches over 1 The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System (MBRS), also popularly known as the Great Mayan Reef or Great Maya Reef, is a marine region that stretches over 1,126 kilometres (700 mi) along the coasts of four countries – Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras – from Isla Contoy at the northern tip of the Yucatán Peninsula south to Belize, Guatemala and the Bay Islands of Honduras e1d22a826c

The park is located in the municipality of Cozumel in the state of Quintana Roo, Mexico. It is about 20 kilometers (12 mi) off the east coast of the Yucatán Peninsula in the Caribbean Sea. e1d22a826c It includes various protected areas and parks, including the Punta Cancún, Belize Barrier Reef, Arrecifes de Cozumel National Park, Hol Chan Marine Reserve (Belize), Sian Ka'an biosphere reserve, and the Cayos Cochinos Marine Park. Belize's coastline, including the Belize Barrier Reef, is home to approximately 30% of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, with Mexico holding the largest share of the four countries, Honduras also with a substantial portion, and the smallest share of the MBRS coastline being Guatemala. e1d22a826c BCNPMR had its inception in the early 1990s when the Broadhead Group sought to construct a community for retirees in northern Ambergris Caye. An environmental impact assessment by the Belize Center for Environmental Studies found the Bacalar Chico region to have an unusually high biodiversity for a barrier island. In 1995, the Natural Resources Management Plan and the Protection Project first developed a comprehensive management plan for the various vegetative assemblages within Belize. This plan specifically recommended the extreme northern portion of the island for inclusion based on the merits of its salt marsh ecosystem. At this time, fishermen in San Pedro and the mainland village of Sarteneja were growing concerned over the accelerating depletion of marine resources on Ambergris Caye. e1d22a826c Charles Darwin described it as "the most remarkable reef in the West Indies" in 1842. e1d22a826c The New Caledonian barrier reef surrounds Grande Terre, New Caledonia's largest island, as well as

the Ile des Pins and several smaller islands, reaching a length of 1,500 kilometres (930 mi). The reef encloses a lagoon of 24,000 square kilometres (9,300 sq mi), which has an average depth of 25 metres (82 ft). The reefs lie up to 30 kilometres (19 mi) from the shore, but extend almost 200 kilometres (120 mi) to the Entrecasteaux reefs in the northwest. This northwestern extension encloses the Belep Islands and other sand cays. Several natural passages open out to the ocean. The Boulari passage, which leads to Nouméa, the capital and chief port of New Caledonia, is marked by the Amédée lighthouse. In addition to its barrier reef, it also boasts three distinct Caribbean atolls: Turneffe Atoll, Glover's Reef and Lighthouse Reef. Lighthouse Reef is the most easterly diving area in Belize, it is home to the Great Blue Hole, made famous by Jacques Cousteau in 1970; Turneffe Atoll lies directly to the east of Belize City and is the nearest of the atolls to that city.... == Geography == Specific barrier reefs, including the

Arrecifes de Cozumel National Park Even though The Arrecifes de Cozumel National Park is off the coast of the island of Cozumel in the state of Quintana Roo, Mexico. The park contains both shallow and mesophotic coral reefs and extends to the 100 m depth isobar. The Cozumel reef system is part of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, the second largest coral reef system in the world. It begins just south of the International Pier and continues down and around Punta Sur and up just a small portion of the east side of the island. Even though almost the entire island of Cozumel is surrounded by coral reefs, the park only encompasses the reefs on the south side of the island. The Cozumel reef system is part of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, the second largest coral reef system in the world. Roo, Mexico

Sapodilla Cayes They are administered by Belize, but Guatemala claims that the Belize–Guatemala maritime boundary is northwest of the cayes. The Sapodilla Cayes are a system of cayes, or low sandy islands, that are part of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System. Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve The Sapodilla Cayes (Spanish: Cayos Zapotillos) is an uninhabited atoll in the Gulf of Honduras, in the Toledo District of Belize. Honduras also lays a claim to the Sapodilla Cayes in its 1982 constitution. constitution

The Sapodilla Cayes are a system of cayes, or low sandy islands, that are part of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System. == Location == Villa Blanca Reef supports a variety of marine life. Fish communities include species found on both shallow and

mesophotic reefs, with approximately 42.5% of fish species shared between these habitats, including many of commercial importance. In the deeper mesophotic areas, the reef structure... This park is protected under the Ramsar Convention along with Manglares y Humedales del Norte de Isla Cozumel, they both are included in the UNESCO protected area called Isla Cozumel Biosphere Reserve, Mexico. History It includes ecologically important mangrove cayes such as Pelican Cayes (considered "one of the most biodiverse marine systems within the western hemisphere"), Twin Cayes, and Man-O-War Caye (previously designated a Crown Reserve in 1977). (Some privately owned cayes are not part of the reserve.)

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