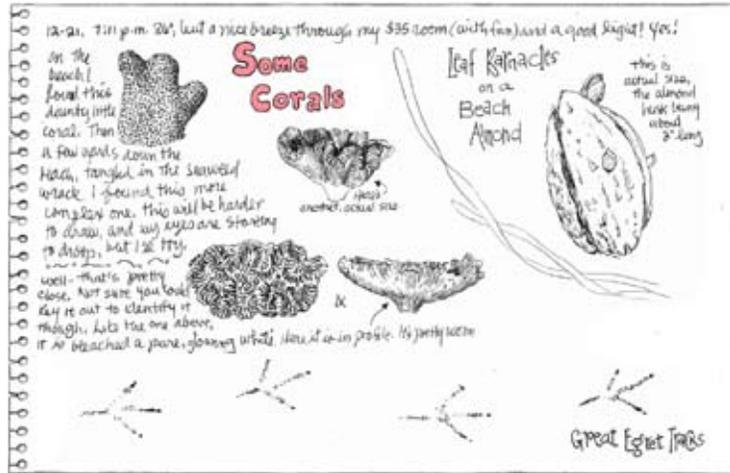


## The Original Page



## The Process

I drew the corals above by lamplight the evening after collecting them. Corals are protected species, so it's best to not carry them around with you and I knew I should leave them on the beach where I found them (which I did, later). Since my room's wall light wasn't bright enough to draw by, I used my little clip-on reading light, clamped to the top edge of the sketchbook, to give me enough light to work.



Mangrove starts and a leaf barnacle on a beach almond.

A clip-on light is a life-saver in most hotel rooms, since few hotels supply good enough lighting to sketch sea shells and beach almonds by.

This beach almond has a barnacle hitchhiker attached. It's about 1/4" long.

The surf grasses streaming

between the two parts of the picture make a nice divider ~ I often use such grasses for decorative borders on beach sketch pages.

Belize's narrow strips of beach must be constantly tended, since the vegetation and mangroves are eager to reclaim their territory.

Beach plants can survive being regularly doused with salt water, so they are quite at home on the salty sand.



The surf is so small that the resorts leave the lounge chairs out in the surf between tides. They probably retrieve them during hurricanes, though.

I'd barely finished the corals and beach almond when my eyes became droopy and I had to stop. The next morning I started a fresh page with subjects that I didn't want to cram in below the corals, ending up later with a wide blank area across the bottom of this page.

Later, in the jungle, the sandy bank of the Macaw River was a maze of egret tracks, which I realized would make a great "filler" for that long narrow strip of page. Cattle egret and great egret tracks differ only in size, so I labeled them "Great Egret Tracks" (oh dear, naughty me!).



Egret tracks from my jungle retreat, later in my vacation.

12-21, 7:11 p.m. 86°, but a nice breeze through my \$35 room (with fan) and a good light! Yes!

on the beach I found this dainty little coral. Then



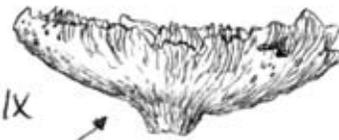
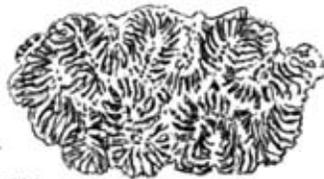
## Some Corals

a few yards down the beach, tangled in the seawrack I found this more complex one. This will be harder to draw, and my eyes are starting to droop, but I'll try.



Here's another, actual size

Well - that's pretty close. Not sure you could key it out to identify it though. Like the one above, it is bleached a pure, glowing white. Here it is in profile. It's pretty worn.



ix

## Leaf Ramacles on a Beach Almond



this is actual size, the almond husk being about 2" long



Great Egret Tracks