

THE TRAVEL CLUB

A Week in Belize: Ruins, Reefs & Rainforests

With Optional Tikal & Belize 3-Night post-tour extension – **November only**

9 DAYS: Saturday, November 7-Sunday, November 15, 2020

Per person double occupancy \$3,339 Single reservations \$4,039

Saturday, February 13-Sunday, February 21, 2021

Per person double occupancy \$3,539 Single reservations \$4,239

Includes round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$600.

A biodiverse hotspot that's just waiting to be explored. Nestled along the Caribbean Sea in the northeastern corner of Central America sits a country that beckons beachgoers, history buffs, and nature lovers. How does one tiny nation hit this travel trifecta? Well, Belize is home to one of the world's healthiest barrier reefs, archaeological sites once at the center of Mayan civilization, and a lush rainforest. We could go on, but we'll let those views and the local culture wow you.

Your tour package includes

- 8 nights in handpicked hotels, 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 6 guided sightseeing tours, Expert Tour Director & local guides, Private deluxe motor coach
- 2 ferry transfers

Included highlights

- Lamanai Mayan ruins, Hol Chan Marine Reserve, Coral Gardens, Banana plantation, Garifuna drum lesson
- Mayan chocolate factory, Xunantunich Mayan ruins. San Antonio Women's Cooperative



Belize City 2 nights

Day 1: Arrival in Belize City

Included meal: Welcome dinner

Welcome to Belize! Join your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner tonight.

Day 2: Sightseeing tour of Lamanai Mayan ruins

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Meet up with a local guide for a sightseeing tour of the Lamanai Mayan ruins, a once prominent pre-Columbian city named after the crocodiles that live in the nearby river.

- Board a boat and cruise along the New River Lagoon, the country's largest fresh body of water
- Keep an eye out for a variety of wildlife including spider monkeys, crocodiles, and birds
- Walk through the archaeological site to see the Jaguar Temple and ball court
- Opt to climb to the top of the High Temple and soak in the views of the ruins
- Enjoy an included lunch before traveling back to Belize City

Ambergris Caye 2 nights

Day 3: Ferry to Ambergris Caye

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Board a ferry and travel to Ambergris Caye. This stunning island, which is the largest in Belize, is located off the country's eastern coast and known for its white-sand beaches and diverse marine life. You'll pass the surrounding barrier islands and Caye Caulker en route. Then, sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 4: Hol Chan Marine Reserve & Coral Gardens

Included meal: Breakfast

Meet up with a local guide and board a boat to explore two of the world's top snorkeling spots—Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Coral Gardens.

- Admire views of the sparkling blue water
- Relax on the boat or hop in the water to snorkel through the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef
- Try to spot local wildlife including turtles, dolphins, and some of the over 160 species of fish that call the marine reserve home
- Learn about the country's commitment to preserving the coral reef and marine life

Head back to Ambergris Caye and spend free time relaxing on the beach.

Hopkins 2 nights

Day 5: Ferry to Belize City & transfer to Hopkins

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Board a ferry and travel back to Belize City this morning. Then, visit a banana plantation to learn how the fruit is grown and harvested.

Continue on to Hopkins, a coastal village famous for its beautiful beaches, and sit down for an included dinner.

Day 6: Free day in Hopkins

Included meal: Breakfast

Spend a free day relaxing on the beach in Hopkins or add an excursion.

South Water Caye Snorkeling

Optional Excursion at additional cost

Board a boat and meet your local guide as you travel to the South Water Caye Marine Reserve. This government-protected area is the largest marine reserve in Belize and one of the most biodiverse in the world. Stop at your first snorkeling spot of the day and hop in the water to try to spot wildlife such as stingrays, tropical fish, and conch. Next, you'll head to South Water Caye island and enjoy some time to step ashore before traveling to another snorkeling area. Enjoy time to swim through the sparkling water while learning more about the marine life. Then, cruise back to your hotel. Please note: Customers prone to motion sickness and seasickness should take the proper precautions. Snorkeling gear and life jackets are provided, but travelers should bring sunscreen with them.

Cayo District 2 nights

Day 7: Garifuna drum lesson, Mayan chocolate factory & transfer to Cayo District

Included meal: Breakfast

Spend the day learning about the country's historic roots.

- Visit a cultural center to meet the local Garifuna people and learn about their Afro-Caribbean culture, language, and musical traditions
- Participate in an interactive Garifuna drum lesson, a UNESCO-recognized art form
- Continue on to a Mayan chocolate factory
- Take a tour to see how cacao is produced, harvested, and turned into chocolate before sampling the sweet treat

Then, travel through the rainforest as you make your way to the Cayo district.

Day 8: Xunantunich Mayan ruins & San Antonio Women's Cooperative

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Farewell dinner

Join a local guide to dive into the region's Mayan history and modern culture.

- Cross the Mopan River en route to the Xunantunich Mayan ruins, which translates to "Sculpture of Lady"
- Hear the stories behind the archaeological site's more than 25 temples and palaces
- Choose to climb to the top of the famous El Castillo pyramid, the second-tallest structure in Belize
- Head to the San Antonio Women's Cooperative and meet the women dedicated to preserving Mayan traditions
- Enjoy a cooking lesson to see how to make tortillas over a fire
- Sit down for an included lunch
- Participate in a hands-on lesson to learn about Mayan weaving and basket-making techniques
- Discover how the women use the proceeds they receive to support their community

Celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner this evening.

Flight Home

Day 9: Departure

Included meal: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the Belize City airport for your flight home or continue on to Guatemala.

Extension to Tikal & Belize City November date only \$699 pp/do

Cross into Guatemala where your culture and history lesson continues on a guided tour of the UNESCO-listed Tikal Mayan ruins. You'll discover that the only experience that tops exploring the world-famous site, is watching the sunrise over its ancient temples and plazas.

Flores 2 nights

Day 9: Flores via Yaxha Mayan ruins

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Travel to Flores, Guatemala and enjoy an included lunch. Then, tour the Yaxha Mayan ruins with a local guide.

- Travel through Yaxha-Nakum-Naranjo National Park
- Learn about the history of the archaeological site
- Watch the sunset over the magnificent Mayan ruins, pyramids, and plazas

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Tikal Mayan ruins

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Meet up with a local guide and take a sunrise tour of the UNESCO-recognized Tikal Mayan ruins.

- Explore the great plaza, pyramids, and temples in the heart of the rainforest
- Discover why these are considered to be the most famous of all Mayan ruins
- Enjoy an included lunch

Belize City 1 night

Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Flores & transfer to Belize City **Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Join your Tour Director on a walk through Flores, a town located on an island in Lake Petén Itzá.

- View the colorful colonial architecture
- Stroll through the Spanish plaza

Travel back to Belize City and sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure **Included meal: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)**

Transfer to the Belize City airport for your flight home.