



PHOTOS BY STEFFI HOEHN / BELIZE



BELIZE

With Dr. Marilyn Lisowski
July 1-7, 2012



Among Belize's many treasures are the hemisphere's longest coral reef, hundreds of sandy offshore islands, 250 varieties of wild orchids, and 500 species of birds found within unspoiled tropical forests. This 8-day program investigates impressive Maya ruins as well as the rich biodiversity and conservation measures underway. Compare and contrast tropical rainforest environments with diverse marine ecosystems.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the rainforest of Pook's Hill Reserve.
- Snorkel the Belize Barrier Reef to discover the marine ecosystem and abundant wildlife.
- Compare and contrast rainforest environments and marine ecosystems.
- Discover the fascinating world of tropical birds.
- Hike, swim, and explore the depths of the Actun Tunichil Muknal cave.
- Float along the Roaring River in search of wildlife.
- Learn about Maya culture, past and present.
- Explore the world famous Maya ruins of Caracol.
- Enjoy the beautiful sands, crystal waters of Belize's coastline at Jaguar Reef.

ITINERARY

JULY 1 - SAN IGNACIO

Upon arrival in Belize you will be met by your driver at the airport in Belize City and transferred southwest to Pook's Hill. Pook's Hill is a 300-acre private reserve of prime broad leaf forest, encompassing the site of an ancient Maya plaza bordered by the Roaring River and the Tapir Mountain Reserve. The lodge is an easily accessible and authentic jungle experience in the Cayo District. *Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (D)*

JULY 2 - SAN IGNACIO

Early this morning you can participate in birdwatching with your expert guide. After breakfast will be a short discussion about "Life of the Forest" before setting off on a hike in the private reserve located adjacent to the lodge. Here you can observe many varieties of ornamentals, palms, flowers, tropical fruits, and native hardwoods. Your guide will point out medicinal plants, some of which were used by the Maya. An opportunity to meet local community members is planned for today, details pending. After lunch you can swim and float on the Roaring River. During the trip you may have the opportunity to see howler monkeys, iguanas, and tapir, as well as a variety of avifauna. Before dinner you will hear a short lecture about the Maya and their association with Actun Tunichil Muknal archaeological site and cave. *Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (BLD)*

JULY 3 - SAN IGNACIO

Today you will rise for the opportunity to do some more early morning birding, followed by breakfast. Later in the day you will take a fascinating full tour of Actun Tunichil Muknal, "Cave of the Crystal Sepulcher." The tour starts with a hike through the Roaring River Valley to the mouth of the cave. Your day will be spent hiking, swimming, and exploring the cave. Over 1,400 artifacts such as pottery, tools, and ceremonial items dating from 250 to 900 A.D. (including over 200 vessels) have been catalogued within this fascinating underworld of the Maya. *Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (BLD)*

JULY 4 - HOPKINS

This morning you will pay a visit to the Maya archaeological site of Xunantunich. Xunantunich is

Belize's most accessible Maya site of significance. The site's dominant structure, El Castillo, rises 130 feet above the jungle floor, offering superb views of western Belize. This afternoon depart for Jaguar Reef. Surrounded by millions of acres of reef and rainforest, this eco-friendly lodge offers unique ambiance. Enjoy an orientation to your new location this afternoon. *Overnight at Jaguar Reef. (BLD)*

JULY 5 - HOPKINS

This morning prepare for a full day of snorkeling in the Southwater Cayes. This barrier reef is among the top snorkeling sites in the region. Waters offer sea grass and up-close encounters with marine inhabitants. Boxed lunch is included in your day trip. Return to the lodge this evening for dinner. *Overnight at Jaguar Reef. (BLD)*

JULY 6 - HOPKINS

Enjoy a second day of snorkeling today. Investigate reefs and mangroves before returning to the lodge around mid-afternoon. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure, exploring the trails and rainforest that surround Jaguar Reef. Farewell dinner served at the lodge this evening. *Overnight at Jaguar Reef. (BLD)*

JULY 7 - FAREWELL!

This morning after breakfast you will depart for the local airport, where you will board your flight to Belize City. Upon arrival in Belize City, take your international flight back to the United States. (B)

PROGRAM PRICING

\$1875 based on 10 participants

Cost does not include international airfare or gratuities.

THE FINE PRINT

Rates are based on double occupancy. Program may incur unforeseen fuel surcharges. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to hold your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than March 28, 2012. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are not refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call 800-243-3174. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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