



Xunantunich by Lily Wilde

# BELIZE

AP Biology with Mr. Knight  
June 13-21, 2018

## EDUCATIONAL CONNECTIONS



Biology  
Natural History  
Marine Studies  
Active Adventure

*Explore marine ecosystems, rainforest habitats, and the ancient Maya wonders of Belize during the educational adventure of a lifetime. During this fun and enriching program, hike through rainforest to experience its rich diversity, uncover mysterious ancient Maya ruins, and snorkel with the colorful marine life of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System as you learn about marine ecology.*

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Observe rescued native animals in simulated natural habitats at the world-famous Belize Zoo.
- Journey into the cave at Actun Tunichil Muknal to experience the Maya underworld and its artifacts, and Xunantunich to examine the archaeological remains of an ancient culture.
- Experience zip-lining through the rainforest canopy.
- Study coral reef ecology, marine life, and conservation as you snorkel the Belize Barrier Reef.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Expert naturalist guides
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Entrance fees
- In-country transportation
- Meals & beverages
- Carbon offsetting



Stoplight parrotfish by Craighill Photography

# ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## JUNE 13 - ROARING RIVER

Upon arrival at the Philip S. W. Goldson International Airport transfer to the Belize Zoo for an introduction to the animals of Belize and to visit the exhibits. Situated on 29 acres of tropical savannah, the zoo exhibits over 170 animals, representing 45 species, all native to Belize. All the animals were rehabilitated or rescued as orphans from poaching situations, the illegal pet trade, injury, or exposure due to habitat loss. Highlights include the jaguar rehabilitation program, the Harpy Eagle exhibit, and the Baird's tapir enclosure. After lunch continue south to Pook's Hill Lodge, situated at the heart of the country within a private reserve at the Maya Mountains foothills, bordering the Roaring River and 6,700 acre Tapir Mountain Nature Reserve. The lodge encompasses an ancient Maya plazuela group. Thatched cabanas and main lodge are located in a small clearing in the forest with lawns leading to the creek and trails below. Settle in and receive an orientation. This evening, after dinner, go on a nocturnal walk around the lodge. *Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (LD)*

## JUNE 14 - ROARING RIVER

After breakfast, explore the Maya underworld during a visit to Actun Tunichil Muknal cave. This excursion combines land and river hiking and caving, beginning with a 45-minute hike up the Roaring River Valley and through the rainforest of the Tapir Mountain Nature Reserve to the entrance of the cave. Explore this geologically fascinating cave and also the main attraction, the "Cathedral" chamber, a Maya ceremonial and burial ground. Later this afternoon, return to the lodge. *Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (BLD)*

## JUNE 15 - ROARING RIVER

This morning, hike the trails of the on-site Pook's Hill Reserve. A rich diversity of animal life includes over 300 bird species and most of Belize's mammals, including tapirs and jaguars. Return to the lodge for lunch. This afternoon, cross the Mopan River via hand-winch ferry at the Maya village of San Jose Succotz and visit Xunantunich, 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 with forest stretching out all around and the rest of the ancient city mapped out beneath you. Return to the lodge for dinner. *Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (BLD)*

## JUNE 16 - MAYFLOWER BOCAWINA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, cave tubing at Pooks along the Roaring River. Have lunch, check out and depart for Mayflower Bocawina National Park. Upon arrival in the National Park zone, sign in at park headquarters and then check in at Bocawina Rainforest Lodge and Adventure Center. Orientation to the facilities and then take an interpretive hike to the little Bocawina waterfall for a swim. Return to the lodge for dinner. *Overnight at Bocawina Rainforest Resort. (BLD)*

## JUNE 17 - MAYFLOWER BOCAWINA NATIONAL PARK

This morning take an exciting 9-line zipline adventure. First gear up, then have an important safety orientation before experiencing the thrill of gliding through the rainforest canopy. Return to the lodge for lunch, then take an afternoon hike to Antelope Falls. Optional night-time zipline adventure (additional cost \$85 pp—needs to be booked in advance). *Overnight at Bocawina Rainforest Resort. (BLD)*

## JUNE 18 - SOUTH WATER CAYE

Transfer to Dangriga Town for an opportunity to purchase snacks and other necessities in the well-stocked shops and produce market. While the stay on South Water Caye includes meals, access to other items is limited. Board boats for the 35-minute trip across 12 miles of turquoise lagoon to South Water Caye, among some of the world's richest biodiversity. The Belize Barrier Reef wraps around South Water Caye, providing safe and convenient access from shore. After lunch have snorkeling gear fitted and receive a briefing on effective equipment use and how to interact with the coral reef. Later enjoy some beach volleyball before dinner. Tonight the first classroom session is an introduction to natural resource management in Belize and the South Water Caye Marine Reserve protected area. *Overnight at Blue Marlin Resort. (BLD)*

## JUNE 19 - SOUTH WATER CAYE

Spend the day exploring the ecosystems of South Water Caye Marine Reserve, Belize's largest protected marine area. Today's sites include Whale Shoal patch reef, South Water Caye fore reef, Smithsonian Institution's CCRE Facility at Carrie Bow Caye, Man 'O War Caye Bird Sanctuary and other sites. Optional upgrade to diving can be arranged at an additional cost. After dinner, the second classroom session will focus on marine ecology and how mangroves, seagrass beds, and coral reefs interact with the terrestrial environment and each other to create the marine world. *Overnight at Blue Marlin Resort. (BLD)*

## JUNE 20 - SOUTH WATER CAYE

Half day of snorkeling amongst the spur and groove coral of the fore reef and alongside the roots of the mangrove forest. Lucky visitors may spot resident West Indian Manatees while cruising through the inner waters of Tobacco Range. Lunch is followed by leisure time to snorkel from the shore. Optional upgrade to diving can be arranged at an additional cost. *Overnight at Blue Marlin Resort. (BLD)*

## JUNE 21 - FAREWELL!

This morning after breakfast transfer by boat to Dangriga for flight to Belize City International Airport. Connect with your flight to United States. (B)

## PROGRAM PRICING

**Land: \$2,950** (limited to 21 students)

**Estimated Airfare: \$855**

**Total Estimated Price: \$3,805**

Includes all accommodations, meals, activities and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary, estimated airfare from Orange County, in-country transportation, beverages with meals, local guides, and carbon offset.

Does not include items of a personal nature or gratuities.

Optional half-day diving costs per person in USD, include taxes, and should be paid on site:

Bring your own BC and regulator

One-Tank Dive: \$80

Two-Tank Dive: \$135

Renting BC and Regulator

One-Tank Dive: \$100

Two-Tank Dive: \$170

## THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on a minimum of 14 participants in double occupancy rooms. Single rooms are available at additional cost. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment forms are required to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$100 cancellation fee until March 10, 2018, at which time non-refundable final payment is due. Travel trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit [www.travelinsured.com](http://www.travelinsured.com). Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

A valid passport is required for this trip. Students traveling on a U.S. passport do not need a visa to enter Belize. A visa may be required for other nationalities and it is the responsibility of the student to ensure all requirements are met. In some cases a US Permanent Resident Card may be sufficient.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at [holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe](http://holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:** Contact Mr. Knight at [DavidKnight@iusd.org](mailto:DavidKnight@iusd.org)

Visit: <http://holbrook.travel/universityhs-bze18>