

# **BELIZE** Exploring Belize: Rainforests, Reefs, and Ruins with Tikal

8 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: OCT - JUN

The eco-paradise of Belize offers something to arouse the imagination of every curious traveler: incredible biodiversity, the world's second largest barrier reef, lush rainforests, and ruin-rich jungles and caves where the heritage of the Maya is everpresent. This 8-day learning expedition introduces you to it all, and makes the discovery even more memorable with exhilarating adventure activities. At the end of each rewarding day you'll enjoy the comfort and hospitality of some of Belize's best lodges.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Descend into the Maya underworld and float by inner tube along the underground rivers of Belize's cave systems.
- Swim and snorkel amidst the technicolor marine life of South Water Caye reserve on Belize's Barrier Reef.
- Explore the temples, pyramids, and plazas of Tikal, an important capital of the ancient Maya civilization in Guatemala.
- Learn about wildlife rescue and rehabilitation programs at the Belize Zoo, where you can view more than 45 species.
- Watch for nesting seabirds, such as Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Boobies, on a boat ride along Man O' War Caye.
- Seek out iguanas, crocodiles, toucans and other wildlife as you kayak the Sittee River.

# WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual local guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting



# ITINERARY

#### BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

#### DAY 1 - BELIZE CITY

Upon arrival at the airport in Belize City, transfer to the ocean front Radisson Ft. George Hotel. Get together this evening for dinner. Meet the guide and have an orientation to the program at 7 pm in the hotel restaurant. *Overnight at Radisson Ft. George Hotel. (D)* 

#### DAY 2 - CAVES BRANCH

This morning after breakfast, visit the Belize Zoo, situated upon 29 acres of tropical savanna and exhibiting over 150 animals, representing over 45 species, all native to Belize. The zoo is home to orphaned, rescued, and rehabilitated animals as well as those born at the zoo or sent as donations from other zoological institutions. Upon arrival, receive an introduction to the animals of Belize and visit the exhibits. Highlights include the jaguar rehabilitation program, the Harpy Eagle exhibit, and the Baird's tapir enclosure. Have lunch at Cheers restaurant and then continue to Caves Branch Jungle Lodge. The lodge will be the base of the program for the next few days. Settle in and receive an orientation to the trip. Dinner at the lodge. *Overnight at Caves Branch Jungle Lodge. (BLD)* 

#### DAY 3 - CAVES BRANCH

This morning, birding along the trails of Cave Branch Lodge. Have some time at leisure to enjoy the amenities at the lodge. Have lunch at the lodge. Caves Branch is famous in Belize for cave tubing. Developed by Ian Anderson, the founder and owner of Caves Branch Jungle Lodge, cave tubing is a unique experience that involves floating down vast underground rivers on an inflatable inner tube. This evening have dinner back at the lodge. *Overnight at Caves Branch Jungle Lodge. (BLD)* 

#### DAY 4 - CAVES BRANCH

After an early breakfast, journey to Tikal National Park. The famous Maya site of Tikal is located in the Petén Lowlands of Guatemala, and the magnificent ruins remain shrouded in mystery. Hidden deep within the rainforest, the site covers over 25 square miles and contains 3,000 separate structures, some currently under excavation. Learn about Tikal's most important architectural features and what they have revealed about Classic period Maya culture. After lunch at the national park, continue exploring the ruins before returning to Caves Branch for the night. *Overnight at Caves Branch Jungle Lodge. (BLD)* 

#### DAY 5 - HOPKINS

Following a leisurely breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to Jaguar Reef Lodge, situated on the Caribbean coast. Enjoy a welcome lunch and check in. Then have time at leisure to relax and enjoy the beach. *Overnight at Jaguar Reef Lodge. (BLD)* 

#### DAY 6 - HOPKINS

Enjoy breakfast, then board the boat for the 40-minute ride out the South Water Caye Marine Reserve for snorkeling on the coral reef and exploring the mangroves both above and below the surface. Also, cruise along Man O' War Caye to see nesting birds. *Overnight at Jaguar Reef Lodge. (BLD)* 

#### DAY 7 - HOPKINS

This morning, have a leisurely breakfast and transfer to the Sittee River for a kayaking excursion and then lunch at a local restaurant. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner at the lodge. *Overnight at Jaguar Reef Lodge. (BLD)* 

#### DAY 8 - DEPARTURE

This morning transfer to the airstrip in Dangriga for domestic flight to Belize International Airport and then international flights back to the U.S. (B)

### LAND PRICING

**\$3,625** (10 participants + 1 leader)

.....

**\$3,275** (15 participants + 2 leaders)

International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included. Valid for travel in 2020.

.....

### THE FINE PRINT

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due upon booking and no later than four months prior to departure. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are not refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

.....

## TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/ Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

.....

MORE FROM HOLBROOK

Holbrook was founded on the principle that travel fosters a greater understanding of our world's cultural and natural treasures and that these experiences allow individuals to become agents for global change. We hope that your experiences in Colombia will remain with you forever and will challenge you to make a difference in the world we share!

Please join our Facebook page and share photos of your program. Visit us at www.facebook.com/holbrooktravel. We hope to hear from you.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe