



# BELIZE

## Exploring Rainforest, Reefs, and Ruins *with Tikal*

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

*Embark on an active exploration of jungles, underground rivers, Maya ruins, and coastal habitats. As you swim, hike, boat, and float your way across Belize, you'll encounter incredible biodiversity and geological features in the country's pristine central rainforests. An excursion to Tikal in Guatemala offers insight into the Maya civilization that once ruled this region, and unparalleled snorkeling opportunities abound at South Water Caye Marine Reserve, part of the Belize Barrier Reef.*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Descend into Belize's extensive cave systems as you float along a network of underground rivers by inner tube.
- Explore the temples, pyramids, and plazas of Tikal, an important capital of the ancient Maya civilization.
- Swim and snorkel in the South Water Caye Marine Reserve, one of the most biodiverse marine areas in all of Belize.
- Kayak the Sittie River and watch for iguanas, crocodiles, toucans, and other wildlife.
- Boat along the mangrove habitats of Man O' War Caye, a significant nesting site for seabirds like the Magnificent Frigatebird and Brown Booby.
- Learn about wildlife rescue and rehabilitation programs at the Belize Zoo.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

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





TIKAL BY LAURA HARE

## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

### DAY 1 - BELIZE CITY

Upon arrival at the airport in Belize City, you will be met and transferred to the oceanfront Radisson Ft. George Hotel. Get together this evening to have dinner and meet the guide, then 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, the zoo exhibits more than 150 animals representing over 45 species, all native to Belize. Residents include 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. Dinner is

at the lodge. *Overnight at Caves Branch Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

### DAY 3 - CAVES BRANCH

This morning, go birding along the trails of Caves Branch Lodge. The lodge estate is nearly 50,000 acres, and you may see Lesson's Motmot and Keel-billed Toucan, among many other avian species. Have some time at leisure to enjoy the amenities before lunch at the lodge. This afternoon, embark on



HARPY EAGLE AT BELIZE ZOO BY MICHAEL SCHAMIS

an exciting cave tubing excursion. The cave for which the lodge is named is one of several subterranean sites that were carved out of the limestone foothills of the Maya Mountains by the very active Caves Branch River, and is famous in Belize for cave tubing. Developed by the lodge's founder and owner, this unique experience involves floating down vast underground rivers on an inflatable inner tube, with only your headlamp to light the way. 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 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

After breakfast, board the boat for the 40-minute ride to South Water Caye Marine Reserve, the largest

marine reserve in Belize and an outstanding example of a barrier reef ecosystem. Considered to have one of the highest levels of marine biodiversity in the Western Hemisphere, the reserve has been designated a region of high ecological importance and is part of the larger Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its vibrant corals, extensive spur-and-groove reef formations, mangrove ecosystems, and clear waters are home to an amazing array of endemic, colorful, and rare marine species.

You will have the opportunity to snorkel on the coral reef and explore the mangroves both above and below the surface. Also, cruise along Man O' War Caye to see nesting birds. Three different types of mangrove vegetation provide a perfect sanctuary to a variety of native bird species, including pelicans, the Brown Booby, and the Magnificent Frigatebird (also known as the man-o'-war bird). *Overnight at Jaguar Reef Lodge. (BLD)*

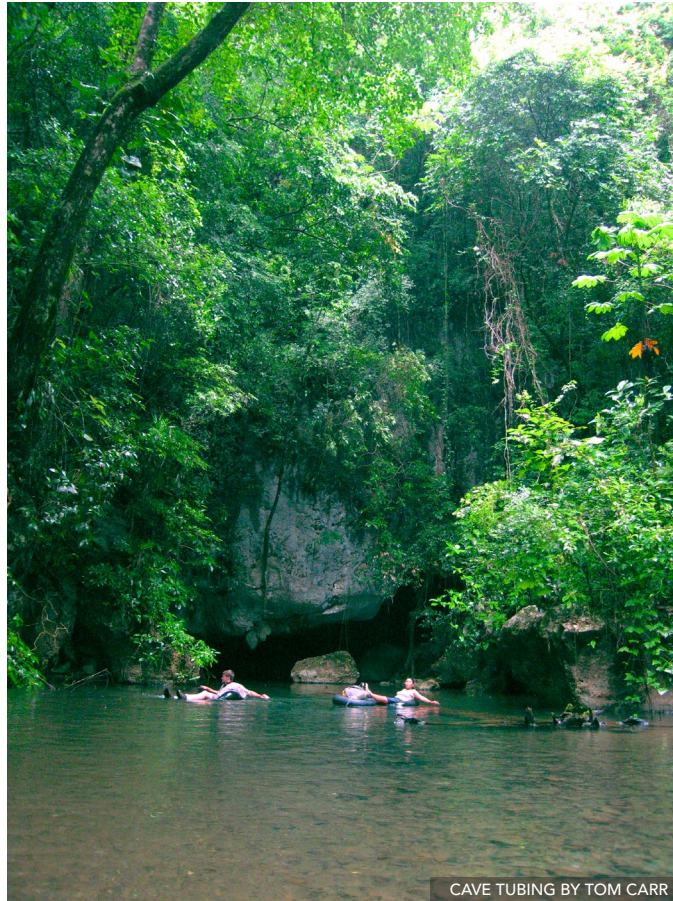
#### DAY 7 - HOPKINS

This morning, have a leisurely breakfast and transfer to the Sittee River for a kayaking excursion. Watch for

iguanas, crocodiles, turtles, and birds as you paddle along the river, one of the largest in Belize. Lunch is 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 your domestic flight to Belize International Airport, where you'll connect with your international flight back to the U.S. (B)



## LAND PRICING

**\$3,275** (10 participants + 1 leader)

**\$3,625** (15 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2021.

## THE FINE PRINT

*A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Non-refundable final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure.*

## TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. 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.

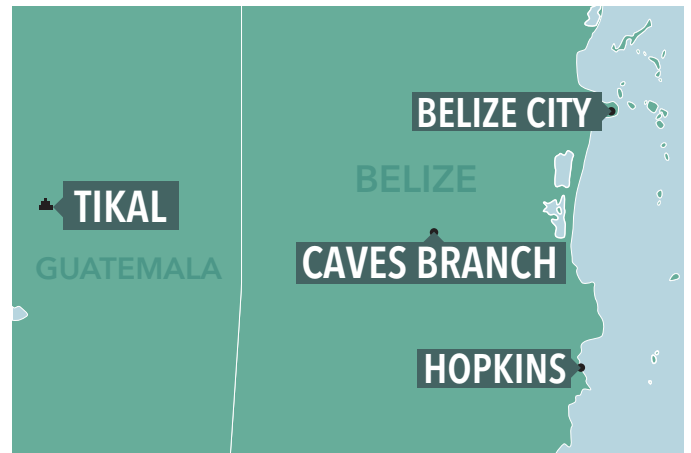
Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/ Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.



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



SITTEE RIVER BY LARNIE FOX



ACTIVITY LEVEL

2

EASY-MODERATE

## WHAT TO EXPECT

Through multifaceted activities, this eco-adventure showcases Belize's biodiversity, archaeological treasures, and cultural and natural wonders as you explore coastal, riverine, rainforest, and urban landscapes. Also included is a full-day excursion to Guatemala's Mayan ruins at Tikal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The pacing is leisurely, beginning with a night in Belize City followed by two three-night stays. There is one boating excursion to a reserve on Belize's Barrier Reef, where you may swim and snorkel. Other activities include cave tubing, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, hiking, and river kayaking. Active periods may last from 2–6 hours per day, balanced with free time to relax and enjoy your lodge facilities. Belize is typically hot and humid; the cooler dry season is generally between November and early May, when there is less rain and average daily highs in the mid-80s. There are two border crossings; one internal connecting flight; and several overland transfers lasting 1–4 hours in private, air-conditioned motorcoaches.



MALE MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD BY BRIAN GRATWICKE

