



Actun Tunichil Muknal  
Photo by Bernard Dupont



# BELIZE

## JOURNEY TO THE RAINFOREST & REEFS

November 4 - 10, 2018

*Belize offers incredible biodiversity, the world's second largest barrier reef, lush rainforests, and ruin-rich jungles and caves where the heritage of the Maya is ever-present. This 7-day adventure expedition introduces you to it all, and makes the discovery even more memorable with fun adventure activities like hiking, caving, rappelling, snorkeling, and more.*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Learn about the Tropical Education Center at the Belize Zoo, where rescued wildlife lives in a natural environment that's often "visited" by creatures from the neighboring forest.
- Take guided hikes in the primary rainforest of the Pook's Hill private reserve, which forms part of a wildlife corridor and protects jaguars, tapirs, more than 300 bird species, and more.
- Rappel 300 feet down the mouth of Actun Loch Tunich cave and descend into the rainforest canopy.
- Swim and snorkel amid the technicolor marine life of South Water Caye reserve on Belize's Barrier Reef.
- Go on an excursion to explore the Maya underworld at Actun Tunichil Muknal, a cave with ceremonial artifacts, stunning natural formations, and mysterious tombs and human remains.



## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

### NOVEMBER 4 - BELIZE CITY

Upon arrival at the Belize International Airport, after clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you will be met and transferred to the Radisson hotel. This evening, gather together with your group and your local tour leader for an orientation and welcome dinner. *Overnight at Radisson Ft. George Hotel & Marina. (D)*

### NOVEMBER 5 - ROARING RIVER

This morning after breakfast, visit the Belize Zoo, situated upon 29 acres of tropical savanna and exhibiting over 150 animals, which represent 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 south to Pook's Hill Lodge. Pook's Hill is situated within a private reserve at the foothills of the Maya Mountains, bordering the Roaring River and Tapir Mountain Nature Reserve. The lodge encompasses an ancient Maya plazuela group. This unique location, coupled with its unparalleled position in the very heart of the country, makes Pook's Hill a perfect base from which to discover the sights and sounds of Belize. The thatched cabanas and main lodge are located in a small clearing in the forest with lawns leading to the creek and trails below. The lodge will be the base of the program for the next few days. Settle in and receive an orientation. This evening, after dinner, go on a nocturnal walk around the lodge. *Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (D)*

### NOVEMBER 6 - 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, which was a Maya ceremonial and burial ground. The lodge is the nearest one to the cave, giving you the opportunity to arrive early and explore the cave before other visitors arrive. Later this afternoon, return to the lodge. *Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (BLD)*

### NOVEMBER 7 - HOPKINS

Following breakfast, transfer to Caves Branch to gear up for the exhilarating black-hole-drop experience in the "Mother of all Caves," Actun Loch Tunich. A moderately difficult, uphill hike leads to the mouth of the cave, located in the foothills of the Maya Mountains. From the edge of the sinkhole, Actun Loch Tunich's basin below looks like a black hole. Fully trained caving guides will assist you on your 300-foot descent through the rainforest canopy and into the basin on a system of rappelling ropes. Once at the bottom, have an opportunity to rest and enjoy a picnic lunch. Your ascent back out of the cave includes some rock climbing, ladders, and steep hiking. Take a short ride back to Caves Branch for a dip in the pool and a well-deserved cold drink. Then continue to Jaguar Reef Lodge, situated on the Caribbean coast. The afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the beach. *Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (BL)*

### NOVEMBER 8 - HOPKINS

Enjoy breakfast, then board a boat for the 40-minute ride out to 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. (B)*

### NOVEMBER 9 - HOPKINS

This morning have a leisurely breakfast and enjoy a second snorkeling excursion in the South Water Caye Marine Reserve. This evening at leisure to explore dinner venues in the seaside town on Hopkins. *Overnight at Jaguar Reef Lodge. (B)*

### NOVEMBER 10 - FAREWELL!

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

## PROGRAM PRICING

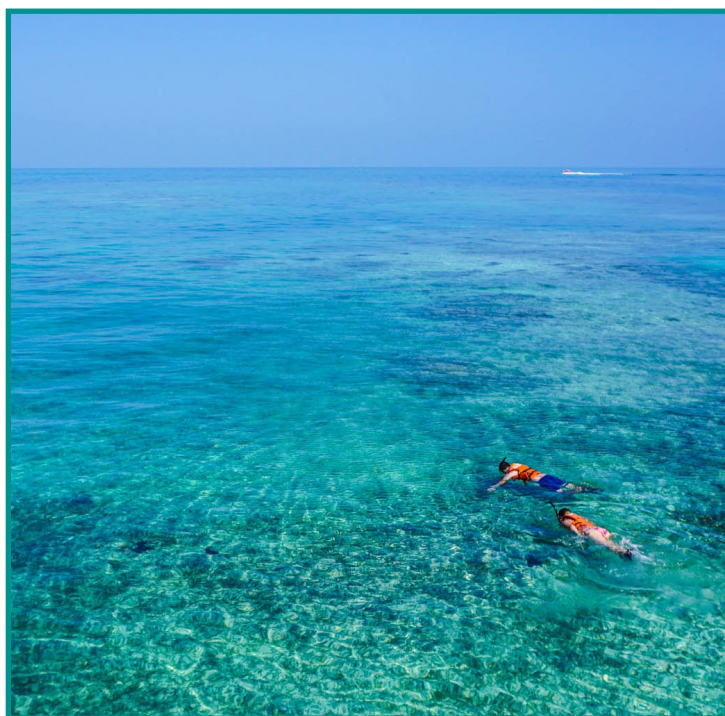
**\$2,625** (based on a minimum of 6 participants)

Cost includes accommodations, meals including non-alcoholic beverages, entrance fees and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private vehicle transportation, internal flight, full-time guide, bottled water on bus, and carbon offset.

Cost does not include international airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature.

## THE FINE PRINT

Price is based on double occupancy; single rooms may be available at an additional cost. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to secure your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$100 cancellation fee until August 01, 2018, at which time final non-refundable payments are due. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Contact Sandy Schmidt at [sandy@holbrooktravel.com](mailto:sandy@holbrooktravel.com) or Visit [holbrook.travel/htjourney-bz18](http://holbrook.travel/htjourney-bz18)