



## **BELIZE: BEACHES, JUNGLES, AND RUINS**

### **TRIP SUMMARY**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Snorkeling among coral reefs in one of the richest marine environments in the entire Caribbean
- Sea kayaking in clear water in a UNESCO World Heritage site
- Exploring inland Belize including world class birding, lagoons, waterways, and a Mayan ruin
- Becoming steeped in Belizean culture, current and past
- Feasting on fresh food, tropical fruit, and local cuisine
- Experiencing all the benefits of camping without any of the challenges

## TRIP AT A GLANCE

<b>Location:</b>	Belize
<b>Activities:</b>	Multisport
<b>Arrive:</b>	In front of the lobby at the Bird's Eye View Lodge, Belize, 5:30 p.m.
<b>Depart:</b>	Depart anytime on the last day

### TRIP OVERVIEW

On this trip we start with an exploration of Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary in inland Belize, learning about the natural history as we take a boat tour through the Crooked Tree Lagoons and the human history as we become immersed in current and past civilizations. A highlight is a visit to the Mayan ruin of Lamanai. We then move to our private island basecamp on Lighthouse Reef Atoll, a remote tropical marine park 55 miles offshore from the mainland that is managed by the Belize Audubon Society. We sleep in comfortable safari-style tent cabanas located right on the beach and enjoy fresh food, tropical fruit, and local dishes. A flexible daily schedule offers opportunities to snorkel, kayak, swim, try stand up paddleboarding (SUP). We also have the options of birding, beachcombing, and lazing in hammocks. Activities are geared to people of all interest and ability levels so you can choose the vacation you want. The guides will make sure you learn what you need to know to stay safe and have fun. Maximum group size: 22

### RATING

This trip is designed for women of all interest and ability levels who want an active vacation in a warm winter environment. With different options for activities each day, you can decide just how active you want to be. To fully enjoy the level 3 activities, participants should be engaging in aerobic conditioning, such as walking vigorously up hills, jogging, cross country skiing or stair stepping for 30 - 45 minutes at least 3 - 4 times a week. **Rating:** [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#) [\[3\]](#) 4 5.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- An AGC guide and 2-6 Belizean guides (mostly male) and staff depending on group size
- Eight nights lodging as described, and meals from dinner on Sunday through dinner the following Sunday
- All snorkeling, kayaking, paddle boarding and equipment
- Transportation within Belize, including an airport pickup if you arrive on the trip start date. Airport transportation is not included at the end of the trip, or if you arrive prior to the first day

**What's not included:** Travel to and from Belize, alcoholic beverages, guide gratuities, travel insurance (see notes on travel insurance below), and transport from our hotel to BZE at the end of the trip.

## OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

### DAY 1

Arrive at the Belize International Airport no later than 3:00 p.m., where an AGC representative will meet you and take you to Bird's Eye View Lodge, our lodging for the next three nights. Located in the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, the Bird's Eye View Lodge sits along the banks of the Crooked Tree Lagoon and couldn't be more aptly named - this is a birders' paradise and if you've never been a birder, this may convert you. The protected area was created in 1984 primarily to preserve resident and migratory birds, and consists of a network of inland lagoons, swamps, and waterways. There are literally hundreds of species within the sanctuary, including, snail kites, tiger herons, snowy egrets, ospreys, black collared hawks, and the reserve's most famous resident, the massive jabiru stork. We'll gather as a group for welcome and introductions and enjoy our first dinner together.

### DAY 2

Today we have a full day of exploration as we travel overland and by river to some Mayan ruins. During our exploration of the New River en route, we'll learn the history of this ancient mahogany trading route. In addition to the large variety of bird species (including parrots and toucans), monkeys, crocodiles and other animals may also be seen. What a way to arrive at Lamanai, the site was one of the longest continuously occupied Mayan cities, from about 500 BC to 1675 AD. During our guided tour we'll thoroughly explore the many temples, plazas, palaces, and museums within the park boundaries. Perhaps we'll meet one of the four troops of howler monkeys that make their home here. About 3.0 miles of walking, with frequent stops to listen and explore these historic ruins. We'll welcome the return to our lodge along the banks of the Crooked Tree Lagoons for another delicious dinner.

### DAY 3

We'll get an early start as we enjoy the sights and sounds of the awakening wilderness on an early morning lagoon boat tour. Surrounded by hundreds of birds, this is birding as you've never experienced it before. Taking time for a hearty breakfast, we'll then immerse ourselves in more current Belizean history as we explore Crooked Tree Village, one of Belize's oldest Creole Settlements. This will be an active exploration as we canoe, walk, and experience hands on demonstrations of what has sustained the economy of this village over hundreds of years. We'll enjoy our final stay at the Lodge tonight, with sadness about leaving and anticipation for the next leg of our adventure.

## DAY 4

This morning we return to Belize City where we board a chartered water taxi to Lighthouse Reef Atoll. Our route first takes us along numerous white sand, partially submerged, mangrove cayes until we cross Belize's Barrier Reef. From here, we enter the narrow passages within the Turneffe Islands before crossing the blue waters towards Lighthouse Atoll. Upon reaching our Half Moon Caye basecamp, we receive an orientation to our new island paradise. Have you ever wanted your own private Caribbean Island? Yup, no one else here but Audubon headquarters. Safari-style tents with beds on cots, in a row along a beautiful beach looking out to the ocean are our new accommodations. This afternoon we receive thorough instruction on the fundamentals of water safety on the Caribbean Sea. Weather permitting, we'll have an opportunity to sea kayak and/or snorkel within this marine reserve.

## DAY 5

Days 5 - 7. It would be misleading to spell out a daily itinerary because there is so much flexibility and so many options that you could have a very different trip from the person you're sharing a tent with. If you're an early riser, you might choose to start the day with sunrise yoga, a walk along the beach, or a cup of coffee as you watch the sunrise. After a healthy and hearty Belizean breakfast, we'll gather to plan the day's activities. The waters of Lighthouse Reef Atoll are exceptionally clear with a fabulously rich reef system, which offers some of the best kayaking, snorkeling, and diving in the Caribbean. You can paddle, snorkel, learn how to SUP (stand up paddleboard), and perhaps try your hand at fishing (they prefer to call it "catching" as the fishing is uncertain).

Snorkeling in areas containing a profusion of tropical fish and towering coral formations, is always a highlight. Depending on weather we may also be taken on a snorkeling excursion to the renowned Blue Hole, a site made famous by the legendary explorer Jacques Cousteau. The Blue Hole is an underwater cave and sinkhole in the middle of the Lighthouse lagoon. Kayaking options are suitable for both novice and experienced kayakers. And always, when you're tired of doing, you can kick back in a hammock and enjoy a good book or walk to the red-footed booby colony to watch nesting boobies come in from the sea to tend their nests and feed their chicks. After all, this is vacation and not boot camp! The local guides are a wealth of information and they love to share their vast knowledge of Belize, its unique marine environments and local culture.

On Day 7 we'll enjoy a farewell dinner on our island paradise.

## DAY 8

This is the kind of place that is so hard to tear yourself away from! Today like every other day, you can choose from a variety of activities. Don a mask, snorkel, and fins for a final swim to a favorite patch reef. Circumnavigate Half Moon Caye by kayak or explore by Stand-Up Paddleboard. Walk the trails, or beachcomb along the island beaches. Our water taxi typically arrives later in the afternoon to take us back to the mainland. We'll spend our last night at the Belize Biltmore Hotel, a comfortable hotel located on the outskirts of Belize City. We'll share a final dinner in town, toasting each other and our magical time in Belize.

## DAY 9

You can leave anytime this morning or enjoy the day at your leisure before you fly home or continue on your travels. Relax by the pool or investigate the optional tours offered by the hotel activity desk.

## ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

### GETTING THERE

You will fly into the Belize International Airport (BZE).

1. If you are arriving on Day 1, arrive by 3:00 p.m. Arrivals will be grouped together and met by an AGC representative who will transport you to the Bird's Eye View Lodge, about a 40-minute drive.
2. If you are arriving earlier than the first day, we suggest staying at the Belize Biltmore Hotel where we can also arrange to pick you up for transport to the Bird's Eye View Lodge at the start of the trip. Information on the Belize Biltmore Hotel will be provided in your Pre-Departure information.
3. We will end our trip with a night at the Belize Biltmore Hotel. You can leave at any time. Transportation back to BZE at the end of the trip is not included. Typically, people whose departures are similar will share a taxi. The front desk staff at the Biltmore Hotel can easily help arrange a taxi or a shuttle for you.

### GETTING BACK

Depart any time on the last day (Day 9).

### AIRFARE

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exito Travel](#). Start by submitting this form: [https://pay2.exitotravel.com/referral\\_form?affiliate\\_id=1090&client=1](https://pay2.exitotravel.com/referral_form?affiliate_id=1090&client=1). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Most of the international airlines are in-network for Exito, so they do not charge extra for their services (and often have access to discounted rates). When necessary, processing fees out-of-network carriers are minimal at around \$35-\$50 per ticket.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

We'll spend three nights at [Bird's Eye View Lodge](#), four nights at the private Half Moon Caye basecamp in our ocean-view tent cabanas, and one night at a Belize City hotel. The rooms at the lodge all have two beds with ensuite bathrooms and plenty of hot water. The basecamp is "glamping" at its finest. The cabanas are tents, with wooden floors, pitched directly on the beach. They are 8' by 12', and 6' high where the roof meets the walls. Each tent has 2 single beds or one double bed with a 6-inch firm foam mattress on a cot. Additionally, inside each tent there is a night stand, oil lamp, a place for your bags and some hanging shelves for your clothes. Outside there is a small deck with 2 chairs and hammocks beckon from nearby trees. Compost toilets and cool water showers are 30 to 60 yards away. Is this "camping"? Not like you've ever tried it before. When we reach Belize City at the end of the trip, we'll be ready for hot showers and a bit of luxury. These rooms have queen beds and ensuite bathrooms.

Our trip cost is based on double occupancy. We will pair you with another traveler unless you request a specific roommate. There are also 2 single supplements available for an extra cost. Availability of each type of room will be clearly noted on the registration form. Be sure to note your choice.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more

information on the available plans or to enroll, visit [www.travelexinsurance.com](http://www.travelexinsurance.com) or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travel Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

To qualify for any refunds, we must receive notification in writing, by email to [info@goodadventure.com](mailto:info@goodadventure.com) or mail to: Adventures in Good Company, PO Box 455, 2601 S. Lemay Ave, Ste 7, Ft Collins, CO 80525. Cancellation date is the date the notice is received by Adventures in Good Company in writing.

In the unfortunate event that you must cancel your trip, the following fees apply and are due to AGC at the time (prior to departure) that we receive written notice of your cancellation.

Days Prior to Departure		
International	Domestic	Cancellation Fee
120+ days	90+ days	\$50 fee
120 - 60 days	90 - 45 days	50% of trip cost
59 days or less	44 days or less	100% of trip cost

If you have paid in full, we have a waiting list, and we can fill your spot from that list, everything but your deposit will be transferred to another trip of your choosing for which you register in the next 365 days. AGC will allow you to transfer trip fees to another person, if in AGC's discretion, the other person is in the appropriate physical condition to participate in the trip.

Adventures in Good Company reserves the right to cancel or alter a trip due to unforeseen weather, unsafe conditions, low registrations or other circumstances. On the rare occasion when Adventures in Good Company must cancel a trip, all payments received to date will be refunded, including the non-refundable portion of your deposit.

Adventures in Good Company is not responsible for expenses incurred in preparation for any canceled trips, including airplane tickets.