

Below is the proposed itinerary 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

Welcome to Belize! Nocturnal Zoo Tour

Arrive at the Belize International Airport by 2:00 p.m. today. You'll be met and transferred to the Belize Biltmore Plaza where the group gathers at 3:00 p.m. From there we go to the Tropical Education Center, adjacent to the Belize Zoo and our lodging for the first night. We will be staying in Forest Cabanas, situated in the midst of idyllic tropical pine forest with a network of interpretative trails and wildlife viewing platforms at our doorstep. You can start getting ready for the adventure at the Interpretive Centre, which details the diverse ecology of Belize and is an ideal introduction. About 6 p.m. we'll gather for introductions and share a "Welcome to Belize Dinner." If you're not too tired, we highly recommend joining us for an optional nocturnal tour of the Belize Zoo. Jaguars, ocelots, tapirs and other native species provide our first introduction to Belize's amazing wildlife. Overnight at the Tropical Education Center. (D)

DAY 2

Boat to Tobacco Caye - Paddling Lesson and Kayak

Our first day in the Tropics. We start the morning with a drive over the Maya Mountains to our Operations Base in Dangriga. Here we'll transfer all our items into dry sacks (provided) and hop onto a charter boat that takes us to our first of the aptly named Paradise Islands on the Southern Barrier Reef. We'll meet our Belizean guide team who will give us an overview of tropical marine safety. We'll then begin with kayaking instruction: safety, group and self-rescues, and touring techniques with an emphasis on how to use our muscles most efficiently and how to get in and out of kayaks safely. If you've never received formal instruction, you'll be surprised how much a few basic tips can improve your kayaking. After a break for a swim, some time to explore the island shoreline, and a tasty Belizean lunch, we'll practice our new strokes and become familiar with the local waters. We'll return to our lodging, enjoy drinks and dinner, and be lulled to sleep by the sound of ocean waves. Overnight on Tobacco Caye. (B, L, D)

DAY 3

Kayak and Snorkel the Barrier Reef

For those who love the early morning, watching the sun rise is the perfect way to start your day. After breakfast we'll have our first snorkeling demo and instruction, learning both beginning and advanced skills as appropriate, at the Tobacco Caye cut and outer reef walls. In the afternoon we'll paddle to nearby reefs to snorkel and explore healthy and vibrant coral and brightly colored fish. Staying right on the Barrier Reef in the heart of the Southwater Caye Marine Reserve, we are ideally situated to explore all the surrounding reefs and cays. We'll return that night to our lodge on Tobacco Caye and another delicious dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 4

Kayak Sail to South Water Caye - Visit Smithsonian Institute

This morning we'll pack all our personal gear into our kayaks and paddle south along the Barrier Reef crest to South Water Caye and our lodge for the next two nights. We'll start with an introduction to kayak sailing - nothing like letting the wind do some of the work for you! We'll paddle and sail our kayaks along one of the most beautiful sections of the entire reef system. The clear, shallow waters reveal an abundance of marine life: southern stingrays, eagle rays, nurse sharks (they're safe, don't worry), grouper, and more. Landing on the beach near our lodge, we'll be glad for a cold drink, a chance to relax, and a swim to cool off. In the afternoon we take a short paddle to a nearby island that is home to the Smithsonian Institute, here we are treated to a tour of the research lab. As the sun sets it's time to enjoy a well-earned dinner that will recharge us after our full day. Overnight South Water Caye - IZE. (B, L, D)

DAY 5

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Enjoy Paradise - Rinse, Repeat!

We're staying at the same lodge tonight, so we have lots of flexibility today and lots of time to kayak, snorkel, fish, enjoy the marine life of Belize and - dare we say it - even relax if we choose. We'll explore both the inner and outer walls of the reef, follow wandering paths through mangrove ranges, and dip into protected lagoons. We gain insight into the lives of the fishermen who make this area their home and their living from the sea. Ho Hum, just another day in Paradise. Overnight South Water Caye - IZE. (B, L, D)

DAY 6

Kayak to Billy Hawk Caye - Snorkel

Today we spend our last full day kayaking to Billy Hawk Caye, formerly a Garifuna Fishing Camp, located in the Blue Ground Range. Arriving in time for lunch, we'll have time to relax in the most idyllic hammock setting and recharge for an afternoon of snorkeling. Sadly, we leave our kayaks on this island and enjoy a fun boat ride back to South Water Caye. This evening we'll celebrate our final evening together with a feast and a chance to enjoy island festivities. Overnight South Water Caye - IZE. (B, L, D)

DAY 7

Boat to Dangriga - Short Flight - Visit Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary

After basking in Belizean island life for a week, it's time to explore the culture, flora and fauna of inland Belize. After a boat ride to Dangriga and a short in-country flight, we will take a van ride to our new home for the next two nights, Bird's Eye View Lodge. Located in the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary the lodge sits along the banks of the Crooked Tree Lagoon, a protected area created in 1984 primarily to preserve resident and migratory birds. Tonight, we enjoy a home cooked dinner that incorporates many ingredients grown right on the property. Overnight Bird's Eye View Lodge. (B, L, D)

DAY 8

Visit Mayan Ruins

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 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. Overnight Bird's Eye View Lodge. (B, L, D)

DAY 9

Explore Crooked Tree Lagoon - Hands On Demonstrations - Museum Tour

Today we will enjoy an extended tour of the Crooked Tree lagoon, a network of inland lagoons, swamps, and waterways, where you will discover just how aptly named the Bird's Eye View Lodge is. 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. Our Belizean guide knows the species well and will be identifying them for you along the way. This afternoon we'll experience hands-on demonstrations of what has sustained the economy of the local Crooked Tree village over hundreds of years,

including a rice and log dye presentation and a museum tour. (B, L, D)

DAY 10

Farewell Belize!

Soak up the last morning in paradise with a leisurely breakfast before a transport back to the airport. We will have you back to the Belize International Airport in plenty of time for flights out after 12:30pm. (B)