



ADVENTURES
in good company



BEST OF BELIZE: SNORKELING, KAYAKING & CULTURE

TRIP SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS

- Kayak in warm Caribbean waters over reefs full of diverse marine life
- Snorkel among reefs teeming with brightly colored fish
- Try your hand at kayak sailing or stand up paddle boarding
- Learn about the flora and fauna that inhabit this unspoiled marine environment
- Exploring inland Belize including world class birding, lagoons, waterways, and a Mayan ruin
- Becoming steeped in Belizean culture, current and past
- Stay in small, hospitable, locally run lodges
- Feast on freshly prepared Belizean cuisine

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

- Location:** Belize
Activities: Paddling
Arrive: Plan to arrive at the Belize International Airport (BZE) any time before 2:00 p.m. on Day 1
Depart: You can plan flights out from BZE any time after 12:30 p.m. on the last day

TRIP OVERVIEW

The best of Belize! The Paradise Islands of Belize, located in the less developed southern region of Belize's Barrier Reef, remain close to a pristine marine ecosystem. We'll kayak through the shallow reef-strewn waters, snorkel to our hearts content, go to sleep lulled by the sound of ocean waves breaking on the shore, and fill each day with lots of exercise, delicious food, and the kind of relaxation that stems from immersion in a very different world and way of life. Then it's back to inland Belize, exploring wildlife sanctuaries, lagoons, and the ancient Mayan ruin of Lamanai. We'll experience true Belizean culture and see how these ancient economies have transitioned to the current day world. This is the perfect vacation for anyone with some kayaking and snorkeling experience and has an appreciation for other cultures. Maximum group size: 13

RATING

This trip is designed for women in good condition who want an active vacation in a warm winter environment. Our days are full, although there is time to relax built into each one and also the option to opt out of some activities if you want more downtime. The kayaking and snorkeling on this trip are truly intertwined, as we will do most of our snorkeling from our kayaks. The most kayaking we do in one day is 6 miles, with 3-4 miles being more typical. You should have some prior kayaking experience and be comfortable on the water as you may be paddling in rough or windy conditions at times. **Rating:** 1 [\[2\]](#) [\[3\]](#) 4 5.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- A local Belizean guide (male) for 8, 2 local guides and an AGC guide for more than 8
- A Belizean guide team for the inland portion of Belize
- Eight nights lodging as described, and meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on the last day
- All snorkeling, kayaking, and paddle-boarding equipment
- Transportation within Belize including an airport pickup, if you arrive on Day 1, and an airport drop-off at the end of the trip.

What's not included: Travel to and from Belize, alcoholic beverages, snacks, guide gratuities, and travel insurance.

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 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

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

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 cayes. For experienced divers, we can also look into arranging an optional scuba dive. This requires advanced notice and is subject to availability. We'll return that night to our lodge on Tobacco Caye and another delicious dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 4

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 Tobacco Caye. (B, L, D)

DAY 5

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 at South Water Caye. (B, L, D)

DAY 6

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 at South Water Caye. (B, L, D)

DAY 7

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. This afternoon we'll experience hands on demonstrations of what has sustained the economy of the local Crooked Tree village over hundreds of years. Tonight, we enjoy a home cooked dinner that incorporates many ingredients grown right on the property. Overnight at Bird's Eye View Lodge. (B, L, D)

DAY 8

A full day of adventure awaits 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 to the cadence of the jungle and explore the 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

This morning 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 Birds 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. Late morning will take us back to the Belize International Airport where you can book your flight out after 12:30 p.m. (B)

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

GETTING THERE

Plan to arrive at the Belize International Airport (BZE) no later than 2:00 p.m. on Day 1.

- If you arrive on Day 1, you will be met at the airport based on your flight arrival time and transported to the Best Western Plus Belize Biltmore Plaza.
- If you arrive prior to Day 1, transportation from the Belize international airport is not included and you should plan to meet us at the Belize Biltmore Plaza by 2:30 p.m. on Day 1. If you have the time, it is a good idea to arrive in Belize one day before the trip begins, particularly if your international flight connections are tight or you are departing from a region where it is likely that bad weather may cause flight delays.
- The group will gather at the Belize Biltmore Plaza at 3:00 p.m. and be transported to the Tropical Education Center for the first night of the trip.

GETTING HOME

We'll have you back to the BZE airport for flights out any time after 12:30 p.m. on the last day.

AIRFARE

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exitto Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). 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 Exitto, 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

One night will be spent at the Tropical Education Center in Belize City, adjacent to the Belize Zoo. The Center has rustic forest cabanas, each on a raised platform, fully screened and equipped with two twin size beds complete with linens. One full size bed is available upon request. There is a shared shower and restroom facility for the cabanas.

Three nights at Tobacco Caye Paradise is a small Belizean-style vacation property with six private "over the water" beach cabanas. All cabanas face north to the Belize Barrier Reef and have wonderful decks perched over turquoise tropical waters. Each deck has a hammock and an amazing view of the Caribbean Sea. The accommodations are clean, comfortable and charmingly rustic. There are five 1 bedroom / 1 bathroom cabanas, and one 2 bedroom / 1 bathroom cabana. Each bedroom has either one or two beds. Each cabana has a private bathroom and cool (unheated) rainwater-fed showers.

We'll spend two nights at IZE on South Water Caye. Seaside cabanas are nestled in the mangroves on the eastern shoreline of the island to take advantage of the cooling trade winds. They are so close to the water's

edge that you will awaken to a view of the barrier reef and the sound of waves gently lapping the shore beneath you. The cabanas have private bathrooms with hot water showers.

The last two night will be at Bird's Eye View Lodge, a family owned lodge in standard rooms with two double beds and en-suite bathrooms.

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 or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex 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.

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