

## GLOVER'S GETAWAY

3 All-Inclusive Days Sea Kayaking & Snorkeling on Spectacular Glover's Reef Atoll!

### Trip Details

3 days / 2 nights

### Price

\$529

Trip Begins - Dangriga

Trip Ends - Dangriga

### 2011/2012 Departures

Nov 20, 27

Dec 4, 11, 18, 25

Jan 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Feb 5, 12, 19, 26

Mar 4, 11, 18, 25

Apr 1, 15, 22, 29

### Trip Starts and Finishes in Dangriga

### Activities

Sea Kayaking,  
Snorkeling, Fishing,  
Diving (optional),  
Photography,  
Natural History

### Accommodations

2 nights Basecamp



**The Setting...**One of three coral atolls offshore of Belize, Glover's Reef was named after the English pirate John Glover who used this remote offshore ring of islands and coral reefs as a base from which to raid Spanish merchant ships during the 17th century. Today, the attractions found within the atoll (20 miles long by 7 miles wide) are the incredible clarity of the water and the remarkable profusion of marine life. In 1993 the atoll was declared a marine park. To further efforts to protect this extraordinary environment the atoll was designated as a World Heritage Site in 1996. We travel and explore this extraordinary area from our fully-equipped luxury Base Camp by sea-kayak, paddling, and sailing the shallow 82 square mile lagoon with over 700 patch reefs. The reefs of Belize have long been known as the richest and most developed in the Caribbean, and Glover's is the best in Belize!

**A Note About the Ecology...**The Mesoamerican Reef stretches from Mexico through Belize to Honduras. It is the largest reef in the western hemisphere and second largest in the world. In Belize this reef is a well formed wall and extends 185 miles (300 km) along the coastline. Beyond the main reef are the outlying coral atolls, and Glover's Reef is one of the richest and most pristine. These circular shaped reef systems climb from the ocean floor and surround a central sandy and shallow lagoon. The surrounding reef is primarily made up of two kinds of coral, the hard hydro-coral (reef-forming coral), such as brain coral, and the soft corals, such as sea fans and feather plumes. The sheltered lagoon harbors one of the world's most diverse sea environments; an extensive community of fish, invertebrates, and patch reefs. Off the eastern shore of the atoll the reef wall quickly drops 2600 feet to the ocean floor below. The interaction between the deeper open waters of the Caribbean Sea and the sheltered lagoons of the atoll results in a diversity and abundance of marine life, which is unsurpassed for sea kayaking, snorkeling, and diving.



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**Fauna...** While on Southwest Caye, we will have the opportunity to view a diverse range of sea-life and tropical birds. While exploring and snorkeling the atoll and the many patch reefs, there are opportunities to see grouper, bonefish, angel and parrot fish, stingrays, conger, moray eels, and goatfish; just to name a few. Some of the bird-life includes osprey (the billy hawk), boobies, frigate birds, hawks, mangrove warblers, and white-crowned pigeons. Around the atoll and the barrier reef there are nesting sites for loggerhead, green, and hawksbill turtles. If you're lucky, you may see them while out snorkeling or kayaking. We will definitely have a chance to see and sample the main staple for Belizean fishermen, the spiny lobster (when in season) and the queen conch.



## Typical Daily Itinerary:

**Day 1:** Departing from Dangriga at around 8:00 am, we travel by water taxi past the main Barrier Reef to our private Basecamp on Southwest Caye within Glover's Reef Marine Reserve, typically arriving before 10 am. We begin with an introduction to our new environment and settle into our tent-cabanas. Once settled, the guides provide professional instruction - teaching the fundamentals of sea kayaking, snorkeling, and safety on the water in the tropics. Then we paddle out to a nearby patch reef and start to explore some of the 700 snorkel sites that Glover's Atoll has to offer.

**Accommodation:** Glover's Basecamp

**Meals:** L, D



**Day 2:** Perhaps an early swim or participate in a sunrise yoga session with our resident yoga instructors (yoga is not available on all departures - please check our website or call the office for a current schedule of trips with yoga instructors). Our itinerary is flexible in order to respond to both group and individual desires and abilities. Activities include:

sea kayaking, snorkeling the inner and outer walls of the reef, and learning to sail a kayak. In the mornings and the evenings we host informative sessions on a range of topics - providing an opportunity for guides to share their knowledge of Belize, the marine environments, and local culture. Perhaps a high stakes game of Hermit Crab racing to finish the day! If all this sounds a little too busy you always have the choice of just kicking back in a hammock and relaxing with a good book and a cold drink.

**Accommodation:** Glover's Basecamp

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Day 3:** For our last morning at Glover's the choice is yours. You may choose to don mask, snorkel, and fins for a last visit to your favorite coral reef or work the flats with your most productive Bonefish fly before our motor charter comes to pick us up for the return ride to Dangriga. We arrive back in Dangriga at approximately 3:00 pm.

**Accommodation:** N/A

**Meals:** B, L

## Recommended Tour-books:

Eltringham, Peter  
Belize: The Rough Guide  
London Penguin  
Publishers

Perottet, Tony  
Belize: Insight Guide  
Singapore Houghton  
Mifflin Publishers  
Great photographs and  
written by a Belizean!

## Recommended Reading:

Rabinowitz, Alan  
Jaguar, One Man's  
Struggle to Establish the First  
Jaguar Sanctuary  
New York Island Press



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## Rendezvous with boat charter...

The trip starts from the riverside dock in Dangriga on Sunday morning. Our charter boat departs at 8 am for the Basecamp on Southwest Caye, at Glover's Reef Marine Reserve. The transfer to Glover's typically takes 1.5 hours during fair weather conditions and longer in rougher conditions. Please ensure that we know of your plans to meet up with the boat prior to the Sunday departure.

## Return to the mainland...

We depart Glover's Reef in the early afternoon and usually arrive back to Dangriga on the mainland around 3 pm.

**NOTE:** Boat schedules can be delayed significantly due to weather and sea conditions so ensure that you leave ample time for connections.

## Accommodation...

At Southwest Caye, we are "base camping", sleeping in tent-walled cabanas. These spacious safari-style tents have ample headroom to walk around and are on raised wooden floors, with double or single beds. On the island we have a fresh-water collection system for drinking water, access to fresh-water showers, modern composting toilets, and a fully equipped kitchen. We also have a large dining area and resource library lounge.

## Equipment...

While at our private Basecamp on Southwest Caye, our guests have unrestricted use of the following equipment: Double Kayaks (outfitted with special sails), Single Kayaks, Sit-on-Top Kayaks, Research Library. On the island we are in communication with the mainland via VHF marine radio and fixed cellular service.

## What's Included...

All meals (fully catered) while you are at our Southwest Caye Basecamp • Unlimited use of equipment and facilities • Professional guide and sports instruction services with Belizean leaders • Safari-style tent accommodations on Southwest Caye • Glover's Reef Marine Park User Fee • Comprehensive Pre-trip Information Package • Financial support for Conservation and Education programs in Belize

## What's Not Included...

Trip starts and finishes in Dangriga • Gratuities • International flights & airport departure tax • Snorkeling/dive gear & scuba diving fees • Extra costs due to late arrivals and other circumstances beyond our control



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**Hey Teachers & Parents!** Did you know Island Expeditions Co. has been operating custom educational trips for high schools and colleges for over a decade! For more information, please contact our office.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE THIS TRIP, CALL TOLL-FREE 1.800.667.1630 VISIT: ISLANDEXPEDITIONS.COM