

## LIGHTHOUSE REEF ADVENTURE



Crooked Tree Wetlands, then a remote Basecamp Adventure exploring the rich coral reefs and white sand cayes of Lighthouse Atoll

Duration:	6 nights or 8 nights	2017/18 Departures:
Starts:	Belize City	<b>6 Night</b> - Dec 18, 22, 26, 30; Jan 12, 16, 26, 30;
Finishes:	Belize City	Feb 9, 13, 23;
Guides:	2-6 leaders	Mar 9, 13, 23, 27;
Price 6 Night:	\$1409US + \$290 Taxes & Fees \$1489Cdn + \$350 Taxes & Fees	Apr 6, 10, 20
Price 8 Night:	\$1769US + \$330 Taxes & Fees \$1904Cdn + \$395 Taxes & Fees	<b>8 Night</b> – Jan 20; Feb 3, 17;
Habitats:	Wetlands, Lighthouse Atoll	Mar 3, 17, 31; Apr 14
Activity level:	2 - No experience required	

Web address: [www.lighthousereef.travel](http://www.lighthousereef.travel) Yoga Instructor at Basecamp on some departures

Activities: Sea Kayaking (paddling and sailing), Snorkeling, Fishing, Beachcombing, Birding, Photography, Natural History Interpretation, Stand Up Paddleboarding. Scuba Diving (optional, cost not included in trip price). Yoga on select departures.

Accommodations: Lodge at Crooked Tree, Half Moon Caye Basecamp, Belize City Hotel

This trip starts with an overnight inland adventure to Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, then takes you by boat to Lighthouse Reef Atoll. Lighthouse Reef is a tropical marine park and UN world heritage site fifty-five miles from the shore of the Belize mainland. It is abundant with marine life and offers unparalleled snorkeling and paddling. Spend six nights at this remote location in safari-style tent cabanas. Our all-inclusive Adventure Basecamp is located on Half Moon Caye, a protected island managed by the Belize Audubon Society and home to 4000 red-footed boobies! Enjoy a choice of daily guided reef activities, with snorkeling excursions to 'the Aquarium' and to Jacques Cousteau's legendary Blue Hole. This itinerary is ideal for families, or traveling companions of mixed abilities and interests.

## NEW – 6 Night & 8 Night Trip Options

We now have two versions of this very popular trip: **The Lighthouse Reef 6 Night Adventure** and **The Classic Lighthouse Reef 8 Night Adventure**. Depending on which you choose, you will have a choice of spending 4 or 6 nights at our Half Moon Caye Basecamp on Lighthouse Reef Atoll. Lodging on the mainland is included before and after both trips, as well as dinner on Day 0 and a Crooked Tree lagoon boat tour on Day 1. The Lighthouse Reef 6 Night Adventure follows a similar itinerary to this Classic 8 Night Adventure but has 4 nights instead of 6 nights at our Half Moon Caye Basecamp. Day 0, Day 1 and the Final Day are the same on both trips. We will visit/snorkel the Blue Hole and 'the Aquarium' (weather permitting) on both the 6 and 8 Night Adventures!

## Typical Daily Itinerary: Classic Lighthouse Reef 8 Night Adventure

**Day 0:** Arrive at the Belize International Airport where an Island Expeditions' representative will meet you and welcome you to the country. You'll be taken to the Bird's Eye View Lodge in the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. The Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, with its swamps, wetlands and four lagoons, provides an ideal resting place for thousands of migrating and resident birds.

After checking into your accommodations you'll have a chance to meet your fellow travelers, enjoy a meal and if time permits, explore Crooked Tree Village. Crooked Tree Village is one of Belize's oldest Creole Settlements. Airport transfers, dinner and lodging are included. Day 0 is the day to meet your fellow travelers, and acclimatize to your new tropical environment.

**Accommodation:** Lodge

**Meals:** Dinner

**Day 1:** Coffee is served at sunrise. With your binoculars in hand you'll enjoy the sounds and sights of the awakening wilderness. There are usually several hundred birds of many species feeding in front of the lodge along the shores of the Crooked Tree lagoons. After a healthy Belizean breakfast, you'll embark by boat to explore the surrounding areas. Throughout this adventure, our aim is to provide you with tremendous birding and wildlife opportunities. Turtles, parrots, ibis, Morelet's crocodiles, and Iguanas are frequently seen.

Weather permitting, later in the morning you'll be driven along the "Old Belize Road" to the seashore where you'll board a motor charter. This charter takes you through white sand cayes, mangrove ranges, and beyond the main Barrier Reef to Lighthouse Reef Atoll. Lighthouse Reef Atoll is located at the furthest edge of the Belizean Reef System. It is 55 miles offshore of the mainland. Upon reaching Half Moon Caye, your guide team will orient you to your new island setting and help you settle into your accommodations. You'll then enjoy a late lunch and an afternoon snorkel or kayak around Half Moon Caye.

**Accommodation:** Half Moon Basecamp

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Days 2, 3, 4:** Due to its isolated location from the mainland, the waters of Lighthouse Reef Atoll are exceptionally clear, with inspiring scenery, and a fabulously rich reef system. This ecosystem offers some of the best kayaking, snorkeling, and diving in the Caribbean. To begin, our guides will provide professional instruction - teaching you the fundamentals of sea kayaking, snorkeling, and safety in the waters of the tropics.

## Days 2, 3, 4 Con't:

Over the next few days, you'll have many options to explore, including a shipwreck, which looms just north of the caye. In 1971, a ship named the Ermlund lost power during a storm and was deposited on the reef by a large wave. This 4000 ton wreck rests silently as a landmark, and is one of many shipwrecks in the area. You'll also be taken on another snorkeling excursion to the renowned Blue Hole, made famous by the legendary explorer Jacques Cousteau. The Blue Hole is an underwater cave and sinkhole in the middle of the Lighthouse lagoon. You will have ample opportunities to learn from our guides about the marine reef ecology, the island's mangrove, and the interior forest habitat. This area of the park consists of 45 acres. Many species of birds nest on the island, including a 4000 red-footed booby colony. The Audubon Society has built a series of viewing platforms to intimately observe the many nesting sites. And of course, we always give you the option of hanging out in a hammock with a good book and a cold beverage!

**Accommodation:** Half Moon Basecamp      **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Day 5:** The "aquarium" is today's big adventure. You'll pack a hearty lunch and your snorkel gear in our kayaks and paddle with motor support to this exciting location. This dive spot is known for its profusion of fish and towering coral formations. Snorkeling at the 'Aquarium' is usually one of the favorite activities among our guests. You'll return home, stopping at the Half Moon Wall for a spectacular drift snorkel over the undersea cliff of the atoll. As you float (or drift) along the sea surface using your snorkel gear you'll have an opportunity to view the amazing underworld that lies beneath.

**Accommodation:** Half Moon Basecamp      **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Day 6:** Today you'll paddle along the protected waters of the Southern Reef towards Long Caye. At this location, you'll have a chance to snorkel some of the atoll's best patch reefs. After a full day of exploring, you'll return just in time for a wonderful seafood dinner prepared especially for you by our cooks.

**Accommodation:** Half Moon Basecamp      **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Day 7:** For your last morning at Lighthouse Reef Atoll, the choice is yours. Snorkel your favorite patch reefs, walk the island trails, swing in a hammock or beachcomb along the immaculate island beaches. After lunch a motor charter arrives, and you'll begin to prepare for your trip back to the mainland. This return journey takes you through Turneffe atoll across the Great Barrier Reef, and you'll arrive at the Belize Biltmore Hotel usually by late afternoon. You can enjoy a fresh shower and swim in the hotel's pool. Your final evening is reserved for relaxing at the hotel or exploring the local area.

**Accommodation:** Hotel      **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch. Dinner not included on this day.

**NOTE:** Due to the remote location of the Lighthouse Reef Basecamp, the activities on the reef portion of this trip are weather dependent. This itinerary is a 'guide' and must remain flexible and open to changes at the trip leaders' discretion. We hope you bring a spirit of adventure with you, and allow us to adjust the sails.

Please go to [www.lighthousereef.travel](http://www.lighthousereef.travel) for further trip details and images.