



LIGHTHOUSE REEF ADVENTURE 8N

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

Duration: 8 Nights
Starts: Belize City
Finishes: Belize City
Guides: 2-6 Leaders

Habitats: Wetlands, Lighthouse Reef Atoll
Activity level: ●●○○○ [2] No experience required

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

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

Package includes: Accommodations, meals, transfers, guided activities and equipment (as per itinerary). All government taxes and park fees

\$2299 USD / \$2699 CDN

(Includes taxes & fees)

Price per Person based on Double Occupancy
Single & Will-Share Supplement Available

Web: www.ie-lighthousereef.com

Visit our website for departure dates

Package does not include: Int'l airfare, gratuities, medical/travel insurance, snorkel/fishing/scuba gear, additional activities, costs incurred by flight delays



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.

"Basecamping": sleeping in wall tented cabanas. These spacious safari style tents have ample headroom to walk around and are on raised wooden floors, with real wood-framed beds (6 inch foam mattress) configured with either double or single beds. All bed linen is provided.

Typical Daily Itinerary:

Day 1: 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.

Accommodation: Bird's Eye View Lodge

Meals: Dinner

Day 2: This morning you will travel to Belize City and 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 3, 4, 5: 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.

Over the next few days, you'll have many options to explore, including a shipwreck, which looms just north of the cayes. 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.

Overall it was a fantastic experience! It was such a pleasure to spend time with like-minded travelers. It was equally fun to get to know your excellent staff. They work very hard, make a genuine effort to make everyone happy, and do it in a natural and relaxed way.

*Christine - ON Canada
Lighthouse Reef*

Itinerary Con't:

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 6: 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 7: 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 8: 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 City 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: Biltmore Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (dinner not included)

Day 9: This last day is yours to enjoy 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.

Accommodation: N/A

Meals: Not included

Travel Notes: Dinner on day 8, and breakfast and transportation to the airport on day 9 are not included.

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, we cannot direct the winds but we can adjust our sails.

Please note all itineraries are subject to change depending on weather or safety considerations.
Flexibility as our guest and as an international traveler is the key to an awesome experience.