



# MAYA REEF EXPLORER

JUNGLE TO REEF

A jewel of white sand cayes encircling Belize's richest coral reefs plus the spectacular Maya world and wildlife of the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary

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

**Habitats:** Wetlands, Rainforest, 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

**\$2399 USD / \$2849 CDN**

(Includes taxes & fees)

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

**Web:** [www.ie-mayareef.com](http://www.ie-mayareef.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



The **Maya Reef Explorer** combines an inland adventure to Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary with an excursion to Lighthouse Reef Atoll. View Belize's birds and wildlife on a boat tour through the Crooked Tree Lagoons. Tour the ancient Mayan ruins of Lamanai and Altun Ha. Visit Crooked Tree, one of Belize's oldest Creole settlements. After three days of inland exploration, you'll spend five days on Lighthouse Reef atoll. Lighthouse Reef is a remote tropical marine park and UN world heritage site fifty-five miles off the shore of the Belize Mainland. Stay on Half Moon Caye, a protected island that is managed by the Belize Audubon Society. Sleep in safari-style tent cabanas at our all-inclusive Half Moon Caye Basecamp. Enjoy a choice of flexible daily guided reef activities, including paddling and snorkeling excursions to 'the Aquarium' and Jacques Cousteau's legendary Blue Hole. This trip is ideal for guests who would like to visit Lighthouse Reef, and also experience Belize's tropical wetlands and ancient Mayan culture.

**"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:** You'll 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 Bird's Eye View Lodge in the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. After checking into your accommodations you'll have a chance to meet your fellow travelers, enjoy a fine 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:** You will have a full day of exploration as you travel overland and by river to the Mayan ruins of Lamanai. With the very best guides you explore the many temples, plazas, palaces, and museums within the park's boundaries. In the afternoon, you'll depart Lamanai by riverboat and your guides will help you discover amazing opportunities for birding and viewing wildlife. Iguanas, parrots, toucan, aracarís, and Morelet's crocodiles are frequently seen while traveling down the New River. You will return turn to your lodge along the banks of the Crooked Tree Lagoons.

**Accommodation: Bird's Eye View Lodge**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Day 3:** Coffee is served at sunrise. With your binoculars in hand, you'll enjoy the sounds and sights of the awakening wilderness. You'll also have the opportunity to see hundreds of birds feeding along the shores of the Crooked Tree Lagoons. This protected area was created in 1984 primarily to preserve resident and migratory birds. It consists of a network of inland lagoons, wetlands, and waterways, which shelter one of the world's largest flying birds, the Jabiru Stork. On this day, you'll enjoy boat tours through the protected lagoons and a tour to the Mayan ruins of Altun Ha. Alta Ha is considered one of the major Mayan ceremonial centres of Belize, and functioned as an important trading center between the people of the interior and the coast during the Classic Period (250-900 AD). Within the site, there are more than 275 structures and 250 to 300 unexcavated mounds.

**Accommodation: Bird's Eye View Lodge**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

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.

*My husband caught 2 barracuda. The cooks then prepared the barracuda for our group for lunch and we were all able to share in the stories! Wonderful memorable experience thanks to these folks!  
Bravo!*

*Karen - MB Canada  
Maya Reef Explorer*

### **Itinerary Con't:**

**Day 4:** This morning you'll travel to Belize City, and board a chartered water taxi to Lighthouse Reef Atoll. Our route takes you along numerous white sand, partially submerged, mangrove cayes until you cross Belize's Barrier Reef. From there, you'll enter the narrow passages within the Turneffe Islands before crossing the blue waters towards Lighthouse Atoll. Upon reaching our Half Moon Caye Basecamp, your guide team will orient you to your new setting and accommodations. You will receive thorough instruction on the fundamentals of sea kayaking, snorkeling, and safety on the Caribbean Sea. In the afternoon, weather permitting; you'll have an opportunity to sea kayak and snorkel within this marine reserve.

**Accommodation: Half Moon Basecamp**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Days 5 - 7:** Early risers may want to go for a swim, do some yoga - or just grab a cup of coffee and watch the tropical sunrise. After a healthy Belizean breakfast everyone gathers to plan the day's activities. The waters of Lighthouse Reef Atoll are exceptionally clear with a fabulously rich reef system, which offers some of the best kayaking, snorkeling, and diving in the Caribbean. Throughout your stay, you'll have the opportunity to try a variety of activities as you explore this remote and magical part of Belize. Snorkeling at the 'Aquarium' is a favorite guest activity. The Aquarium has a profusion of tropical fish and towering coral formations, and is an unforgettable underwater experience. You'll also be taken on a snorkeling excursion to the renowned Blue Hole, a site made famous by the legendary explorer Jacques Cousteau. The Blue Hole is an underwater cave and sinkhole in the middle of the Lighthouse lagoon. In the mornings and evenings, a favorite guest activity is to walk to the red-footed booby colony to watch nesting boobies come in from the sea to tend their nests and feed their chicks.

**Accommodation: Half Moon Basecamp**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Day 8:** For your last day on Lighthouse Reef, choose from a variety of activities. Don a mask, snorkel, and fins and swim to a favorite patch reef. Circumnavigate Half Moon Caye by kayak or explore by Stand Up Paddleboard. Walk the trails, or beachcomb along the island beaches. Our water taxi typically arrives later in the afternoon to take everyone back to the mainland. The Belize City Biltmore Hotel is your final destination for today, a comfortable hotel located on the outskirts of Belize City.

**Accommodation: Biltmore Hotel**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

**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.

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**Flexibility as our guest and as an international traveler is the key to an awesome experience.**