



# Lighthouse Reef Adventure 8N

Visit the Crooked Tree Wetlands, followed by 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

**Seasonal Trip:** December to April

**Habitats:** Wetlands, Barrier Reef - Lighthouse Atoll

**Activity level:** ●●○○○ [2] No experience required

**Activities:** Sea kayaking (paddling and sailing), snorkeling, handline fishing, birding, stand-up paddleboarding

**Optional:** Scuba diving (fees apply)

**Package includes:**

- 1-night accommodation Crooked Tree Village
- 1-night standard accommodation in Belize City
- 6-night safari style "basecamp" accommodations
- Meals (as per itinerary)
- Land and boat transfers between locations
- Guided activities and equipment (as per itinerary)
- Park fees and taxes

**Accommodations:** Lodge at Crooked Tree, Lighthouse Reef Basecamp on Half Moon Caye, Belize City Hotel

**Package does not include:** International airfare, gratuities, medical/travel insurance, snorkel/fishing/scuba gear, meals in Belize city, taxi to international airport, additional activities, costs incurred by flight delays

**Trip Highlights:** Snorkel the rim of the Great Blue Hole and "Aquarium", paddling turquoise waters of the atoll, glamping on a private island, fishing for dinner, exploring the Red-Footed Booby colony & Magnificent Frigate Bird Rookery

**Recommended for:** solo travelers, couples, families with young or older children, off-grid adventurers

**Pairs well with:** Cayo Caves & Temples Extension, Maya World Extension, Sacred Temples & Caves Extension

Pricing based on Double Occupancy. Single supplement subject to availability. Contact our Trip Planners for details.





**Lighthouse Reef** is Belize's oldest Marine Protected area and UNESCO World Heritage site, located 56 miles offshore from the mainland. It's abundant marine life offers unparalleled snorkeling and paddling. Spend six nights on Belize's most remote island in safari-style tent cabanas. Our all-inclusive Adventure Basecamp on Half Moon Caye, which is a national park managed by the Belize Audubon Society. This unique island setting is home to an abundant Red-Footed Boobie colony and Magnificent Frigate rookery, as well as being situated just 6 miles from the Great Blue Hole. This itinerary is ideal for families or traveling companions of mixed abilities and interests.

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

## Typical Daily Itinerary:

**Day 1:** Upon arrival at the Belize International Airport, you will be welcomed by an Island Expeditions representative and whisked away to the Bird's Eye View Lodge in the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. This area is renowned for its extensive wetlands, and four main lagoons which are home to hundreds of species of birds and other fauna.

After checking into your accommodations, meet your fellow travellers for dinner and discuss the days ahead.

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

**Meals:** Dinner

**Day 2:** We rise early, and with a coffee in hand, take a motor boat tour of the Crooked Tree Lagoon looking for rare birds. After breakfast, we travel back to Belize City, make a quick stop at a local shop and head to our waiting motor boat charter. We travel by boat 56 miles out to sea, passing through mangrove ranges, white sand cayes, arriving at Belize's furthest island group, on Lighthouse Reef Atoll. Upon arriving at Half Moon Caye, your guide team will orient you to the island and camp to settle you into your accommodations. You will then enjoy a late lunch and then a session of sea kayak and snorkeling instruction before heading out on the water.

**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 are exceptionally clear with the most abundant fish populations and colorful coral reefs in Belize. This rich ecosystem offers access to some of the best sea kayaking and snorkeling (as well as scuba diving) in the Caribbean.

You will have ample opportunities to learn from our guides about the marine reef ecology, the local flora and fauna, as well as the island's coconut forest and littoral forest, more common to the interior of the mainland. Half Moon Caye is a rich 45-acre nature preserve, hosting a 4000 red-footed booby colony as well as a Magnificent Frigate bird rookery. We tour the viewing platforms built by the Belize Audubon Society to observe the many nesting sites on the island.

All itineraries are subject to change depending on weather and safety considerations.

**As our international guest, flexibility is key to an unforgettable and un-BELIZE-able experience.**



*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*

### **Itinerary Cont.**

Over the next few days, you will have many options to explore, including a quickly disappearing shipwreck just north of the caye. The guides will present activities each day based on the weather conditions, and the group's desires. 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. We will pack a hearty lunch and snorkel gear and plan to be away for most of the day. We paddle our kayaks (with motor boat support) to the neighboring island, called Long Caye. After a good paddle, we snorkel a local patch reef and return to the island dock for lunch in the field. Next we jump into the water and drift snorkel the "Aquarium", an undersea cliff known for the profusion of fish and towering coral formations. We raise the sails and sail our kayaks or paddle back to camp.

**Accommodation: Half Moon Basecamp**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Day 7:** Today, we travel to the world renowned Great Blue Hole. A huge collapsed sink hole formation, that was discovered and made famous by ocean explorer, Jacques Cousteau. We motor boat or paddle the 6 mile journey, to this perfectly circular formation bejeweled with soft and hard corals of many different colours. After a full day of exploring, you'll return just in time for a wonderful seafood dinner prepared especially for you by our cooks. After dinner, we have a cultural presentation of drumming and dancing to celebrate the last night at Half Moon Caye

**Accommodation: Half Moon Basecamp**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Day 8:** The choice is yours for your last morning at Lighthouse Reef Atoll. Snorkel your favourite patch reefs, walk the island trails, and swing in a hammock or beach comb 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: None**

**Meals: Not included**

**Travel Notes:** Meals in Belize City (dinner on day 8 and breakfast on day 9) are not included. Transportation to airport on day 9 is not included.

Due to the remote location of the Lighthouse Reef Basecamp, the activities on the reef portion of this trip are weather-dependent and are subject to change.

**Contact our Trip Planners for Flight & Hotel Packages or to extend your Belize itinerary by combining this trip with another Island Expeditions adventure or extensions.**