



## Rainforest Wildlife Extension

A sojourn in the Mayflower Bocawina National Park, the Cockscomb Basin Jaguar Preserve, and the renowned village of Maya Center.

**Duration:** 2 or 3 Nights

**Starts:** Dangriga

**Finishes:** Dangriga

**Season:** Year-round based on hotel availability

**Habitats:** Broadleaf Rainforest

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

**Activities:** Hiking, waterfall swimming and trail walks, birding

**Optional:** zipline, off-site tours (fees apply)

**Package includes:**

- 2 or 3-night standard accommodations
- Meals (as per itinerary)
- Land transfers Bocawina/Dangriga or Hopkins
- Guided on-site adventures (as per itinerary)
- Park fees and taxes

**Accommodations:** Bocawina Rainforest Resort

**Package does not include:** International or domestic airfare, gratuities, off-site tours, medical/travel insurance, additional activities, costs incurred by flight delays

**Trip Highlights:** Immersing in the sights / sounds / smells of the rainforest, exploring the Cockscomb Basin Jaguar museum and interpretive trails, morning birdwatching with over 300 bird species present, visit to the Mayan chocolate maker, Maya Women's Cooperative Craft Center

**Recommended for:** Solo travelers, couples, people looking for softer adventure, families with young or older children

**Pairs well with:** Paradise Scuba Adventure, Glover's Getaway, Paradise Islands, Lighthouse Reef Adventure 6N or 8N, Lighthouse Getaway

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



The **Rainforest Wildlife Extension** wildlife exploration to the southern Maya Mountains, exploring the 7000-acre Mayflower Bocawina National Park and the adjacent world-famous 10000-acre Cockscomb Basin Jaguar Reserve. Then a visit to the village of Maya Center, meeting the Maya chocolate maker and the Maya Women's cooperative. We visit the Cockscomb Basin Jaguar Preserve's museum, and hike along bush trails looking for birds and wildlife. This adventure is ideal for guests who want a softer pace to explore the broadleaf tropical rainforest and enjoy nature, birdwatching, and wildlife viewing.

## Typical Daily Itinerary:

**Day 1:** Your adventure starts with a pick up in the coastal town of Dangriga, and a short 30 minute drive into the southern Maya Mountains. Situated in the middle of Mayflower Bocawina National Park, Bocawina Rainforest Resort is the perfect location to experience the broadleaf tropical rainforest and the amazing flora and fauna.

You'll start your trip by settling in and learning about the property and the experiences that lie ahead in the surrounding mountains and rainforest. You may want to sign up for the optional afternoon activities or a nocturnal hike.

**Accommodation: Bocawina Rainforest Resort    Meals: Dinner**

**Day 2:** Rise with the first light of day emerging through the jungle mist, and experiencing the sounds of the tropics is a pure delight, with the chatter of parrots and parakeets flying overhead. Finding a quiet spot to sip a coffee with binoculars close at hand is a sure way to soak in the essence of the rainforest.

After a hearty breakfast, we travel by vehicle to the Cockscomb Basin Jaguar Reserve and the village of Maya Center. We make our way up into the park headquarters and museum dedicated to the late Alan Rabinowitz, and his journey to create the world's first Jaguar Preserve (Note: "Jaguar" by Alan Roboniwitz is an excellent read)

We then embark on a guided trail loop with fantastic bird-watching and wildlife-viewing opportunities. Cockscomb is home to the world's largest concentrations of jaguars and other endangered animals, including ocelot, margay, Baird's tapir, and scarlet macaw.

After the hike, return to the nearby village of Maya Center, the Women's Craft Cooperative, and Che-il Cacao - a traditional cacao chocolate maker. Returning to Bocawina, we drive through the tranquil Creole Village of Sittee River, stopping at the historic Serpon Sugar Mill. From there, we stop Hopkins' small Garifuna fishing village for a chance to browse the local shops, or simply have a nice cool drink next to the ocean. Hopkins is a great place to experience the food, music and traditions of the Garifuna people.

*"We had a great time. Accommodations were very nice. We walked to the Bocawina Falls and it is very picturesque and beautiful. We also went on a guided rainforest walk and that was excellent with Greg as our guide. He regaled us with stories and told us the medicinal uses of the plants in the forest. It was amazing to wake up to the sound of the howler monkeys roaring in the rainforest.*

Wendy - AB Canada

### **Itinerary Cont.**

You should sign up for the optional nocturnal hike this evening. A walk in the rainforest is magical at night, as is exploring the moonlit trails and listening to the calls of crickets, frogs, and birds. You are likely to encounter pacas, owls, and kinkajou and maybe even see a wildcat!

**Accommodation: Bocawina Rainforest Resort**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Day 3:** For those departing on day 3, after a hearty breakfast in the Wild Fig Bistro, you can request transportation to Dangriga or Hopkins after check-out.

For those staying an extra night, we recommend exploring the miles of hiking trails at Bocawina, a haven for hiking enthusiasts, offering a captivating network of trails suitable for various skill levels. The park features the family-friendly Bocawina Falls Trail or the Bird Loop, ideal for a leisurely hike. Adventure seekers can test their limits on the strenuous Big Drop Falls Trail, leading to a spectacular waterfall.

For those who have experienced ziplining and seek an even more incredible thrill, we suggest the AfterDark zipline adventure. It's exhilarating and a bit spooky but immensely enjoyable. Please book this adventure at least 24 hours in advance; a small fee applies as this is not an adventure on the regular schedule.

**Accommodation: Bocawina Rainforest Resort**

**Meals: Breakfast (Lunch, Dinner on 3-night trips)**

**Day 4:** You can stay close to the resort or follow a trail to a favourite pool or waterfall. We highly recommend a morning birdwatching guided tour; with over 300 species identified on the property, this National Park is ideal for birdwatching aficionados. After breakfast, you can request transportation to Dangriga or Hopkins after check-out.

**Accommodation: None**

**Meals: Breakfast**

**Travel Notes:** On this itinerary, you will have free time to explore or relax at your leisure. Nearby swimming holes, waterfalls, unexcavated Mayan ruins (mounds), and forest trails can be explored without guides. Bocawina National Park offers seven waterfalls that can be accessed from the eco-resort. Optional off-site tours can also be organized at an additional cost through the resort.

If you are adding this trip extension to an existing IE trip, transportation must be arranged to one of the rendezvous points in Dangriga. If you arrive late or leave early, we'll make arrangements to accommodate the activities in this itinerary.

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