



Sacred Caves & Temples Extension

Explore the Ancient Mayan City of Caracol, then descend into the Sacred caves of Actun Tunichil Muknal, based from a beautiful lodge on the banks of the Macal River.

Duration: 3 Nights

Starts: Dangriga or Belize City

Finishes: Dangriga or Belize City

Season: Year-round based on hotel availability

Habitats: Broadleaf Tropical Rainforest, Highland Pine Ridge, Caribbean Lowland Savanna

Activity level: ●●●○○ [3] No experience required

Activities: Hiking, caving, swimming, Mayan ruins exploration, rainforest trails and waterways, birding

Package includes:

- 3-night accommodation in San Ignacio area
- Meals (as per itinerary)
- Land transfers between locations
- Guided activities and equipment (as per itinerary)
- Park fees and taxes

Accommodations: Crystal Paradise Resort

Package does not include: airfare, gratuities, medical/travel insurance, additional tours, costs incurred by flight delays

Trip Highlights: The famous Actun Tunichil Muknal (ATM) cave, Caracol Mayan ruins, swim the Rio Frio pools, fantastic birdwatching and wildlife

Recommended for: Solo travelers, couples, families, off-grid adventurers, girls trip, LGBTQ travelers, international backpackers

Pairs well with: Lighthouse Reef Adventures, Glover's Reef & Maya Mountains, Glover's Getaway

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



Journey west to explore the Actun Tunichil Muknal (ATM) sacred caves and a full-day expedition into the Chiquibul Forest Reserve to swim the Rio On pools and to explore the ancient Mayan city of Caracol. Over three nights, we enjoy the intimate hospitality of the Tut family at their Crystal Paradise Resort near San Ignacio overlooking the Macal River in the beautiful Cayo District.

Typical Daily Itinerary:

Day 1: Rendezvous with your driver in Dangriga, Belize City, or the Belize International Airport, and transfer west to the village of Cristo Rey. From here, we follow a meandering road to Crystal Paradise Resort, which is in a picturesque setting and perched on a hill above the Macal River. You have time to settle in and explore the property.

Accommodation: Crystal Paradise Resort

Meals: Dinner

Day 2: After an early breakfast, the drive deep into the most remote rainforest location in Belize, to the ancient Mayan city of Caracol. Today's drive takes us through breathtaking scenery through the Mountain Pine Ridge, over a series of creeks and rivers, and descending into lush tropical rainforest of the Chiquibul Rainforest Reserve. The ancient Mayan city of Caracol dates back to the classic period and is believed to be one of Belize's largest Mayan settlements of that era. The city walls contain over 35,000 known structures, including five plazas, four palaces, three temples, 24 stelae, two ball courts, reservoirs, causeways, and an astronomical observatory. Upon our return from Caracol, we stop at Rio Frio Caves and a refreshing dip into the Rio On Pools for a swim. Here, you can immerse yourself in the refreshing waters, swim in the serene pools on the edge of the mountain pine ridge.

Accommodation: Crystal Paradise Resort

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3: Today's extraordinary adventure takes us deep underground and into the Mayan underworld known as Xibalba, a mythical realm inhabited by spirits, powerful gods and sacred rituals. We hike, wade, ford, swim, and climb into the sacrificial chambers to witness first-hand artifacts deep in the Actun Tunichil Muknal (ATM) caves system. We find evidence of ceremonial offerings, and sacrifice. As we climb the underground river system to the high chamber, it ends at the top with the Crystal Maiden, skeletal remains that have been calcified into the flowstone.

Accommodation: Crystal Paradise Resort

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4: Birdlife and wildlife abound, and early mornings are the most active. Wake to a coffee, grab your binoculars and spend a quiet hour watching wildlife. Your morning transfer time will be set based on your next tour rendezvous or international flight time.

Accommodation: None

Meals: Breakfast

Travel Notes: This trip involves 2-3 hours of hiking with some elevation, multiple river crossings, swimming and climbing in tight areas in caves, temple climbing and trail walking.

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

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.