



# Epic Belize Adventure

From sacred caves and Mayan ruins to remote island reefs, explore Belize's natural and cultural wonders in one unforgettable journey!"

**Duration:** 6 Nights

**Starts:** Belize City

**Finishes:** Belize City

**Seasonal Trip:** December to April

**Habitats:** Caribbean Pine Savannah - Pine Ridge - Broadleaf Tropical Rainforest - Barrier Reef - Lighthouse Atoll

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

**Activities:** Caving, Mayan Ruins Exploration, Wildlife Viewing, Sea kayaking (paddling and sailing), walk in snorkeling, handline fishing, stand-up paddle boarding

**Optional:** Scuba diving -fees apply

**Package includes:**

- 3-night at Crystal Paradise Resort
- 3-night safari-style "basecamp" accommodations
- Meals (as per itinerary)
- Boat transfers Belize City/Half Moon Caye
- Guided activities and equipment (as per itinerary)
- Park fees and taxes

**Accommodations:** Crystal Paradise Resort, Lighthouse Reef Basecamp on Half Moon Caye

**Package does not include:** airfare, gratuities, medical/travel insurance, snorkel/scuba gear, additional activities (scuba), costs incurred by flight delays

**Trip Highlights:** Actun Tunichil Muknal (ATM) cave, Caracol Mayan ruins, swim the Rio Frio pools, fantastic birdwatching and wildlife, the Great Blue Hole, paddling in crystal clear waters, glamping on a private island, fishing for dinner, explore the magnificent frigate bird rookery and red-footed booby colony

**Recommended for:** solo travelers, couples, thrill seekers, off-grid adventurers, digital detox

**Pairs well with:** Cayo Caves & Temples Extension, Maya World Extension, 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. Next, travel to Belize's most remote island group at **Lighthouse Reef Atoll** - a marine protected area and UNESCO world heritage site, located fifty-six miles off the shore of the Belize coast. Stay on Half Moon Caye, where you will spend four memorable nights. Managed by the Belize Audubon Society, Half Moon Caye is the perfect base to go out and explore the wonders of the coral reef system.

**"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:** Rendezvous with your driver in Belize City, 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 the 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



*Came with my wife and two children and we all had a fantastic time. I have to compliment Island Adventures on how well the trip logistics were handled - no waiting for transportation anytime on the trip, everything was like clockwork, and there were a lot of logistics to take care of! All the guides were knowledgeable and good company. The Belizean guides had the energy & enthusiasm of kids and were so good with ours.*

*Hamish & Deb - BC Canada*

### **Itinerary Cont.**

**Day 4:** We rise early to get a quick breakfast and head 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**

**Day 5, 6 :** 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 and littoral forest (more common to the interior of the mainland). Half Moon Caye is a beautiful and rich 45-acre nature preserve, hosting a 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.

Over the next few days, you will have many options to explore, including a quickly disappearing shipwreck just north of the cayes. 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!

We also travel to the world renowned Great Blue Hole. A huge collapsed sinkhole 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 colors. After a full day of exploring, you'll return just in time for a wonderful 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 7:** The choice is yours for your last morning at Lighthouse Reef Atoll. Snorkel your favorite patch reefs, walk the island trails, and swing in a hammock or beach comb along the island beaches.

After lunch, a motorboat charter picks everyone up for the return trip 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.

**Accommodation: None**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

**Travel Notes:** For travelers leaving Belize after this trip, we also strongly suggest spending a night in Belize City. International connections out of the country require a departure the next day.

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