



Maya World Extension

Journey into the ancient Maya realm of Lamanai and Altun Ha, plus discover wonders of nature at the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary.

Duration: 2 Nights
Starts: Belize City
Finishes: Belize City
Season: Year-round based on hotel availability

Habitats: Lowland Tropical Wetlands, Caribbean Savannah

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

Activities: Hiking, Mayan Ruins Exploration, Rainforest Trails, Tropical Waterways, Motor Boat Travel, Birding, Photography, Natural History Interpretation, Wildlife Viewing

Package includes:

- 2-night accommodation Crooked Tree Village
- Meals (as per itinerary)
- Land and boat transfers between locations
- Guided activities and equipment (as per itinerary)
- Park fees and taxes

Accommodations: Birds Eye View Lodge

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

Trip Highlights: Lamanai and Altun Ha Mayan ruins, motorboat trip on the New River, wildlife - monkey and crocodiles are common, birding Crooked Tree Lagoon

Recommended for: couples, families with young or older children, birdwatchers, and wildlife buffs

Pairs well with: Lighthouse Reef Adventure, Glover's Reef & Maya Mountains, Paradise Islands, Ultimate Adventure

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



Overview:

The **Maya World** Extension is a two-night / three-day inland adventure to **Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary**, home to some of Belize's best birding and wildlife viewing. Explore Crooked Tree lagoons by boat – an excellent opportunity to view northern jacanas, white ibis, wood storks and the giant jabiru stork, among others. Visit Crooked Tree Village, one of Belize's oldest Creole settlements. Tour the ancient city of **Lamanai**, returning by boat along the intriguing New River lagoon, with opportunities to spot monkeys, parrots, toucans and Morelet's Crocodiles. Journey to the Mayan ruin of **Altun Ha**, known for the impressive temple of the Sun God. This extension combines seamlessly with other IE trips and is considered an exceptional area for birding and wildlife.

Typical Daily Itinerary:

Day 1: Upon arrival at the Belize International Airport, rendezvous with your driver and transfer north-west to Bird's Eye View Lodge in the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. Expect the drive to take approx. 30 minutes. 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, we meet for dinner. This evening, explore the nearby Creole village of Crooked Tree (the local name of the cashew tree).

Accommodation: Bird's Eye View Lodge

Meals: Dinner

Day 2: After breakfast, you will have a full day of exploration as you travel north by road, then west by river to the Mayan ruins of Lamanai. We travel down the New River by riverboat, making stops to view wildlife along the way. Iguanas, Parrots, Toucans, Aracaris, and Morelet's Crocodiles are frequently seen. Once we reach the shores of Lamanai you'll go on an extensive guided tour, visiting the many temples, plazas, palaces, and museums within the park. After lunch, we continue deeper into the abandoned colonial sugar mill. In the afternoon, we depart Lamanai by riverboat, and return to toast a spectacular sunset over the lagoon at Bird's Eye View Lodge.

Accommodation: Bird's Eye View Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3: With an early morning coffee and binoculars in hand, enjoy the waking wilderness and hundreds of birds feeding along the shores of the Crooked Tree Lagoons. Created in 1984, the sanctuary was primarily established to preserve a network of inland lagoons, swamps, and waterways that shelter a huge population of resident and migratory birds, including the jabiru stork. After breakfast, enjoy a morning boat birding tour of the lagoons to add species to your bird list.

After lunch, you'll have time to relax and gather your bags before departing for the Mayan site of Altun Ha. Altun Ha dates back to 600 BC, where it functioned as an important ceremonial and trading center between the interior and central Maya people. Within this site are the remains of more than 275 archaeological structures and 250 to 300 unexcavated mounds.

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.

"The guides were very good at spotting things we would never have seen. They were very friendly and taught us a lot about Belize - the country, people, culture and natural history. Birds Eye View Lodge was a perfect location and has good amenities."

Ron & Evelyn - AB Canada

Itinerary Cont.

You'll return to Belize City at approximately 4 p.m. All other guests will be dropped off at the Belize International Airport or the Belize Biltmore Plaza (in Belize City) to continue with your IE trip, or independent arrangements.

Accommodation: None

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Travel Notes: If you are adding this trip extension to an existing IE trip, transportation will be arranged to one of the rendezvous points in Belize City. If you arrive late or leave early, we'll accommodate the activities in this itinerary. If you are flying home on day 3, the transfer time from Crooked Tree to the Belize International Airport can be coordinated to connect with your international flight.

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

