



Maya Reef Explorer

Explore the rich coral reefs and white sand cayes of Lighthouse Atoll
plus the Maya World of Lamanai and the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary

Duration: 6 Nights

Starts: Belize City

Finishes: Belize City

Seasonal Trip: December to April

Habitats: Tropical Lowland Wetlands - Caribbean
Pine Savannah - Barrier Reef - Lighthouse Atoll

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

Activities: Birdwatching, Wildlife Encounters,
Mayan Ruins Exploration, Hiking, Walk-in Snorkeling,
Hand-Line Fishing, Sea-Kayaking, Kayak-Sailing,
Stand-up Paddle Boarding

Optional: Scuba diving -fees apply

Package includes:

- 3-night accommodation Crooked Tree Village
- 3-night safari style "basecamp" accommodations
- Meals (as per itinerary)
- Land and boat transfers (as per itinerary)
- Guided activities and equipment (as per itinerary)
- Park fees and taxes

Accommodations: Lodge at Crooked Tree, 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: Lamanai and Altun Ha ruins, the Great
Blue Hole, outstanding birdwatching, walk-off snorkeling,
night snorkel, private island glamping, fishing for dinner,
explore the magnificent frigate bird rookery and red-footed
booby colony

Recommended for: solo travellers, couples, off-grid
adventurers, families, digital detox, birdwatchers, wildlife
enthusiasts, history buffs

Pairs well with: Cayo Caves & Temples Extension, Sacred
Temples & Caves Extension

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



Overview:

Journey inland to **Birds Eye View Lodge** in the **Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary**. Enjoy a full day river cruise adventure to the Maya World of **Lamanai**. Next, enjoy world-class birding and explore the local Mayan ruins of **Altun Ha**. At last, travel to Belize's most remote island group at **Lighthouse Reef Atoll** - a marine protected area and UNESCO world heritage site. Stay at our exclusive basecamp on **Half Moon Caye**, and spend your days exploring both above and below the water, including the famous Great Blue Hole.

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.

Lighthouse Reef: Due to its isolated location from the mainland, the waters of Lighthouse Reef are exceptionally clear with the most abundant fish populations in Belize. This rich ecosystem offers access to some of the best snorkeling (as well as scuba diving) in the Caribbean.

Half Moon Caye: Managed by the Belize Audubon Society, HMC is an incredible 45-acre nature preserve hosting Belize's oldest site of wildlife conservation - a bird sanctuary for the Red-footed booby and Magnificent frigate bird. The island is host to a rare littoral forest (more common to the interior of the mainland), an endemic species of gecko (Leaf-towed), and a variety of other flora and fauna.

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. 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: 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, we explore the many temples, plazas and palaces within the park's boundaries. We have lunch at the site, and continue to the colonial sugar mill built at the Mayan site. 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: Today's adventure starts with a morning birding tour on the lagoon, with some down time at the lodge. After lunch, we head to the Mayan ruins of Altun Ha, then return to the lodge for an evening sunset over the lagoon and our final dinner in Crooked Tree Village.

Accommodation: Bird's Eye View Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

*My husband caught 2 barracuda. The cooks then prepared the barracuda for our group for lunch and we were all able to share in the stories! Wonderful memorable experience thanks to these folks!
Bravo!*

Karen - MB Canada
Maya Reef Explorer

Itinerary Contd.

Day 4: We rise early for breakfast and transfer to Belize City for a 10:00AM boat charter. You will have a chance to stop for snacks and provisions along the way. We travel by boat 56 miles out to sea, passing through mangrove ranges and white sand cayes before arriving at Belize's furthest island group. Expect the ride to take 2-3 hours. Upon arriving at Half Moon Caye, your guide team will orient you to the island and settle you into your accommodations. You will enjoy a late lunch and then an intro session of walk-in snorkeling at one of our local reefs.

Accommodation: Half Moon Basecamp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5, 6: Over the course of the next few days, we will give you the chance to discover all of our local walk-off snorkel sites. In between snorkels we host information sessions on the history of Belize, its unique marine ecosystem and the local culture. We will also travel to the famous snorkel site "The Aquarium" and world renowned Great Blue Hole. A huge collapsed sinkhole that was discovered and made famous by ocean explorer, Jacques Cousteau. This perfectly circular formation is bejewelled with an array of hard and soft coral and a wide variety of colorful reef fish. This is a great place to practice more advanced snorkeling techniques or observe others doing so from the surface.

All guided sessions are optional and laying in a hammock is considered an "official" activity. Evenings at Half Moon Caye are filled with happy hour gatherings, delicious dinners, star gazing, cold beverages, beach games, cultural presentations, and incredible Caribbean sunsets.

Day 7: The choice is yours for your last morning at Lighthouse Reef Atoll. Snorkel your favorite patch reef, walk the island trails, and swing in a hammock or beach comb along the island shores. After lunch, a motorboat charter picks everyone up for the return trip to the mainland. This return journey takes you back through Turneffe Atoll across the barrier reef, and arrives in Belize City. Expect to be back at the Biltmore Hotel by late afternoon.

Accommodation: N/A

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Marine Activity Notes: This itinerary is designed to be "Snorkelling Focused". Kayaks and SUP's are available for use; however, our guides will be utilized mostly for snorkelling sessions. If you'd like more guided kayaking and SUP check out our Glover's trips, Lighthouse Reef 5 Night, Lighthouse Reef 8 Night, or Double Atoll Adventure.

Travel Notes: For travellers 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 or extensions.

