



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, Walk-in Snorkeling, Hand-Line Fishing, Sea-Kayaking, Kayak-Sailing, 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, Rio Frio pools, fantastic birdwatching and wildlife, the Great Blue Hole, 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 travelers, couples, thrill seekers, off-grid adventurers, families, digital detox, custom groups

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.



Overview:

Journey west to explore the incredible **Actun Tunichil Muknal** (ATM) sacred caves. Experience a full-day expedition into the Chiquibul Forest Reserve to swim the **Rio On pools** and explore the ancient Mayan city of **Caracol**. Enjoy the intimate hospitality of the Tut family at their **Crystal Paradise Resort** near San Ignacio, overlooking the Macal River. 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 and 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 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 before enjoying a dinner at the resort restaurant.

Accommodation: Crystal Paradise Resort

Meals: Dinner

Day 2: After an early breakfast, you 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 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 the Rio On natural pools. Here, you can swim in the serene pools on the edge of the Mountain Pine Ridge.

Accommodation: Crystal Paradise Resort

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.

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 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, 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: We rise early for breakfast and transfer to Belize City for our awaiting motor 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 our basecamps are filled with happy hour gatherings, delicious dinners, beach games, star gazing, cold beverages, cultural presentations, and incredible Caribbean sunsets.

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 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: None

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 activity, check out our Glover's Reef 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.