



Lighthouse Reef 8N

Embark on a seven-night remote Basecamp Adventure to discover the vibrant coral reef and pristine white sand cayes of Lighthouse Reef.

Duration: 8 Nights

Starts: Belize City

Finishes: Belize City

Seasonal Trip: December to April

Habitats: Barrier Reef - Lighthouse Atoll

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

Activities: Wildlife Viewing, Walk-in Snorkeling, Hand-Line Fishing, Sea-Kayaking, Kayak-Sailing, Stand-up Paddle Boarding

Optional: Scuba diving -fees apply

Package includes:

- 1-night Belize City hotel accommodation
- 7-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: Lighthouse Reef Basecamp on Half Moon Caye, Belize City Biltmore Plaza

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

Trip Highlights: Walk-in snorkeling, the Great Blue Hole, paddling in crystal clear waters, night snorkel, private island glamping, fishing for dinner, explore the magnificent frigate bird rookery and red-footed booby colony

Recommended for: solo travelers, couples, families with young or older children, off-grid adventurers, digital detox, history enthusiasts

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

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



Overview:

Journey to Belize's most remote island group at **Lighthouse Reef Atoll**. Located fifty-six miles off the Belize coast, this is a marine protected area and UNESCO world heritage site. Stay at our exclusive basecamp on **Half Moon Caye**, and spend your days discovering everything this area has to offer. Each day you'll have a choice of several exceptional paddling and snorkeling adventures where you'll explore both above and below the water.

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: Arrive in Belize City International Airport (BZE), and be met with an IE representative, where we will transfer you to the Belize Biltmore Plaza. Check into your first night's accommodation and acclimatize to your new environment. Meals are on your own, and can be purchased at the hotel. You will meet other travellers in the lobby the following morning.

Accommodation: Biltmore Plaza

Meals: N/A

Days 2: Meet an Island Expeditions representative at 8:30 am in the Biltmore hotel lobby, make a quick stop at a local shop for last minute snacks and provisions then head to our awaiting motor boat charter for a 10:00AM departure. 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 boat 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: 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.

"Our entire family loved the trip. I have been telling everyone how great it is. I loved the fact we got to spend 5 days in such an incredible place, with a great group of people and so many fun activities. The staff were great at working with both adults and our children."

Eva - BC Canada

Itinerary Cont.

Days 3-8: Over the coming days, you will have many options to explore, including a quickly disappearing shipwreck just north of the caye. The guides will present activities each day based on weather conditions, and the group's desires. In between activities we host information sessions on the history of Belize, its unique marine ecosystem and the local culture.

On this trip, we explore further into the Lighthouse Reef atoll, with extended fishing trips, new patch reefs, or downwind paddling on the SUP's. We also travel to the famous snorkel spot "The Aquarium" as well as world renowned "Great Blue Hole" - a huge collapsed sinkhole formation that was discovered and made famous by ocean explorer, Jacques Cousteau. We motor boat, paddle or sail the 6-mile journey to this perfectly circular formation bejeweled 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 9: 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: None

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Travel Notes: For travellers leaving Belize after this trip, you must spend a night in Belize City. International connections out of the country require a departure the next day.

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

