



Epic Belize Adventure

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

Duration: 7 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: Snorkelling - Caving - Mayan Ruin Wildlife Viewing - Beach Games - Drumming - Sea-Kayaking - Kayak-Sailing - Stand-up Paddle Boarding (SUP)

Optional: Scuba diving - *please inquire*

Package includes:

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

Accommodations: Belize City Biltmore Plaza, Lighthouse Reef Basecamp, Crystal Paradise Resort.

What Makes it Special: An Entire Island to Yourself - Waterfront "Glamping" - Caribbean Sunsets - Fresh Local Seafood - Incredible Stargazing - Happy Hour on the Beach - Walk-off Snorkeling - Wildlife Encounters - Night-Snorkeling - The Blue Hole - Island Bird Sanctuary - Natural Pool Swimming - Remote Ruins - Sacred Caves - Cultural Drumming - Belize's Best Guides

Trip Highlights: Lighthouse Reef Basecamp - The Great Blue Hole - Actun Tunichil Muknal Cave (ATM) - Caracol Mayan Archeological Site/Rio Frio Pools

Pairs well with: Rainforest Canopy Extension, Cayo Caves & Temples Extension, Maya World Extension.

Not Included: airfare, gratuities, medical/travel insurance, snorkel gear rental, scuba diving, costs incurred by flight delays

Pricing: Per person, based on double room occupancy. Single supplement is subject to availability. Please contact our trip planners for more details



Overview:

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 enjoy an array of guided snorkelling adventures. Enjoy the intimate hospitality of the Tut family at their **Crystal Paradise Resort** near San Ignacio, overlooking the Macal River. Journey west to explore the incredible **Actun Tunichil Muknal** (ATM) sacred cave. Experience a full-day expedition into the Chiquibul Forest Reserve to discover the ancient Mayan city of **Caracol** and swim the natural Rio On pools.

Basecamping: Our spacious safari-style tents are on raised wooden floors, have ample headroom to walk around, and are equipped with wood-framed beds (6-inch foam mattresses). Tents can be configured with either double or single beds. All bed linen is provided.

Lighthouse Reef Atoll: This rich ecosystem offers access to some of the best snorkeling and scuba diving in Belize.

Half Moon Caye: 45-acre tropical island and nature preserve managed by the Belize Audubon Society. Home to 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), sea-turtle nesting sites, and a host of other flora and fauna.

Typical Daily Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Belize City International Airport (BZE), and be met with an Island Expeditions (IE) representative who will transfer you to the Belize Biltmore Plaza. Check into your your first night's accommodation and acclimatize to your new environment. Meals can be purchased at the hotel and are not included on this day. You will meet your fellow travellers the following morning.

Accommodation: Biltmore Plaza

Meals: N/A

Day 2: Meet your IE driver at 8:30AM in the hotel lobby. A stop will be made along the way for any last minute snacks and provisions before arriving at the dock for a 10:00AM departure. You'll make the journey in a large modern covered boat, passing through narrow mangrove channels and tropical islands before arriving at Half Moon Caye on Lighthouse Reef Atoll. The distance travelled is approx. 55 miles and takes 2-2.5 hours. Upon arriving at Half Moon Caye, we will orient you to the island and settle you into your accommodations - right at the waters edge! You will enjoy a late lunch followed by a snorkeling introduction and guided session at one of our local house reefs.

Accommodation: Half Moon Caye 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.

We were looking for something that involved a variety of activities while getting a sampling of the culture, history, food and natural features of this beautiful little country. This trip exceeded our expectations in every respect! Thank you Island Expeditions for an unforgettable experience!
Barb W - BC Canada

Itinerary Cont.

Days 3-4: Over the next few days, you will discover all of our local house reefs which are accessed from right off the shore of the island. In between snorkels we host information sessions that cover a wide range of topics - anything from reef ecology to Belizean history. You will also travel by boat to the world renowned "Great Blue Hole". A huge collapsed sinkhole that was made famous by ocean explorer, Jacques Cousteau. This is a great place to practice more advanced snorkeling techniques or observe others doing so from the surface. Evenings on Half Moon Caye are filled with happy hour gatherings, night walks, delicious dinners, beach games, star gazing, cold beverages, cultural presentations, and incredible Caribbean sunsets. Everything offered throughout the trip is optional and laying in a hammock is considered an "official" activity.

Accommodation: Half Moon Caye Basecamp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5: The choice is yours for your last morning on Half Moon Caye. Snorkel your favorite patch reef, walk the island trails, or swing in a hammock. After an early lunch you will board the motor boat charter and return to the mainland. The return journey takes you back through Turneffe Atoll, across the barrier reef, and back to Belize City. Expect to arrive by mid afternoon where your driver awaits to transfer you to the picturesque - Crystal Paradise Resort. Enjoy a slow evening at the property which is perched on a hill above the Macal River.

Accommodation: Crystal Paradise Resort

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6: After an early breakfast, you journey deep into one of the most remote rainforest location in Belize, to the ancient Mayan city of Caracol. Enjoy a breath-taking drive through the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve - over a series of creeks and rivers and into the lush Chiquibul National Park. The Caracol archeological site dates back to the classic period and is believed to be one of Belize's largest Mayan settlements. The site contains over 35,000 known structures, including 24 stelae, 5 plazas, 4 palaces, 3 temples, 1 ball court, and an astronomical observatory. Upon returning from Caracol, you will stop at Rio Frio Caves and the Rio On natural pools for a refreshing swim before arriving back at Crystal Paradise Resort.

Accommodation: Crystal Paradise Resort

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7: Today's extraordinary experience takes you into the Mayan underworld. An underground realm inhabited by mythical spirits, powerful gods and sacred rituals. Swim, wade, and hike your way through the cave system where you'll discover Mayan artifacts and evidence of ancient ceremonial offerings. In the high chamber you'll witness the final resting site of the famous "Crystal Maiden" who's remains have been calcified into the flowstone. This incredible experience is not one that you will soon forget. There are different options for navigating through the cave and only a basic level of fitness is required.

Accommodation: Crystal Paradise Resort

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8: Wake to a cup of coffee, grab your binoculars and see what you can spot from the comforts of the resort. Early mornings are the most active time of day for birds and wildlife in Belize. After breakfast, your morning transfer time will be set based on your next tour rendezvous or international flight time.

Accommodation: None

Meals: Breakfast

Marine Activities at Half Moon Caye Basecamp

This itinerary is designed to be **"snorkelling focused"**. Kayaks and SUP's are available for use; however, the guides will be utilized mostly for snorkelling sessions. If you'd like more guided kayaking or SUP options, check out: Lighthouse Getaway 4 Night, Lighthouse Reef 8 Night, Double Atoll Adventure, or any of our Glover's Reef itineraries.