



*Belize*

2018 Summer





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# #welovebelize

Magnum Tours has been customizing Belize vacations for over 25 years & our experienced agents visit Belize yearly. We offer exclusive packages for any type of traveler. Let us introduce you to the breathtaking world of Belize.

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# Get Started

## Where is Belize?

Belize is located in Central America between Guatemala, Mexico and the Caribbean Sea and is the only English-speaking country in the area. There are daily flights from the United States from all the major airports: Miami (2h), Houston (2.5h), Dallas (3h), Atlanta (3.5h), Denver (4h), Chicago (4.5h), Los Angeles (5h), Newark (6.5h), and the list goes on and on! All flights arrive to the main international airport in Belize City (BZE).

## What should I expect?

Belize is one of the smallest and best preserved countries in Central America, offering the chance to discover the ancient Mayan civilization and their long and fascinating history, lush nature full of enchanting places and unique colors, with forests that hide valuable archaeological treasures and a barrier reef that makes every diver's dream come true.

If you are still looking for that huge all-inclusive megaresort with 12 restaurants on site, let us save you some time because there are none. Honestly, we totally get the temptation of that type of vacation. It's all free, right? (Well, sorta). But that's not what Belize is about.

Belize is the eco-lodge' owner that shares stories with you at breakfast, the Mayan family that shares their centuries old tricks, the guide that holds your hand while climbing the jungle waterfall, the sharks you see snorkeling, the golf cart through colorful towns, and many once in a lifetime experiences. Let a temporary new lifestyle embrace you. Trust us...you'll be okay!

## What shouldn't I miss?

Fly over the Blue Hole. Swim with the nurse sharks. Go fishing with a local and cook your catch. Dive with the whale sharks. Explore the biggest Maya ruins of Mesoamerica. Scream while being harnessed on to the longest zip line of Central America. Rent a waterfall for a romantic day with your loved one. Look for jaguars at the Cockscomb National Reserve. Learn drumming at a Gari-funa fishing village.

## Why should I book with Magnum Tours?

Our first trip to Belize was 1983. Lots of things have changed since then, but we have not changed the reason why we exist. In this day and age there is an overwhelming amount of information on the internet and we are here to make the best recommendations for you. Each itinerary is tailored to your preferences and interests. In addition, we have 24-hour resourceful concierges available at all times ready to meet last-minute, unexpected, and unusual requests.



# What's New

## Magnum Tours Perks

New exclusive perks when booking with Magnum Tours. Current perks offered\*:  
\$50 credit towards food and drinks when staying at Chabil Mar Resort in Placencia  
Free continental breakfast during your stay at Almond Beach Resort in Hopkins Village  
One complimentary bottle of wine upon arrival at Banyan Bay Suites in San Pedro  
\$50 credit towards spa treatments during your stay at Naia Resort & Spa in Placencia  
Free continental breakfast during your stay at Sleeping Giant Rainforest Lodge in Belmopan  
\*All perks are subject to change. Please ask your Belize specialist for current booking perks!

## New at our Premier Partners

Looking to do a fly over the Blue Hole? Tropic Air has scheduled flights from San Pedro on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. We can also arrange a custom charter from any airport in Belize any day of the week!

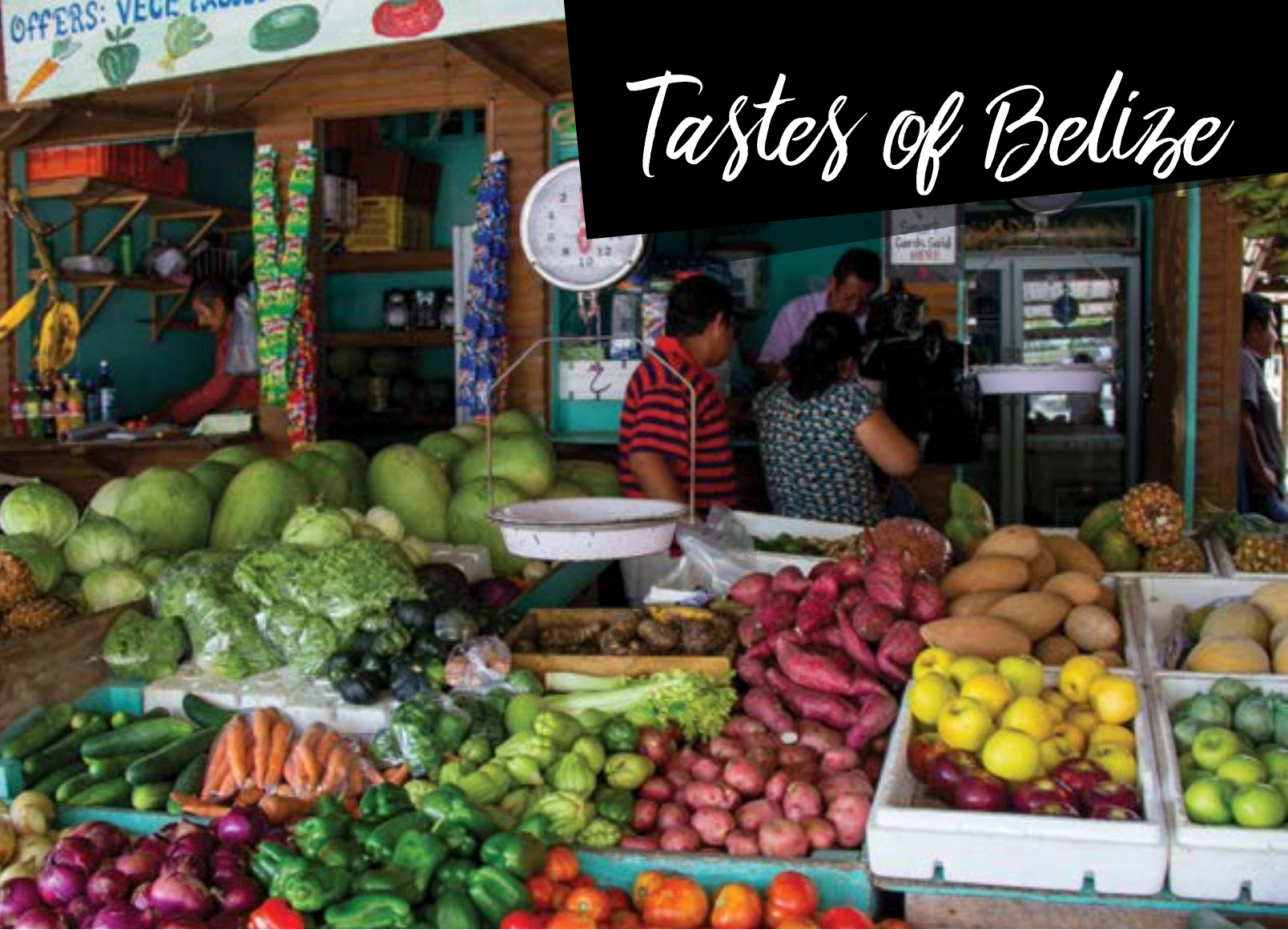
Ramon's Village Resort has a new pier! After last year's hurricane destroyed most of the piers on the island, Ramon's Village Resort pier has been rebuilt better than ever before. With a brand new dive shop, swim platform, gift shop and palapa at the end of the pier, it is impressive!

Almond Beach Resort and Spa in Hopkins Village opened their newly renovated Ocean View Suites now with a private plunge pool! These 4 new ground floor suites debuted last November.





# Tastes of Belize



Belizean food is a mix of Creole, Spanish, Mayan, Garifuna, British and Mexican influences making it to be one of Central America's most diverse and varied and simultaneously having cuisines that are perfect for everyone's tastes.

Breakfast in Belize consists of bread, flour tortillas or homemade fry jacks served with fresh fruit, eggs, cheese, tortillas, and refried beans. Another breakfast staple is the Johnny Cake, or fluffy Belizean biscuit, served with deli meat, butter or jam.

Lunch or midday meals vary depending on the cultures that make them. Stew chicken served with rice and beans is a standard Belize dish. The Belizeans also take advantage of the abundant seafood, like conch, lobster, snapper and shrimp. Conch fritters are a popular starter dish found on most menus around the country. Ceviche, which is easily found on Ambergris Caye and is a cold dish with various types of seafood marinated in lime juice and mixed with onions, tomato and cilantro.

Belize is also renowned for its lobster. Lobster season starts around mid-June with the Lobster Fest Celebrations and runs until approximately mid-February.

In the Garifuna region, Hudut is a local specialty that is worth a try. It is a fish stew or whole fish preparations served in a coconut-milk broth and often served with fried green plantains that are most often mashed by hand. Cassava bread is another specialty in the Garifuna region.

For those of you who are looking to try something a bit more adventurous, look for gibunut on the menu. Gibnut is often called the "Queen's Rat" or "Royal Rat" because it was served to Queen Elizabeth during her visit to Belize. The gibunut is a large rodent, with many claiming it tastes similar to rabbit. Other local dishes, Cow Foot Soup and Pigtail, are surprisingly tasty dishes.

To accompany your meal, Belikin Beer is the national beer of Belize. There are several varieties including Lighthouse Lager, Belikin Beer, Belikin Premium, Belikin Stout and Guinness Stout. Belikin also produces seasonal beers including a Chocolate Stout. Belikin beer started in 1971 with the recipe and brew masters coming from Germany. "Belikin" is from the Maya language meaning "Road to the East".

# Weddings in Belize



Belize Wedding at Xanadu Island Resort. Photo courtesy of Jose Luis Zapata Photography.

A romantic ceremony in a lush tropical garden or historic British Colonial residence... on the grounds of an ancient, sacred Mayan site... a casual beach wedding or an elegant, exclusive reception on a private island... Belize offers an infinite variety of options for the wedding and honeymoon of your dreams.

Start your romantic vacation off with champagne and flowers on arrival. Hike down to enjoy a private lunch and swim in the pools of the waterfalls. Go horseback riding amidst ancient Mayan ruins. Canoe down the river to see the wildlife at its banks. Have a couples massage in the jungle air. Snorkel Hol Chan and watch the sea turtles. Explore the town on bicycles. Go fishing and have a romantic dinner for two on the beach. Go on an evening lagoon cruise. Sail off into the sunset on a catamaran. Find romance in Belize!

When it comes to planning the ceremony and organizing marriage festivities, you can choose to do it yourself, or request the assistance of your resort, hotel or tour operator. Many hotels and resorts even offer the personalized service of a wedding planner.

There are a few requirements to be able to have a civil or non-denominational wedding in Belize:

- Couples getting married must reside in Belize for at least three business days prior to their license application being processed. Applications must be made with the Registrar General's Office in Belize City.
- Proof of citizenship is required (i.e. valid passport).
- If applicable, a certified copy or an original copy of your divorce decree or a death certificate is required in the event that one of the partners getting married is a widow or widower.
- The cost of the license is U.S. \$100.00 per couple, plus an administrative fee of U.S. \$5.00. Licenses can be obtained within two days.
- Two witnesses must be present at the ceremony.
- The marriage must be registered with the Belize Registry Department after the marriage ceremony has been completed.

Be sure to check the US Embassy of Belize website for up-to-date requirements for getting married in Belize before planning your wedding.

## Jungle and Beach Package

From \$7575 per couple

9 nights of pure romance in Belize that is full of adventure!

### DAY ONE - D

Meet and greet at Belize International Airport  
Private ground transfers to jungle resort  
Accommodation in a Balam Suite at Ka'ana Resort

### DAY TWO - B,L,D

Private full day ATM Cave Adventure  
Accommodation in a Balam Suite at Ka'ana Resort

### DAY THREE - B,L,D

Private half day Xunantunich Maya Ruins Tour  
Accommodation in a Balam Suite at Ka'ana Resort

### DAY FOUR - B,L,D

Private half day Horseback Ride  
Accommodation in a Balam Suite at Ka'ana Resort

### DAY FIVE - B,D

Private ground transfer to Placencia Village  
Accommodation in a Beach Front Studio at Naia Resort

### DAY SIX - B,D

Spend some time at the spa with a \$50 resort spa credit  
Accommodation in a Beach Front Studio at Naia Resort

### DAY SEVEN - B,L, D

Full day Snorkel Tour at Laughing Bird Caye  
Accommodation in a Beach Front Studio at Naia Resort

### DAY EIGHT - B,L,D

Ziplining & Waterfall Rappelling at Bocawina National Park  
Accommodation in a Beach Front Studio at Naia Resort

### DAY NINE - B,D

Day to relax at the beach or explore the village  
Accommodation in a Beach Front Studio at Naia Resort

### DAY TEN - B

Ground and air transfers to Belize International Airport

## Honeymoon Packages in Belize

## Beach Honeymoon Package

From \$4759 per couple

7 nights on the beach with a little exploring and a little relaxing.

### DAY ONE -

Local flight from Belize International Airport to San Pedro  
Meet and greet at San Pedro Airstrip  
Ground transfer to Ramon's Village Resort  
Accommodation in a Beachfront Honeymoon Cabana

### DAY TWO - B

Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Shark Ray Alley Snorkel  
Accommodation in a Beachfront Honeymoon Cabana

### DAY THREE - B

1 day Golf Cart Rental to explore the island  
Accommodation in a Beachfront Honeymoon Cabana

### DAY FOUR - B,L

Actun Tunichil Muknal Cave Tour  
Accommodation in a Beachfront Honeymoon Cabana

### DAY FIVE - B,L

Mexico Rocks Snorkel with Beach Picnic Lunch  
Accommodation in a Beachfront Honeymoon Cabana

### DAY SIX - B

Fly over the great Blue Hole by plane  
Accommodation in a Beachfront Honeymoon Cabana

### DAY SEVEN - B

60 minutes couples massage under the beach palapa  
\$50 credit at Pineapple's Restaurant on site  
Accommodation in a Beachfront Honeymoon Cabana

### DAY EIGHT - B

Ground and air transfers to Belize International Airport

# Things to Know

## Location

Belize is located just south of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and is bordered by Guatemala to the west and south. It is approximately the size of Massachusetts, with a population of 225,500.

## Time

Central Standard Time. No Daylight Savings observed.

## Weather

Climate is subtropical, with an annual temperature that averages 80 degrees F. Rains can bring the temperature down to the low 60s, while mid 90s can be common during the summer. Water temperature averages between 79 and 83 degrees F. Trade winds along the coast and on the cayes help keep temperatures pleasant even in the hottest months. Tropical storms can occasionally occur in the Caribbean region, with increased probability late summer/early fall, although the chance of visitors experiencing such extreme weather is remote.

Dry Season: Generally December - May

Rainy Season: Typically June to November, brief showers can occur usually later in the day

## Language

English is the official language. Most Belizeans speak another language - Creole, Spanish or Maya.

## Religions

Roman Catholic, Anglican, Protestant, Muslim, Jewish, and regional ethnic religions.

## Government

Formerly known as British Honduras, Belize gained its independence in 1981. It's a parliamentary democracy and member of the British Commonwealth.

## Currency

The currency exchange is a stable \$2 BZ = \$1 US. Retail stores & restaurants accept US and Belizean currency interchangeably. Bring cash or traveler's checks - many places don't accept credit cards.

## Electricity

110 volts. No adaptors necessary for U.S. electronics. Some remote hotels have electricity furnished by generators.

## Main Industries

Fisheries, lobster, sugar, citrus.

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## Entry Requirements

A valid passport is required to enter Belize. US Citizens don't need a visa. Citizens of other countries should check with the Belize embassy in their country for regulations.

## Customs Declaration

Duty-free importation is allowed for the accompanied baggage of the passenger which is not intended for any other person or resale. Each person is allowed to import: One carton (200 cigarettes) and one bottle (fifth) of alcoholic beverage duty free.

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## Exit Requirements

When leaving Belize, you must pay an exit fee. These fees may be included in your airline confirmation.

## Air Services

Belize City is the hub for visiting the mainland or the cayes and is an easy two hour flight from Miami or Houston. Tropic Air provides domestic air services to all main cities in Belize and to Guatemala, Mexico and Honduras. Magnum Belize can help you book both international and domestic flights at the same time you reserve your accommodations.

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## What to Bring

Good sunscreen is a must. Insect repellent is useful during jungle hikes or when there is no wind. Shorts, t-shirts and sundresses for the day. Bring a sweater for evenings during the winter, especially in the mountains. Long pants are a necessity in the jungle. Necessities can be found in local stores but are expensive and limited.

## General

In an effort to preserve resources & amenities for the enjoyment of others, the following are prohibited by law: removing & exporting black coral, hunting without a license, picking orchids in forest reserves, removing archaeological artifacts, spearfishing while wearing scuba diving apparel and overnight camping in any public place, including forest reserves.

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## Safety

Most residents realize that tourism is a key to the Belizean economy and crime against visitors is rare. The same principles of travel apply here as they do in any unfamiliar city or country; don't venture into unfamiliar areas at night and safeguard your possessions.

## Food and Drink

Rice and beans are the staples of the Belizean diet, often served with chicken. Creole, Mexican, Central American, Chinese and American cuisine are also served. Seafood is widely available.

## Tipping

Some hotels & restaurants add a service charge, which is distributed among staff. In general, follow the same guidelines you would use at home, tipping for rewarding good service.

# GRAND BELIZE CARIBE

2 MILES NORTH OF SAN PEDRO, AMBERGRIS CAYE



**RESORT**  
SAN PEDRO, BELIZE

# Calendar & Events



## National Holidays

January 1	New Years Day	May 21	Commonwealth Day
March 5	National Heroes Day	September 10	St George's Caye Day
March 30	Good Friday	September 21	Independence Day
March 31	Holy Saturday	October 8	Pan America Day (Columbus Day)
April 1	Easter	November 19	Garifuna Settlement Day
April 2	Easter Monday	December 25	Christmas Day
May 1	Labor Day	December 26	Boxing Day

## Events

### January

Grand Slam Tagging International

### February

Fiesta de Carnaval  
San Pedro Carnival  
International Bullfish Tournament

### March

La Ruta Maya  
Canoe River Challenge Race  
Chocolate Week  
Maya Day  
Baron Bliss Day  
Holy Saturday Cross Country

### April

San Pedro Reef Eco Challenge  
San Jose Succotz Fiesta

### May

Cashew Festival  
Toledo Festival of Arts  
National Agriculture & Trade Show  
Toledo Cacao Festival  
Monkey River Festival

### June

Lobster Fest  
Dia de San Pedro

### July

Pibil Fest  
Belize International Film Festival

### August

Costa Maya Festival  
Tres Pescados Fishing Tournament

### September

Carnival Road March  
BTIA  
Salt Water Fishing Tournament

### October

Belikin Billfish Tournament  
Mexican National Day

### November

Battle of the Drums

### December

San Pedro Christmas Boat Parade

## 2018 Whale Shark Diving/Snorkeling Dates

Southern Belize

March 31 - April 9  
April 30 - May 10

May 29 - June 10  
June 28 - July 12

# Whale Shark Dive Package

From \$1999 per person

7 nights in Placencia with a chance to dive with the Whale Sharks!

## DAY ONE - D

Local flight from Belize International Airport to Placencia  
Meet and greet at Placencia airstrip  
Ground transfer to Robert's Grove Beach Resort  
Accommodation in a Standard Room

## DAY TWO - B,L,D

Free use of kayaks, pedal boats, sailboats & hobie cats  
Accommodation in a Standard Room

## DAY THREE - B,L,D

Whale Shark Dive Excursion  
Accommodation in a Standard Room

## DAY FOUR - B,L,D

Take the complimentary bicycles and explore  
Accommodation in a Standard Room

## DAY FIVE - B,L,D

Laughing Bird Caye Dive Excursion  
Accommodation in a Standard Room

## DAY SIX - B,L,D

Time to relax and explore town  
Accommodation in a Standard Room

## DAY SEVEN - B,L,D

Want more diving? Let us customize!  
Accommodation in a Standard Room

## DAY EIGHT - B

Ground and air transfers to Belize International Airport

## Seasonal Experiences

# Lobsterfest San Pedro

From \$1785 per person

Head to Ambergris Caye in June and celebrate Lobsterfest with the locals!

## DAY ONE -

Local flight from Belize International Airport to San Pedro  
Meet and greet at San Pedro Airstrip  
Accommodation in San Pedro

## DAY TWO - B

Grab a Lobsterfest Passport and start celebrating  
Accommodation in San Pedro

## DAY THREE - B

Full day snorkel tour to Mexico Rocks  
Accommodation in San Pedro

## DAY FOUR - B

Explore the town  
Accommodation in San Pedro

## DAY FIVE - B

Join in on the daily festivities  
Accommodation in San Pedro

## DAY SIX - B

Ground and air transfers to Belize International Airport

# Lobsterfest Placencia

From \$2562 per person

Placencia Village also has their own Lobsterfest celebration. Don't miss it!

## DAY ONE -

Local flight from Belize International Airport to Placencia  
Meet and greet at Placencia airstrip  
Accommodation in Placencia

## DAY TWO - B

Join in on the daily festivities  
Accommodation in Placencia

## DAY THREE - B

Full day snorkel tour to Laughing Bird Caye  
Accommodation in Placencia

## DAY FOUR - B

Head out for dinner, eating lobster of course!  
Accommodation in Placencia

## DAY FIVE - B

Explore the village  
Accommodation in Placencia

## DAY SIX - B

Ground and air transfers to Belize International Airport

# Experience Collection



For over 30 years, Magnum Tours has been a leading destination specialist offering one-of-a-kind vacation experiences to Belize. Our knowledgeable travel planners have created start to finish packages for romantic getaways, action packed adventures, cultural tours, shore excursions, private groups, luxury travel and more.

We pride ourselves on being passionate about Belize and now share with you our favorite curated journeys.

*Are you ready for the experience?*

*see the difference*

Our Experience Collection packages are designed to showcase the best Belize has to offer. From start to finish attention to detail, service and support, this collection gives you those once-in-a-lifetime moments.

*make a difference*

With every Experience Collection package sold, you give the opportunity for a Belizean child to get an education.

HIGH SEASON · January 6 - April 30, 2018  
LOW SEASON · May 1 - November 30, 2018

All packages are based on double occupancy. Prices and exact itinerary scheduled to change and availability. Packages DO NOT include international air to Belize. Please contact one of our Belize specialists for full details.



## Meet Belize

HIGH SEASON • \$2769 per person | LOW SEASON • \$2669 per person

7 nights in the jungle and on the island climbing to the top of Mayan Ruins, exploring sacrificial caves, tasting local hot sauces, snorkeling with the sharks, fishing the deep blue sea and dining at the local hot spots.

### DAY ONE - L,D

Meet and greet at Belize International Airport  
Packed lunch, water & local beer en route to resort  
Accommodation in the jungle

### DAY TWO - B,L,D

Tour of Xunantunich Mayan Ruins  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
Hot Mama's Sauce Factory Tour  
Accommodation in the jungle

### DAY THREE - B,L,D

Actun Tunichil Muknal Cave Tour  
Accommodation in the jungle

### DAY FOUR - B

Air transfer to Ambergris Caye  
Golf cart rental to tour the town  
Accommodation on the island

### DAY FIVE - L

Snorkel and Fishing Combo Tour  
Beach Picnic  
Golf cart rental to tour the town  
Accommodation on the island

### DAY SIX

Golf cart rental to tour the town  
Accommodation on the island

### DAY SEVEN - D

Golf cart rental to tour the town  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Accommodation on the island

### DAY EIGHT

Air transfer back to Belize International Airport

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## Curated Journeys to Belize

## Wild Belize

HIGH SEASON • \$1859 per person | LOW SEASON • \$1679 per person

5 nights in Placencia hiking the Jaguar Preserve, cruising down the river in search of Howler Monkeys, and spending the day on a private island snorkeling and kayaking.

### DAY ONE

Air transfers from Belize International Airport to Placencia.  
Accommodation in Placencia

### DAY TWO - B

Monkey River Tour  
Accommodation in Placencia

### DAY THREE - B

Jaguar Preserve Hike and River Tubing  
Accommodation in Placencia

### DAY FOUR - B

Spend the day on the beach or exploring town  
Accommodation in Placencia

### DAY FIVE - B, L

Day on a Private Island : Snorkel & Kayak  
Accommodation in Placencia

### DAY SIX - B

Air transfer back to Belize International Airport

## Dive the Deep Blue

HIGH SEASON • \$2199 per person | LOW SEASON • \$2079 per person

7 nights on the island diving the Belize Barrier Reef at Turneffe Elbow, the famous Blue Hole and more! Perfect for experienced divers who want to journey to the depths of Belize!

### DAY ONE

Air transfers from Belize International Airport to Ambergris Caye.  
Accommodation in San Pedro

### DAY TWO - B

Double Tank Dive  
Accommodation in San Pedro

### DAY THREE - B

Blue Hole Dive  
Accommodation in San Pedro

### DAY FOUR - B

Double Tank Dive  
Accommodation in San Pedro

### DAY FIVE - B

Dive the Turneffe Atolls  
Accommodation in San Pedro

### DAY SIX - B

Double Tank Dive  
Accommodation in San Pedro

### DAY SEVEN - B, D

Day to explore the town or relax by the beach  
Dinner at a local restaurant

### DAY SEVEN - B

Air transfer back to Belize International Airport

## Curated Journeys to Belize

## Reef Reelin'

HIGH SEASON • \$2149 per person | LOW SEASON • \$1939 per person

5 nights on the island just fishing away! Spend your days reef fishing, bone/tarpon fishing, exploring the island by golf cart and grabbing lunch in town.

### DAY ONE

Air transfers from Belize International Airport to Ambergris Caye.  
Golf Cart to explore the island  
Accommodation in San Pedro

### DAY TWO - L

Full Day Reef Fishing with Snorkel Stop  
Golf Cart to explore the island  
Accommodation in San Pedro

### DAY THREE

Full Day Bone/Tarpon Fishing  
Golf Cart to explore the island  
Accommodation in San Pedro

### DAY FOUR

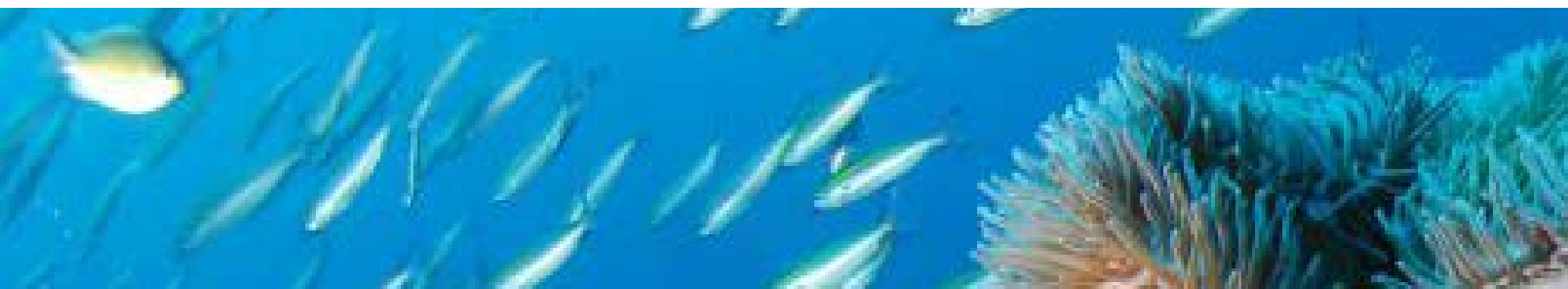
Half Day Reef Fishing  
Golf Cart to explore the island  
Accommodation in San Pedro

### DAY FIVE - L

Golf Cart to explore the island  
Lunch or Dinner at a local restaurant  
Accommodation in San Pedro

### DAY SIX

Air transfer back to Belize International Airport



## Maya Immersion

HIGH SEASON • \$2629 per person | LOW SEASON • \$2429 per person

6 nights of luxury in San Ignacio and Hopkins Village exploring Mayan Ruins, making chocolate at a cacao farm, taking a Mayan cooking class, tubing down the river, going out on the town with a local and dining beachfront at one of our favorite spots.

### DAY ONE

Meet and greet and Belize International Airport  
Private transfer to luxury resort  
Luxury Accommodation near San Ignacio Town

### DAY TWO - B,L

Private tour of Caracol Mayan Ruins, Rio Frio Cave and Rio On Pools  
Luxury Accommodation near San Ignacio Town

### DAY THREE - B,D

Private Tour of a Cacao Farm and Chocolate Making  
Mayan Cooking Class  
Luxury Villa Accommodation

### DAY FOUR - B

Private Transfers to Hopkins Village  
Night out with a local exploring the beach village  
Luxury Villa Accommodation

### DAY FIVE -

Maya Immersion Tour with River Tubing  
Luxury Villa Accommodation

### DAY SIX - D

Day by the beach or exploring the town  
4 Course Dinner at a local restaurant  
Luxury Villa Accommodation

### DAY SEVEN -

Air transfer back to Belize International Airport

## Curated Journeys to Belize

## On a Budget

HIGH SEASON • \$1329 per person | LOW SEASON • \$1279 per person

7 nights in Belize horseback riding through the jungle, ziplining through the trees and laying on the beach!

### DAY ONE - D

Meet and greet and Belize International Airport  
Transfer to jungle lodge  
Accommodation in the jungle

### DAY TWO - B,L,D

Jungle Horseback Tour  
Accommodation in the jungle

### DAY THREE - B,L,D

Accommodation in the jungle

### DAY FOUR - B

Transfer to Placencia  
Accommodation in Placencia

### DAY FIVE -

Ziplining at Bocawina National Park  
Accommodation in Placencia

### DAY SIX -

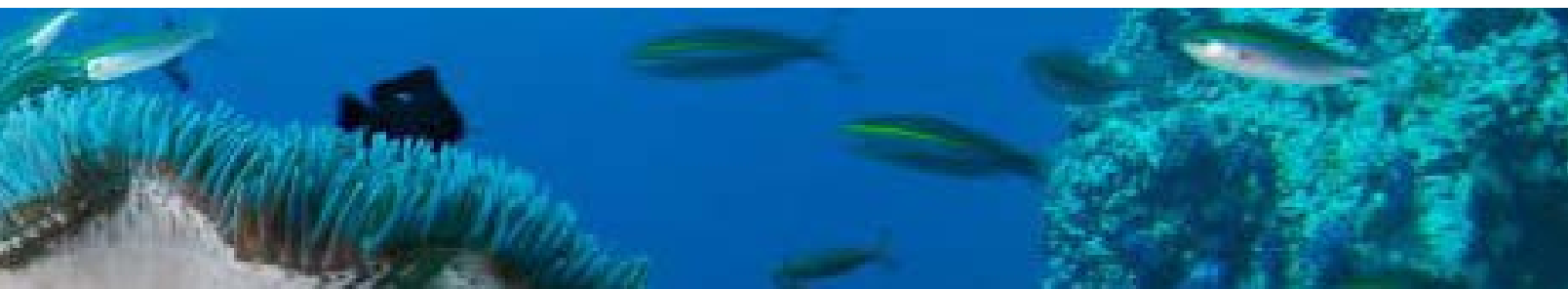
Spend the day on the beach  
Accommodation in Placencia

### DAY SEVEN -

Explore the town  
Accommodation in Placencia

### DAY EIGHT -

Air transfer back to Belize International Airport



# Map



## Premier Partners ISLANDS & ATOLLS

- 1 Banyan Bay
- 2 Grand Caribe Belize
- 3 Matachica Resort & Spa
- 4 Pelican Reef Villas
- 5 Portofino Resort
- 6 Ramon's Village Resort
- 7 The Phoenix Resort
- 8 Victoria House
- 9 Cayo Espanto

## THE BEACH

- 10 Almond Beach Resort & Spa
- 11 Chabil Mar
- 12 Naia Resort & Spa
- 13 Paradise Hotel
- 14 Robert's Grove Beach Resort
- 15 Villa Verano

## THE JUNGLE

- 15 Banana Bank Lodge & Jungle Horseback
- 16 Gaia Riverlodge
- 17 Hidden Valley Inn & Reserve
- 18 Ka'ana Resort
- 19 Mariposa Jungle Lodge
- 20 Mystic River Resort
- 21 Sleeping Giant Rainforest Lodge



# Islands & Atolls





# Areas



## Ambergris Caye

Ambergris Caye is a 25 mile long island stretching down south from the Yucatan Peninsula. Located approximately 35 miles from Belize City, Belize's most popular island is a great place to start or end any vacation. The island itself is made up of mangrove swamps, lagoons, and low sand ridges. Visitors to Ambergris Caye can find plenty of shopping, restaurants, resorts, activities and more on the island reachable by boat or air.

## San Pedro Town

San Pedro Town is the only town on Ambergris Caye. This bustling town gives you the true feel of life on the island. Golf carts line the streets as you see kids in uniform heading off to school. Local shops with Belizean art or culinary foods, markets set up on street corners and vendors selling in the town squares are all great places to spend your afternoon. Take a bike, rent a golf cart, or walk up and down the streets in this vibrant town. Many festivals are celebrated in San Pedro including the San Pedro Carnival in February, San Pedro Lobster Fest in June, Dia de San Pedro in June, and the Costa Maya Festival in August.

## Turneffe Islands

This fishing and diving destination is 30 miles east of Belize City and is home to mainly seabirds, osprey, manatees and crocodiles. Most of the islands are random spots of sand, with only a couple of places to stay on the islands. Most visitors take day trips from Ambergris Caye or Caye Caulker to the Turneffe Atoll which was recently declared a protected marine reserve.

## Caye Caulker

If you are looking for a more laid back feel, Caye Caulker can be a great destination for day trips to go for lunch or snorkeling. The island is 21 miles long but only one mile of that is inhabited. It is located 21 miles northeast of Belize City and is a quick trip by boat or air.



# Explore the islands



## Dive the Atolls

Three offshore atolls, Turneffe, Lighthouse and Glover's Reef, contain some of Belize's top dives. An atoll is a ringlike, coral island/reef that nearly or entirely encloses a lagoon

Turneffe, located 25 miles east of Belize City, is the largest of Belize's three atolls. It offers divers a variety of experiences, from drift dives to wall dives and creek dives. One of the favorite sites here is the "Elbow," which includes a steep sloping drop-off as well as shallow reef and a wrecked ship.

Glover's Reef, named for pirate John Glover, lies northeast of Placencia. It's a circular necklace of coral reef surrounding an 80-square-mile lagoon. It is the least dived and one of the most pristine sites in Belize.

Lighthouse Reef, home to the Blue Hole, is about 50 miles east of Belize City. At the southeast corner is the 45-acre Half Moon Caye Natural Monument, the first reserve to be established by the National Park Systems Act of 1981.

## The Blue Hole

The Blue Hole, the country's most famous dive destination, is located in the center of Lighthouse Reef Atoll. Originally a cave, the roof fell in 10,000 years ago as the land receded into the sea. Almost circular, it measures 1,000 feet in diameter and plunges 410 feet. The former cave's stalagmites and stalactites rate as some of the Blue Hole's trademarks. Magnum Belize Tours can arrange day trips from most Belize resorts to experience this natural wonder.

## Mexico Rocks

Another dive and snorkel site seven miles north of Ambergris Caye is Mexico Rocks. It's rich with many varieties of patch head coral and numerous juvenile fish, making a colorful aquarium.

## Hol Chan Marine Reserve

A national park four miles southeast of San Pedro, Hol Chan features a natural break that gives rise to striking coral formations, fish and other marine life. Established in 1987, it's the first reserve of its kind in Central America.

## Shark-Ray Alley

To swim with nurse sharks and southern sting rays, visit Shark-Ray Alley, a shallow cut in the reef located to the south and to the inside of Hol Chan Marine Reserve.

## Fishing

Belize offers some of the world's most spectacular fishing in its abundant waters for any level of angling experience, from freshwater fly and spincast fishing to deep-sea fishing. Look to the reef to catch groupers, snappers, jacks, and barracudas. Marlin and sailfish migrate just outside the barrier reef in the spring and the fall. In the flats and back reef, you'll find permit, tarpon, snook, yellowtail snapper, barracuda and bonefish. Belize's rivers and estuaries are good for snook, tarpon, bonefish and snapper.

## Golf Cart Rentals

Golf cart rentals are a great way to get around the main island of Ambergris Caye. Rentals are available from daily to weekly and more! Be sure to ask us how to book one in advance and we will get it delivered to your resort to be ready for your arrival.

## BBQ on the Beach

Book a private fishing, snorkeling and beach BBQ trip. Spend the day fishing for snapper and grouper, stop for a chance to snorkel along the Belize barrier reef and end the day with a BBQ on the beach.

## Sail into the Sunset

There is no better way to end the day than a romantic sunset cruise on a catamaran. Sit back and watch the caribbean sunset while sipping drinks with your loved one.

## Cycle The Town

Many resorts offer complimentary bicycles during your stay. Grab a local map and discover the quaint town streets and local hot spots. Go to the market or find a quiet place just to relax.



# Island Map

## map of Ambergris Caye



## enlarged view of San Pedro

# The Jungle





# Areas



## The Cayo District

The Cayo District, primarily an agricultural district, is the largest in Belize and borders Guatemala on the western side. Following the Western Highway, travelers to Cayo will find the adventure center of Belize, rich with tropical foliage, wildlife and waterfalls.

Cayo is home to the largest Maya site in Belize: Caracol & most photographed ruin of Xunantunich, also known as “Maiden of the Rock”. It also offers some of the best canoeing, river rafting, hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking in Belize. The Thousand Foot Falls, occasionally referred to as Hidden Valley Falls, is actually 1600 ft high, & is believed to be the highest waterfall in all of Central America.

## Mountain Pine Ridge

The Mountain Pine Ridge is a nature reserve established to protect native Belize pine forests. Here you will find Barton Creek Cave, Rio Frio Cave, Rio On Pools and Big Rocks Falls.

## Belmopan

Belmopan, the capital city of Belize, is located in the Cayo District. Spend some time in the city walking through Market Square for shopping or dining or visit Independence Plaza to see the National Assembly Building which resembles a Maya temple.

If you are looking for adventure, there is plenty to do from cave tubing, rapelling, hiking Guanacaste National Park or taking a dip in the inland Blue Hole.

## San Ignacio

San Ignacio, sitting on the banks of the Macal River, is a cultural hub of the Cayo District. Home to the bustling Saturday morning San Ignacio Market, Iguana Conservation Project and Belize Botanical gardens, there is always something to see in San Ignacio. Many jungle stays will start or end here and the nearby San Ignacio airstrip makes this destination easily accessible.

# Explore the Jungle



## Belize Zoo

Started in 1983, when Saron Matola adopted 17 animals left behind by a film crew, the zoo moved to its current quarters on Mile 29 of the Western Highway in 1991. Today there are 150 birds, mammals, and reptiles, all species indigenous to Belize. The zoo allows travelers to get memorable photos of the jaguar, tapir, scarlet macaw and jabiru stork.

## Cave Tubing & Zipling

Soar above the jungle canopy high above the ground... or glide along the river on an inner tube, through a series of unique cave formations. Ziplining employs a series of cables and platforms suspended over the rainforest treetops, allowing you to slide from one station to the next. Cave tubing is both exciting and educational; experienced guides will lead you through a series of caverns to view some of Belize's unique natural rock formations.

## Horseback Riding

Take a guided tour by horseback over trails through rainforest and open fields. Visitors have the opportunity to explore Belize on horseback through half or full day trips that include specific destinations as focal points of the tours or tours geared toward a simple, pleasurable ride.

## Rio Frio Cave & Rio On Pools

One of the most breathtaking natural wonders of Belize is the Rio Frio Cave, open at both ends and arching to 65 feet at its center. A pool with a sand beach is also located inside the cave. Nearby, the Rio On Pools are formed by clear, clean water coursing downstream, wearing away the rocks to provide numerous small swimming holes.

## Actun Tunichil Muknal Cave

Actun Tunichil Muknal, popularly known in Belize as "ATM" is the ultimate, unique, multi-sensory Belize Cave Tour. ATM consists of a series of chambers, including a 300 by 50 meter Cathedral where sacrificial ceremonies once took place. This is a rare opportunity to visit a living museum where human sacrifices and artifacts can be viewed in their original context.

The Mayan civilization flourished from 2000 B.C. to about 900 A.D. During the classic period from 250 to 900 A.D. the Maya built temples, carved fantastic artwork from stone and jade, made astonishing discoveries in mathematics and astronomy, and devised the most sophisticated writing system in the Western Hemisphere. They also evolved a 1,500-mile long trade route running the length of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, and continuing through Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador. Some experts speculate that drought and wars led to the eventual decline of this great civilization; others believe that the Maya simply evolved into a less centralized lifestyle. At the height of Mayan civilization, the population of what is now Belize may have reached one million, four times what it is today. Although their numbers are reduced, the Maya still practice ancient crafts and healing techniques.



## Tikal

Located just across the Guatemala border, Tikal is regarded as one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20th century. It is estimated that 1 million people worked over 1,000 years to build this city. At least 3,000 palaces dating back 6,000 years have been discovered here.

## Altun Ha

Archaeologists believe Altun Ha was settled around 250 B.C., and continued into the 10th century. Some 10,000 Maya lived in and around Altun Ha, which was a significant trading center. Altun Ha, about an hour from Belize City, features two central plazas surrounded by towering temples that enclose a palm strewn area.

## Cahal Pech

Cahal Pech, located in the Cayo District along the west bank of the Macal River, consists of 34 structures in an area covering about two acres. Cahal Pech was first developed during the preclassic period (1000 B.C. to 200 A.D.) and abandoned around 800 A.D. The site offers visitors a panoramic view of San Ignacio and the Belize River Valley.

## Caracol

Although it was discovered in 1938, excavation efforts at Caracol only began in earnest in 1985. Archaeologists now believe it to be a larger site than Tikal. There are more than 4,000 structures spread across 55 square miles. The largest pyramid, "Sky Palace," rises 140 feet and is the tallest human-made structure in Belize. More than 55 tombs have been discovered, including two belonging to a king and his royal family. A stele (inscription in stone) records Caracol's victory in war with Tikal. Caracol is located in the Chiquibul Forest south of San Ignacio.

## Xunantunich

"The Maiden of the Rock" is the name given to the site by present-day Maya. Just three miles from San Ignacio, the site is accessible by a short ferry ride across the Mopan River. El Castillo is a 130-foot temple with elaborately carved friezes showing monkeys, warrior masks, and the Mayan symbol for spring. From the top of the temple, visitors can see the rangeland and jungle of eastern Belize, the lowlands of Guatemala to the west, and the impressive Maya Mountains to the south.



# Jungle Map



Guatemala

Belize

Maya Mountains

# The Beach





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# Areas



## Southern Belize

South of Belize City, the flavor is distinctly Caribbean. Palm trees sway, white sand soothes the feet, & seawater laps the shores. A tropical setting as well as unpopulated diving & snorkeling await.

Garifuna, Creole and Mayan cultures and ancient Maya ruins make it the ideal location for tranquility. Enjoy reef & rainforest activities from one location: snorkel and dive the uncrowded pristine reef. Fish the rivers, flats, lagoons, and the open sea. Kayak the mangroves, & explore an abundance of wildlife. Hike the Cockscomb Jaguar Preserve. Visit the Maya ruins of Lubaatun & Nim Li Punit or just grab a hammock and relax on the beach.

## Placencia

Placencia is a mainland beach town located on a peninsula in Southern Belize offering 16 miles of beaches. The now popular Viillage is set at the tip of the peninsula. The mile long "Placencia Sidewalk" is lined with restaurants, shops and homes and is the "World's Most Narrow Street" at only 24 inches wide. It is the perfect place to stroll and explore the village.

Placencia is about 15 miles north of the mouth of Monkey River, and is a good place from which to take the Monkey River Tour. The Monkey River flows from the Maya Mountains at the Guatemala border through southern Belize to the Gulf of Honduras, and plays a key role in supporting area wildlife, as well as the nearby reef system.

## Hopkins Village

Hopkins is a small Garifuna village located in the Stann Creek District. Situated just south of Dangriga and the airstrip, arriving to Hopkins can be done easily from anywhere in Belize.

Hopkins is truly an up-and-coming destination, mainly because of its charm and its proximity to some of the country's most beautiful natural attractions. In the south, adventure spots are always nearby, so it is easy and convenient to access waterfalls, ancient Mayan cities, horseback riding, canoeing, fishing, snorkeling or scuba diving.

# Explore the South



## Diving in Southern Belize

Pristine diving and snorkeling conditions, some of them unexplored in less crowded waters, can be found here. Experience a variety of dives, including reef, gutters, walls and cayes. See large barrel and colorful tube sponges, eagle rays, brilliantly colored fish and more. The best opportunity for whale shark sightseeing, unique to southern Belize, is in April, May and June.

## Monkey River

Located in southern Belize near Placencia, this popular tour takes guests down the lagoon to Monkey River, where they will cruise up the river seeing many birds, tropical plants and trees. It might be possible to see a manatee or dolphin along the way. Then hike newly cut jungle paths to spot howler monkeys, iguanas, and more. It's an excellent combination of river life, rainforest, howler monkeys and a local village.

## South Water Caye Marine Preserve

This is one of Belize's newest and largest marine preserves, stretching from north of Tobacco Caye to Carrie Box Caye. There are abundant schools of fish, as fishing is banned. The pristine southern section of the barrier reef sees few divers and is typically a wall dive that is interspersed with sand channels and spur and groove sections.

Often seen are turtles, moray eels, barracuda, large mackerel, eagle rays, southern sting rays, as well as several shark species. Typical dive sites include the Cathedral, South Cut, Carrie Bow Ridges, Sother Water Wall and The Abyss.

## Fishing

Southern Belize, near Placencia and Dangriga, also provides world-renowned fly fishing in the flats for permit, tarpon and bonefish. The lagoon offers recreational fishing where 400- to 500- pound jewelfish have been noted. Troll inside the reef for snapper, tuna, grouper and mackerel.

## Sittee River

From its origin deep within the Maya Mountains, the Sittee River snakes its way to the sea with its mouth just south of Hopkins. Many resorts offer canoeing and/or kayaking excursions on this river. Green and orange iguanas can be spotted lounging in the trees, along with possibly a crocodile resting at water's edge. Parrots, toucans, motmots, herons, and egrets are often seen and heard. Sting rays, manatee, and crocodiles have also been seen far up river.

## Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary & Jaguar Preserve

The sanctuary and forest reserve is located in southern Belize, near Dangriga, below the Maya Mountains' Cockscomb Range. About 150 square miles are set aside to protect the jaguar population, as well as other plant and animal species. The preserve is also home to 290 species of birds. Just inside the gate is the Mayan Center, with slate carvings, baskets and other craft items for sale.

# Maps of the South

## map of Placencia



## map of Hopkins Village

Almond Beach Resort  
Villa Verano

Barracuda Bar & Grill  
Chef Rob's

Boon Creek

Sitoe River

Anderson's Lagoon

Airstrip

Naia Resort & Robert's Grove

Chabil Mar

The Sidewalk Strip

Paradise Hotel





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