

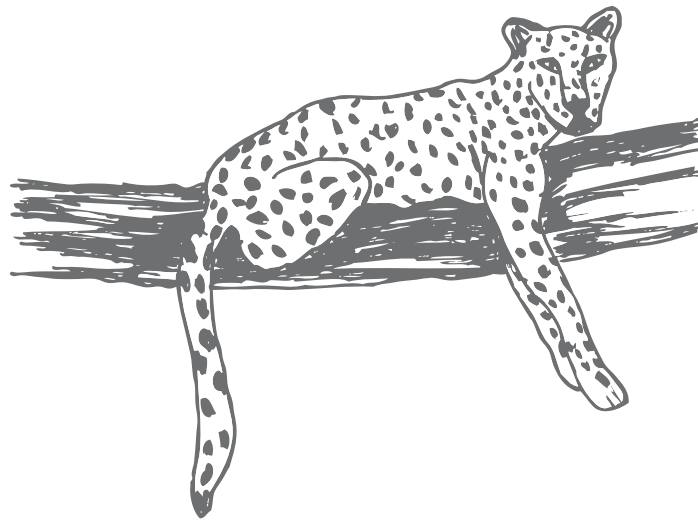


Summary

Experience the best of the jungle and the reef by combing a few days in the Cayo District, an adventurer's paradise, with beach time on the Cayes beside the second largest barrier reef in the world.

Spend a few nights at a luxurious lodge in the jungle and explore the natural gems of Belize. If you're feeling adventurous, you can clamber through caves, climb the grand Mayan temples and horseback ride through the jungle. Or, if you favour a more leisurely pace, visit some of the local villages, markets and Mayan ruins.

Once you reach Ambergris Caye, stay in your pick of the intimate and luxurious resorts or private villas on the island. Spend your days on the beach and on the water. Snorkel or dive at Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Shark Ray Alley, go fishing and have your catch prepared on the beach by your private guide, but don't forget time to relax and unwind in a hammock - nothing beats sitting in the Belizean breeze as the trade winds come off the Caribbean Sea.



Day 1– The Cayo District

Arrive in Belize and transfer to the Cayo District. Depending on arrival time, we recommend calling in for a visit at the Belize Zoo, which is an admirable and well cared for centre which acts as more of a rehabilitation center for rescued jungle animals than a zoo. See Jaguars, Howler Monkeys and many other species of Belizean wildlife.

Arrive at your resort and relax, enjoy dinner and wait for the adventure to unfold...

Day 2 – Explore the underworld

Belize boasts the largest cave network in all of Central America. A breathtaking and unforgettable way to experience them is with a visit the ATM (Actun Tunichil Muknal) Caves.

After a brisk mile hike through the jungle spotting wildlife along the way, you plunge into the cool water of the cave mouth. From there you climb, crawl and scramble through dark caverns, discovering Mayan artifacts, drawings and even skeletons over 1,000 years old. With myriad exposed treasures, including around 200 ceramic vessels and the skeletal remains of 14 humans, all believed to be sacrificial victims, it is widely thought that it won't be long before the ATM is closed to the public.

Day 3 – Visit the ancestors

The ancient Mayan empire flourished in Belize for almost 3,000 years, until around 900 AD, and left a rich cultural and archaeological legacy. Their grand cities and splendid temples are scattered throughout most of the country, though only a handful have been excavated and opened for visitors to explore.

Considered to be the most spectacular in all of Belize and one of the most powerful cities in the entire Mayan world, Caracol stretches over 70 sq miles and is set in rich jungle terrain in the Mountain Pine Ridge in Cayo, at 1,650 feet above sea level. The 140 foot centre piece Caana ('Sky Place') is the tallest Mayan structure in Belize and supports four palace structures and three temples – climb to the top and witness one of the most breathtaking views in all of the country.





Day 4 – Get in the saddle

Horseback riding in Belize is extremely professional, with experienced guides and well cared for animals. Catering to all abilities, horse riding can take you off the beaten track to some of the most secluded and spectacular destinations.

This full day ride goes to the Big Rock Waterfalls in the Mountain Pine Ridge area. Based on the lower slopes of the Maya Mountains, the transition from tropical rain forest to pine forest is dramatic. With plenty of waterfalls, caves, rivers and pools, there is no better way to explore the terrain. A picnic lunch is provided and swimming at the waterfall is on the agenda, so pack your swimwear and a towel!



Day 5 – The Northern Cayes

Transfer from the Cayo district to the spectacular waters and white beaches of Ambergris Caye. Arrive at your chosen resort and hang out on the beach or, for the more adventurous, paddle a kayak and snorkel by the reef.

Enjoy dinner at one of the great restaurants on the island, or go in search of the best fish taco in the island town of San Pedro.



Day 6 – Take to the water

Set sail on a catamaran for the day and snorkel at Hol Chan Marine Reserve, swimming amongst beautiful shoals of tropical fish, turtles, eagle rays, stingrays, moray eels and grouper. Follow this with a dip at Shark Ray Alley, a site where local fishermen used to clean their catch, which attracted species such as big southern stingrays and nurse sharks. Also look out for yellowtail snapper, parrotfish, sergeant majors and french angelfish in amongst the coral.

Kick back and enjoy the sail to the sister island of Caye Caulker and relax in one of the sleepy waterfront restaurants, or explore the local art shops, before a leisurely sail back to Ambergris Caye.



Day 7 – Catch and cook

Spend a the morning out on the water snorkeling, fishing and spear fishing with your guide for snapper, lobster (when in season), conch and perhaps even a barracuda. Return to the beach and relax with an icy cold Belikin beer under a coconut tree, while your guide prepares your catch and cooks it on a fire pit over coconut husks. You don't get much fresher than that!

Watch your final sun set vista of the reef, then climb aboard a speedboat to travel under the stars and dine on some of the finest cuisine in the country. A captivating end to your Belize adventure.

Day 8 - Depart



Itinerary Price and Notes

Price from US \$1,660 per person including all outlined activities, taxes and transfers, on the basis of 4 travelers.

Based on room only in a Garden View Cabana at Francis Ford Coppola's Blancaneaux Lodge in the Cayo District, and a Sea Breeze Bungalow at Mata Chica on Ambergris Caye.

Price does not include airfare, scuba diving, spa treatments or additional activities not listed on itinerary.

Tailor made for you

This is our recommendation for the duration and locations for the itinerary and serves as a guide to things to see and do in Belize, as well as a guide on price.

It is, of course, fully flexible. It can be expanded or condensed, can include time in Guatemala, time in a beach resort or on a private island. We can also incorporate specialist activities such as diving and deep-sea fishing.

At Absolute Belize, we pride ourselves on crafting vacations that are as unique as the people taking them. Tell us what you'd like to see and do, your preferred style of accommodation and the tempo you'd like to set, and your personal advisor will tailor make something just for you.

Why Absolute Belize?

We're a small, independent travel company based in Belize. We specialize in luxury holiday accommodation, boutique hotels and hip hideaways. Chic and individual, each Absolute Belize property has been handpicked by our local experts. We tailor make our travel itineraries based on first hand, local and up to date experience and knowledge - we show you the highlights, but also the hidden secrets of this amazing country.

Contact us

For questions on Green + Blue or any of our Tailor Made Travel itineraries please get in touch:

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