BELIZE:

DAY TOURS FROM BELIZE CITY



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ALTUN HA "WATER OF THE ROCK"

As the archaeological record proves, Belize was near the center of ancient Mayan civilization. More than 2000 years ago, the Maya began to build magnificent cities and ceremonial centers in the region. Altun Ha, erected during the Classic Period (200-1000 AD), is the only Maya ruin located in the Belize District. Once a splendid city spanning nearly 5 square miles, Altun Ha was until recently completely overgrown by jungle vegetation. As is the case elsewhere in Central America, historians and archaeologists are only beginning to uncover evidence of the remarkable achievements of the Maya. Mayan breakthroughs in math and science are gradually being documented. The Mayan alphabet (one of only a handful of complete writing system in human history) required nearly a century of scholarly work before linguists were able to decipher its meaning.

In the Mayan world, Altun Ha served as an important trading hub and connection to the Caribbean Sea, which is located seven miles away. The city was also a major religious ceremonial center and is believed to have housed more than 10,000 people. The complex contains more than 275 structures, and at least 250 mounds have yet to be excavated. Visitors have the opportunity to walk within two plazas and climb up the tallest temple in Plaza B where inside one of the tombs was found the largest carved jade artifact in the world of the Maya. Belize's most prized possession, the jade head is dedicated to the Sun God Kinich Ah. **Frequency:** every day

Duration: 8:30AM – 12:00PM / 1:30PM – 5:00PM

LAMANAI

One of the most picturesque Mayan ruins in Belize, Lamanai features three large pyramids, various restored stelae, and open plazas as well as a small but unique ball court. Also, the ruins of two 16th century Spanish churches are nearby. The site enjoys an isolated location in the jungle on the banks of the New River Lagoon, a river with numerous crocodiles.

Since Lamanai was still occupied by the Maya when the Spanish arrived, it is one of the few sites in Belize to preserve its traditional name. According to the Spanish missionaries "Lamanai" means "submerged crocodile" although doubts have been expressed recently as to the accuracy of this translation. The less poetic "drowned insect" has been put forward as an alternative. Still, the large numbers of crocodile representations found in carvings and inscriptions suggest that, whatever the true meaning, the animal certainly had a very important role in the local mythology. You will travel by boat up the New River for an hour to get to Lamanai. A combination of natural history and Maya archaeology makes this tour a great experience.

Frequency: every day

Duration: 8:00AM – 4:30PM



BELIZE: DAY TOURS FROM BELIZE CITY

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XUNANTUNICH

Xunantunich was the first excavated Mayan site in Belize that was opened for the public. Though it is smaller compared to the other Mayan sites, it consists of the tallest structures. The huge statue of the Sun God, El Castillo, and the 130-foot tall pyramid are a couple of structures that attract visitors. In the 1800s, Thomas Gann excavated Xunantunich. He used dynamite to blast the site; this destroyed most of the artifacts. Other excavations after this were equally unreliable with most of the artifacts being destroyed or vanishing. It was only in the 1990s that careful excavation began. Archaeologists discovered 2 altars and 8 stelae. Stelaes found at various other locations were carved and designed, but the ones found at Xunantunich were plain. Xunantunich is located just a few miles away from the border with Guatemala. This site provides the visitor with a comprehensive look at the Maya's advance civilization; in particular, their mathematical and astronomical intelligence.

Frequency: every day

Duration: 8:00AM – 4:00PM



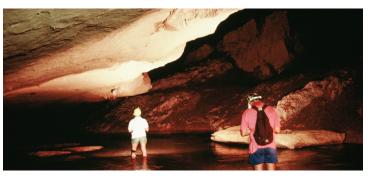
CAHAL PECH

Cahal Pech is a site with an unpropitious Maya name meaning "Place of the Ticks." This ceremonial center includes pyramid temples, palaces, and a ball court. Five stelae and an altar (plain) show presence of the stela cult. Some major buildings were roofed

House and the tomb of Belize's greatest benefactor. A great tour with the Maya vault, some apparently not. There was a gradual architectural growth, the occupation probably running through the entire Classic Period, and we have ceramic hints of a longer occupation. Located in the heart of San Ignacio, on top of a hill that overlooks the Macal River, Cahal Pech has two separate ball courts that showcase the Maya's great craftsmanship. This site is considered to be hilltop residences of royalties during the classic period of the Maya Civilization.

Frequency: every day

Duration: 8:30AM – 3:30PM



THE BLUE HOLE AT ST. HERMANS NATIONAL PARK

The unique geological features within this 575-acre forest plus the beauty and wildlife combine to offer visitors plenty of reasons to tour this area. But it's the cave system that's the big lure: walk the 200 yards into the enclave to marvel at prehistoric-looking speleothems and Mayan artifacts. St. Herman's Blue Hole is more than just the place 200 species of birds and exotic cats call home. Caves hidden amid forested land marked by nature trails used by jaguars, ocelots, tapir, and armadillos when humans aren't around, take visitors to a 180-foot-wide entrance that could easily be missed because jungle vines are everywhere. This main land sink hole or cenote is found about 15 miles from the capital city, Belmopan. It is an underground river that surfaces in the middle of the rainforest; within the Maya Mountains on the hummingbird highway.

Come experience the mystery of this cave system once occupied thousands of years ago by the Mayas. It certainly is a highly recommended adventure for those with a passion for spelunking.

Frequency: every day

Duration: 8:30AM – 3:00PM



BELIZE CITY & OLD TOUR

It's about an hour and a half drive around the Old Capital of the country. Belize City brings you in touch with Britain's colonial past in Central America. View beautiful colonial buildings, the oldest Anglican Cathedral Church in this region, the historic Belize City Swing Bridge which is still swung manually and the Light that provides detailed information of Belize's Colonial past as well as feeling the friendliness and hospitality of its residence. Swing Bridge: A historical landmark of Belize, it is the oldest swing bridge in Central America and one of the few manually operated swing bridge in the world still in function. The bridge which was once swung every morning and evening to allow traditional fishing sailboats to pass upriver to deliver seafood to the fishing cooperatives, or those wishing to sail out to the offshore cays, is now only swung on special request.

Frequency: every day

Duration: 9:00AM – 12:00PM / 1:00PM – 4:00PM

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BELIZE: DAY TOURS FROM BELIZE CITY

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CAVE TUBING ADVENTURE TOUR

It's the most awe-inspiring adventure on the main land of Belize. You probably have done caving before or some river tubing but to do both simultaneously is unimaginable. This is exactly what this activity is about. From Belize City, it is an hour drive going west to get to the national park of No'och Che'n to begin cave tubing. Large and spacious changing and restroom facilities are available. Water shoes are highly recommended for a comfortable hike through the rainforest. There are venders in the park that also rent water shoes if you so desire. When you are through with changing, we provide you with headlights, life jackets and tubes.

Your adventure begins with a thirty minutes' hike under the canopy of the rainforest from the park to the entrance of the caves. A trained tour guide will be in your presence to ensure your safety and comfort at all times. The entire party will be attached together whilst on your tubes with ropes to make a tube chain. The water, which has a constant refreshing temperature, allows you to move slowly and in a relaxed position. As you travel down the river through beautiful limestone caves you will get a chance to view the amazing rock formations of stalactites and stalagmites within the cave systems. This experience will be for approximately forty minutes. Thereafter, you will be exiting the cave and doing an additional twenty minutes of open-river tubing as we head back to the starting point culminating this overwhelming adventure tour. This tour is possible in half day but if you also want the Zip-line rush then it becomes an all day tour. A National Geographic Experience uniquely available in Belize for everyone to enjoy.

Frequency: every day

Duration: 8:00AM - 12:00PM / 1:30PM - 5:00PM





AERIAL TREK (ZIP-LINE) ADVENTURE

The thrill of the Zip-Line is extraordinary; being as high as 100ft above the forest floor in the canopy of the rainforest is already an incredible feeling. You are literally in the habitat of birds moving as fast as 30mph. For those with a great adventure spirit this tour is highly recommended. Because this adventure is located within the cave-tubing park the adventure could be a great addition to your cave-tubing tour. It also could be done separately. It's approximately an hour drive from Belize City on the western Highway. There are nine Zip-Lines that you will be moving on, all of different lengths and height from the forest floor. It will last about an hour or a little more if there is a large group at the site. Ask for the repelling if it's available it could be the highlights of the tour. What a rush of adrenalin imagine being lower from as high as 60 ft to the ground with high velocity it's hard not scream. All this is done with great control and safely. The crew is highly train and is professional at their job. They have an impeccable record and guarantees the best time of your life. From the young toddler to senior citizen this Zipline adventure is possible for all to enjoy. It's the perfect therapy for those afraid of heights come along dig deep you'll be more than surprise of the great fun and excitement this tour entails and it's all available here in Belize with us the adventure specialist.

Frequency: every day

Duration: approximately 3 hours and half in the morning or afternoon





CROOKED TREE BIRDS SANCTUARY TOUR

If your desire is to view some of the most beautiful birds in the tropics, the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary is the perfect location in Belize. This amazing wetland ecosystem that is actually the largest of its kind in northern Belize is 30 miles north of the Belize City. Mother Nature have design this huge lagoon just for birds. Its home to most of the 574 species of birds found in the country, including the largest flying creature in the Americas the Jabiru Stork, different species of egrets and herons and even the magnificent Jacana just to name a few. But birds aren't the only animals that will be there for your viewing there is also a high possibility of seeing morlet crocodiles, green as well as spiny tail iguanas and even howler monkeys.

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CROOKED TREE BIRDS SANCTUARY TOUR (continued)

Getting to the bird sanctuary will be a 50 minutes' drive from Belize City, remember the best time to see the most birds is early morning or late afternoon so getting started early is important. Once at the sanctuary you will be introduce to your well train bird guide who will elaborate more on the tour and then you will be place in a nice small boat along with your guide who will be take you all over the lagoon pointing out every wildlife in sight particularly the birds. Bottle water will be available for you. Please bring along sun-screen, insect repellent, camera off course and also a binocular for a better viewing of those amazing birds. This excitement could last up to three hours after which you will be transported back your destination of choice.

Frequency: every day

Duration: 8:00AM – 12:00PM



HOWLER MONKEY SANCTUARY

The Community Baboon Sanctuary is where you will find majority of all the black howler monkeys here in Belize. This protected area is located in a small village known as Bermudian Landing approximately 25 miles west of Belize City along the historic old Belize River. Getting to the sanctuary is about a 45 minutes' drive from Belize City upon arrival you will be introduced to your guide and the museum that provides detailed information about the program and more. The well-trained guide will then accompany you to the trails in the nearby forest of the community where you will be able to come up close and personal with these animals. If you are fortunate you will get

HOWLER MONKEY SANCTUARY (continued)

to hear the loud howls and also be allowed to feed these animals. They are the loudest mammals in the tropical rainforest. Bring along your insect repellant and feel free to take all the pictures you like. This tour will last about three hours so by noon you will be back in Belize City. It's a great tour for all nature lovers and also a wonderful family activity.

Frequency: every day

Duration: 8:30AM – 11:30AM / 1:30PM – 4:30PM

BELIZE ZOO TOUR

It is such an interesting and educational attraction that some people believe it must be added to your must do list in Belize. The zoo has become a prominent part of the country natural heritage and tradition. Most animal there have been injured or rescue and now have found a permanent home at the zoo under the careful watch of the staff of the zoo. From the shy and elusive jaguars to the elegant and photogenic spider monkeys, many beautiful species of birds including the keel bill toucan the national bird of Belize and even the largest predator bird found in the region harpy eagle they are all on display for your viewing pleasure. Don't expect to see an elephant or giraffe, this zoo caters to only animals found within the borders of the country. The Belize zoo keeps all the animals in their natural habitat. **Night tour at the zoo is fascinating.**

Come join the many that have enjoyed this great little zoo, it's a treat for the entire family. The total time for the tour is about 3 hours. A 45 minutes' drive from Belize City on the western highway then a little over an hour to see all the animals on display then back to the city. It's much better to visit the Zoo in the morning, we also recommend that you bring along sun-screen, insect repellant comfortable clothing and your camera to make sure you capture the moment. It's the perfect half day tour for nature and animal lover.

Frequency: every day

Duration: 8:30AM – 12:00PM / 1:30PM – 5:00PM



Tours include transportation, entrance fee, and tour guide.













Adventure Travel Department: Airline, Hotels & Excursions

Hours: Mon - Fri 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (EST)