

BELIZE - BELIZE WILDLIFE



TRIP CODE

BZTSBW

DURATION

10 Days

LOCATIONS

Belize



INTRODUCTION

Although Belize is a relatively small country, it has an amazing variety of wildlife living in a wide range of habitats. The country's savannas and lowlands are home to rare waterfowl, its forests provide a refuge.

There are approximately 145 species of mammals living in Belize. There are 139 species of reptiles and amphibians that have so far been identified in this country, including 56+ species of snakes.

Belize is also a birder's paradise, with over 500 species of rare and beautiful birds thriving in its many distinct habitats for tapirs, pumas and numerous tropical birds, while the mountainous regions ensure a niche for elusive jaguars and other beautiful cats. Come join us on this wild experience through amazing Belize.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival

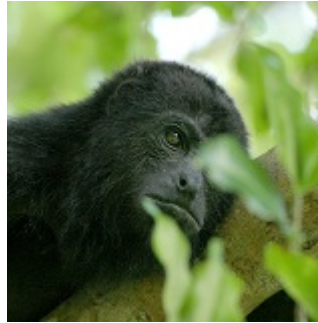
Lamanai Outpost Lodge is situated on the banks of Lamanai Lagoon and just yards from the famous Lamanai Archaeology Site. Access to the lodge is normally by a tranquil river boat ride where guests can enjoy viewing the local wildlife as they travel. The lodge has 17 cabanas of different categories and a restaurant and bar. The lodge operates an all-inclusive system where guests can choose and sign up for the tours they wish to go on each day. Specialist bird watching tours are available. This is a great lodge for couples, families and small groups interested in nature and wildlife.



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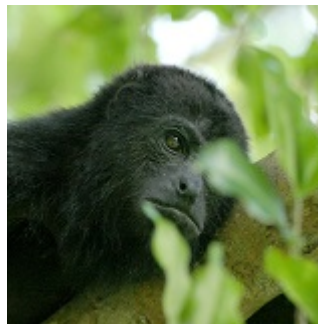
DAY 2: Lamanai Outpost Lodge

Activities from Lamanai Outpost Lodge package.



DAY 3: Lamanai Outpost Lodge

Activities from Lamanai Outpost Lodge package.



DAY 4: Lamanai Outpost Lodge to Belcampo Lodge

Belcampo Lodge is a luxurious eco-lodge offering twelve sumptuously decorated hillside cabanas. The lodge is located inside the 11,000 acre private reserve of Laughing Falcon; five miles north of Punta Gorda in the Toledo District. Accommodations are luxurious and elegant; the cabanas are terraced on the hillside each with a sitting area, private veranda with hammocks and a private bath decorated with handmade ceramic tile. All cabanas have both airconditioning and ceiling fans. The lodge also offers a variety of tours that include water sports, rainforest, archaeological, and cultural activities. There is a pool and full service restaurant and bar.



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DAY 5: Riverboat & Snake Caye Snorkeling

While you are in Toledo, don't miss the opportunity to visit this World Heritage Site for amazing snorkeling, swimming, fishing and island hopping. In this trip you'll visit West Snake Caye, popular for swimming, picnicking and snorkeling. The south west side of the caye has a wide clean coral beach made of pure white sand. The beach tends to shift depending on the time of year; the island also has a small inland lagoon. The Snake Cayes are not a part of the barrier reef system, but instead lie on an isolated coral ridge growing on a limestone ledge that extends several miles into the inner lagoon; they are only 17 miles northeast of Punta Gorda, about 45 minutes by boat. Activity Includes: Lunch, snorkel equipment, marine entrance fee, Pick up from hotel.



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DAY 6: Blue Creek Cave & Mayan Community

Head out to Blue Creek, where the first families settled here in 1925. Nestled on the banks of Blue Creek, this 200-acre rain forest preserve and wildlife sanctuary is just a short 15-minute walk from Blue Creek village, located next to a deep pool of clear water perfect for swimming. Breathtaking discoveries await you as you explore the river, spectacular caves, and rainforest nature trails of this unique jungle site, where your guide will explain about plants and their medicinal uses and later you will walk over the rocks of a dry creek bed to where the river runs out of the cave. Blue Creek's limestone caves are full of pristine crystal-clear mineral pools and lagoons, with a water temperature of a constant 75°. With life jackets and head lights you swim into the cave to see one or more waterfalls. Back in the village of Blue Creek you spend the rest of your afternoon participating in village life. Descendants of Kekchi and Mopan Mayans who fled Guatemala to find peace in Toledo, the community is rich in culture. Learn about grinding corn and making tortillas, and embroidering traditional designs experiences will turn into memories to last a lifetime. Activity Includes: Includes: Blue Creek (Cave Swimming), Helmets, Headlamps, transportation, lunch, Guide and showing/driving through at least 3-4 Mayan Communities.



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DAY 7: Belcampo Lodge to Placencia

Placencia is the name of both a slender, 25-kilometer (16-mile) peninsula that runs parallel to the Belizean mainland and the village at its southernmost tip. Home to some of the country's most spectacular beaches, this long ribbon of land is flanked to the west by a lagoon and views of the distant Maya Mountains and to the east by mangroves and the turquoise Caribbean Sea. Placencia Village draws the majority of the peninsula's visitors and is a relaxed, somewhat ramshackle spot with dive shops, restaurants, bars, and a colorful mix of expat and Creole locals. Just off Placencia's shores, you'll find diving, snorkeling, and sailing; visitors can also explore nearby mangroves and deserted cayes by kayak or fish for tarpon, tuna, or mackerel. This afternoon you will enjoy a wonderful nature and wildlife tour where you take a river cruise up a lush jungle river keeping a weather eye out for crocodiles, green iguanas, a menagerie of birds and then enjoy a moderate, 40 min jungle hike looking for howler monkeys, birds and other wildlife. Guests are met at their hotel and transferred to the dock where they board their boat for this trip. Lunch is included in this tour and guests will also need to pay the US\$1.00 entrance fee. After lunch the guests can enjoy a tour of the village itself before heading back to Placencia. On the way back to Placencia, the captain will move slowly along the lagoon and mangroves to give guests a chance to spot Manatees. Activity Includes: Guide, transfers in Placencia area park fees and lunch.



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DAY 8: Reef Snorkel Tour with BBQ Lunch

Guests are met at the hotel and transferred to the operator's office to pick up their snorkel equipment and for any final preparations. We then transfer to the dock and board the motor boat for our transfer out to the reef and to our island destination. The specific snorkeling destination will vary from day to day depending on weather conditions and guest preference. The boat transfer out to the reef usually takes 35min to 1hr. The closest destination is Laughing Bird Caye and the furthest is Silk Caye, Ranguana or Pompion caye. Once we arrive at the designated cayes guests will put on their equipment and the guide will give a small briefing. We then begin snorkeling from the beach, enjoying a variety of tropical fish and colorful coral formations. Guests enjoy a break for lunch and relaxation before exploring another snorkel spot in the afternoon. After a fabulous day of snorkeling on Belize's reef we transfer back to the mainland and to the hotel. Activity Includes: Transfers, Equipment, Guide, Lunch



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DAY 9: Free Day

Enjoy a day at leisure in Placencia.



DAY 9: Placencia

Placencia is perched at the southern tip of a long, narrow, sandy peninsula in the Stann Creek region of Belize. Once a quiet fishing village, Placencia now attracts visitors for its 16 miles of sandy beaches and for activities ranging from kayaking, snorkelling, diving and fishing to whale shark watching between April and July when the whales come in to nearby waters to spawn. With the Caribbean Sea and beaches to the east and the mangrove-fringed Placencia Lagoon to the west, Placencia is a tropical paradise!



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DAY 10: Departure day

After the breakfast you will be transferred to the Placencia airstrip from where you will fly to the Belize City airport to catch your outward flight.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Deluxe

Inclusions

Accommodation with breakfast everyday
Other meals where indicated
Tours and activities as mentioned
Transport as mentioned, in minibus
Domestic flights as mentioned
Local taxes

Exclusions

Visa fees (if applicable)
Airport tax (if applicable)
Personal expenses
Optional activities not mentioned in itinerary
Gratuities for staff/guides

Difficulty Rating

1 (easy)

Single Surcharge

Available upon request

Notes

Contact us for more details

Price Dependent upon

Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.

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3) Chimu's "Pass it on" programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.

4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.

5) Chimu Adventures' offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure's internal processes are also structures to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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