

Belize

Private Belize and Guatemala Cultural Adventure: Tikal, Rainforest & Reef

Cayo District - Hopkins in Belize and Tikal - Peten in Guatemala

BEST SEASON

All year

PRICE

From US \$6,235 pp including local flights

HOW LONG

9 Days / 8 Nights



ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Explore the captivating rivers, caves, and rainforests of Belize's Cayo District, Guatemala's Peten lowlands and the coastal wonders of Hopkins. Marvel at the majestic Mayan temples of Tikal and Yaxha emerging through the lush jungle canopy, while monkeys and toucans accompany your journey. Dive into the vibrant underwater world of coral reefs in Hopkins, a coastal village that beckons snorkelers and scuba divers. Immerse yourself in the rich Creole, Maya, and Garifuna cultures, forging deep connections with the locals. This adventurous exploration of the ancient Mayan world and contemporary Garifuna culture of African descent embraces rainforest ecology, jungle wildlife, and the underwater world of the Belize barrier reef. Whether you're an adventurous couple or a family, enjoy boutique rainforest lodges and beach-front cabanas, with ample time to relax and explore at your leisure.

Quick Summary

B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner OV: Overnight

Day & Location	Transportation, Highlights and Accommodations	Meals
Day 1 Arrival in Belize – Cayo District	Arrival, transfer to Cayo District 2.5 hrs OV: Black Rock Lodge	D
Day 2 Cayo District	Tortilla Making, Barton Creek Cave and Canopy Adventure OV: Black Rock Lodge	BLD
Day 3 Cayo District	Actun Tunichil Muknal Cave OV: Black Rock Lodge	BLD
Day 4 Tikal, Peten, Guatemala	Transfer to Tikal, Sunset Yaxha Ruins site exploration OV: Las Lagunas Boutique Hotel	BLD
Day 5 Tikal, Peten, Guatemala	Tikal National Park OV: Las Lagunas Boutique Hotel	BLD
Day 6 Hopkins, Belize	Ixpanpajul Hanging Bridges, land transfer to Hopkins OV: The Lodge at Jaguar Reef	BL
Day 7 Hopkins, Belize	Half-day snorkeling at South Water Caye, drumming workshop OV: The Lodge at Jaguar Reef	BL
Day 8 Hopkins, Belize	Garifuna Culinary Adventure OV: The Lodge at Jaguar Reef Lodge	BL
Day 9 Departure	Transfer to airstrip, flight to Belize International Airport (included)	B

ITINERARY IN DETAIL



Day 1 | Arrival to Belize, Drive to Cayo District

Upon arrival at Belize International Airport, embark on a picturesque 2-hour drive through the captivating rolling hills of the Cayo District. Arrive at Black Rock Lodge, where you can indulge in a leisurely exploration of the rainforest trails or unwind on the expansive veranda with breathtaking views of the forest and Macal River. A delightful dinner awaits, setting the stage for a restful overnight stay at Black Rock Lodge.



Day 2 | Mayan Family – Barton Creek Cave – Canopy Adventure

Immerse yourself in the rich Mayan culture as you meet a local Mayan family in their home. Learn about their way of life and discover the art of making corn tortillas using fresh masa, a staple of the Mayan diet. Embark on a thrilling adventure into the mystical Maya underworld, Xibalba, as you glide by canoe through the mesmerizing Barton Creek cave system. Marvel at the majestic stalactites, stalagmites, and breathtaking calcite crystal formations that adorn this ancient underground realm once used for sacred rituals and burials. Delight in the adrenaline rush of a zip-line course nestled within the rainforest of the Mayan Mountains, offering phenomenal views and an array of exhilarating routes through the lush canopy. Overnight at Black Rock Lodge.



Day 3 | Actun Tanachi Muknal Cave – Nocturnal Walk

Embark on an exhilarating quest to witness the enigmatic 'Crystal Maiden' in a true Indiana Jones-style adventure at Actun Tunichil Muknal, famously known as ATM. Traverse the Tapir Mountain Nature Reserve, braving streams, swimming through cave passages, and ascending a narrow ladder to delve into the depths of this ancient Mayan cave. Discover the mesmerizing world within as you encounter ancient ceramics and the haunting remains of Maya individuals, including the captivating 'Crystal Maiden' whose bones have transformed into a sparkling spectacle. After a satisfying dinner, join a captivating night walk near the lodge to uncover the secrets of the nocturnal realm, where bats, owls, and fascinating insects come to life under the moonlit sky. Overnight at Black Rock Lodge.



Day 4 | Birding Walk – Yaxha Temple, Guatemala

Early morning venture into the diverse ecosystem surrounding Black Rock Lodge in search of the 280 species of birds that call this area home. Keep your eyes peeled for the vibrant keel-billed toucan, the mesmerizing blue-crowned motmot, and listen for the lively chatter of olive-throated parakeets in the rainforest canopy. Afterwards, cross the Guatemala border and venture to the remote site of Yaxha. Wander through the ancient ruins, making your way to the awe-inspiring Temple of Bats, where you can climb its steps and soak in the breathtaking sunset over the lagoon. Conclude the day's adventures by taking a refreshing swim and spending the night at the tranquil Las Lagunas Boutique Hotel, nestled beside a serene lake in the heart of the rainforest.



Day 5 | Tikal Mayan Ruins

Embrace the early morning as you enter the magnificent realm of Tikal, once hailed as the most influential ancient city in the Americas. Within the protected rainforest of Tikal National Park, a vibrant ecosystem thrives, offering glimpses of colorful parrots and toucans soaring overhead, while playful monkeys frolic amidst the forest canopy. Keep a keen eye out for the distinctive howler and spider monkeys, as well as coatis, peccaries, and deer that frequent this abundant wilderness. And if you're lucky, you may even catch sight of the elusive jaguar and ocelot that call this pristine rainforest home. Accompanied by your knowledgeable guide, embark on an exploration of the

ancient ruins that span this classic Maya site, once bustling with a population of over 100,000 individuals across a sprawling 25-square-mile area. With the expertise of your on-site Maya guide, delve into the captivating archaeology and rich cultural heritage, as you unravel the stories depicted in the palaces, ball courts, plazas, temples, terraces, shrines, and stelae rock carvings that paint a vivid picture of the lives of Mayan kings. Enjoy the afternoon relaxing at your lakefront accommodation and overnight at Las Lagunas Boutique Hotel.



Day 6 | Ixpanpajul Nature Reserve – Belize Caribbean Beach

Indulge in a flavorsome Guatemalan breakfast to fuel your journey towards Hopkins, a captivating coastal village renowned as the cultural hub of the Garifuna community. Along the way, immerse yourself in the natural wonders of Ixpanpajul Park, where magnificent suspension bridges and meandering trails unveil the vibrant flora and fauna of the rainforest. As the afternoon unfolds, unwind in the comfort of your beachfront room or cabana, savoring

the tranquil ambiance. For dinner, you have the freedom to choose between the resort's enticing dining options or venture to a local restaurant, where the flavors of the region await. Overnight at The Lodge at Jaguar Reef.



Day 7 | Belize Barrie Reef and Drumming Workshop

Venture offshore to a secluded Caye for a half day snorkeling excursion, where pristine beaches and captivating snorkeling spots are ready to be discovered near the magnificent Belize Barrier Reef. Discover a dazzling array of marine life, including angel and parrot fish, sergeant majors, barracuda, and even the occasional glimpse of stingrays or gentle nurse sharks. Marvel at the intricate beauty of brain corals, hydrocorals, sea fans, and colorful sea cucumbers that adorn this thriving underwater ecosystem. Later,

immerse yourself in the rhythmic heart of Belize with traditional Garifuna drumming lessons!

Partnering with local experts from Hopkins, a village known for its Garifuna heritage, you will have a unique opportunity to learn the history and techniques behind this vibrant cultural expression. Feel the pulse of Belize as you connect with the local community and create your own rhythmic masterpiece. Depart with a cherished memento – a newfound skill and a deeper understanding of Garifuna culture. Overnight at The Lodge at Jaguar Reef.



Day 8: Garifuna Culinary Adventure

Today presents a captivating and authentic chance to immerse yourself in the vibrant culture of Hopkins village and the indigenous Garifuna Afro-Caribbean community of Belize. Pay a visit to Palmento Grove, a community project located on the outskirts of town that is dedicated to preserving and promoting traditional cultural knowledge, history, and way of life. Engage with the local families, delve into the rich

Garifuna history, and indulge in the delights of Afro-Caribbean music, art, and mouthwatering cuisine. The afternoon is yours to enjoy as you please. Whether you choose to relax, take a refreshing swim, embark on a kayak or paddleboard adventure, or hop on a bike, the options are endless. Overnight at The Lodge at Jaguar Reef.



Day 9: Departure

Enjoy one final dip in the warm Caribbean Sea and wash off the sand before packing up and returning to Placencia to board your short flight to the Belize International airport in time for your international flight home (local flight included).

Pricing

2025	Per Adult Sharing double occupancy
Price per adult sharing double occupancy	\$6,235

This is a preliminary costing; hotels may vary according to availability at time of booking.

Included

- All guided tours and excursions
- Private naturalist guide days 1-6
- Shared snorkeling trip
- Internal airfare Placencia to Belize City
- Airport-hotel transfers, land and sea transportation

- Tikal National Park entrance fees
- 8 nights hotel accommodation as indicated
- Safety gear (helmets, headlamps, life vests, snorkeling equipment) will be provided.
- Meals as indicated [B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner]
- Green Planet Expeditions travel consultation and pre-departure services

Not included

- International and domestic airfares
- Tips and gratuities
- Airport departure taxes (when applied)
- Drinks, alcoholic beverages, and meals other than those listed above
- Personal expenses for extra services, optional activities, or changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control
- Mandatory Travel Insurance: To ensure a smooth travel experience, all participants are required to have a comprehensive travel insurance policy. This policy should include trip cancellation, medical services, and coverage for active adventures or evacuations. “Cancel For Any Reason” (CFAR) coverage is highly recommended to protect your investment in case of unforeseen circumstances
- Any other items not mentioned above

ACCOMMODATIONS



Black Rock Lodge, Cayo District

Black Rock Lodge is nestled in the dense rainforest overlooking the Macal River in the Maya Mountains of Belize. It is the perfect base for adventure travel including access to caving, rainforest hikes, swimming, river tubing, and exploring Mayan ruins including travel to Tikal and Caracol. The private rainforest reserve is teeming with wildlife including over 200 species of birds; it is one of the rare places in Central America where you can find all three species of toucan. It is especially ideal for a family vacation to Belize as all 14 cabanas have stunning

views of Black Rock Canyon and the Macal River with great wildlife-watching from a hammock on the front porch. The cabins are built to take advantage of the fresh mountain breezes with screened windows and high-pitched rooflines, creating a bright and refreshing rainforest home for guests.



Las Lagunas Boutique Hotel, Peten, Guatemala

Las Lagunas Boutique Hotel is an enchanting retreat located in the heart of the Guatemalan jungle, just one hour from the magnificent archaeological sites of Tikal, Uaxactun, and Yaxha. This unique boutique hotel seamlessly blends the vastness of 200 acres of pristine natural beauty with the intimacy and comfort of luxury accommodations. Nestled beside the serene

Quexil Lagoon, Las Lagunas features 19 elegantly designed suites, each offering stunning views of the tranquil waters and lush jungle surroundings. The suites are thoughtfully equipped with modern amenities to ensure a relaxing stay, including spacious cascade showers, private decks with Jacuzzis, satellite TV, telephones, mini bar, air conditioning, free wi-fi, and in-room safes. The hotel's commitment to sustainability and environmental preservation is evident throughout the property, with careful attention to maintaining the lush landscape and local ecosystems. In addition to its breathtaking surroundings, Las Lagunas provides an exquisite dining experience, featuring a menu that highlights local ingredients and flavors, all served in a welcoming atmosphere.



The Lodge at Jaguar Reef, Hopkins, Belize

The Lodge at Jaguar Reef is an outstanding luxury resort with a spa, sharing facilities with its sister resort, Almond Beach Resort, on the white sands of the Caribbean. The Lodge at Jaguar Reef offers a range of accommodations from beachfront casitas to elegant beachfront veranda rooms, honeymoon casitas, and family-oriented two-bedroom suites. All rooms are individually decorated and offer room service. Guests can appreciate conveniences such as refrigerators and coffee makers while other amenities include

furnished balconies, TVs, spa services, and 2 outdoor swimming pools. Free WIFI, a restaurant, laundry facilities, and a grocery/convenience store are other popular property highlights. Guests have free access to kayaks, paddle boards and bikes on a complimentary basis for undertaking your own local excursions.

Booking your Green Planet Expedition

How to reserve a trip

To secure your spot on a trip, you can conveniently book online using our [Reserve a Trip form](#) or by calling **1-800-430-9498**. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of the reservation form and the initial 50% trip deposit.

Please note that we are unable to hold space until the deposit is received. If the requested space is unavailable, we will promptly provide alternative options for your consideration (if an upgrade is necessary, higher rates may apply).

Pre departure service

Upon receipt of your deposit and completed reservation form, we will email you a comprehensive Predeparture Dossier. This contains important information to help you prepare including immunizations, visas, trip insurance, packing checklist, reading list, maps, cross-cultural information, optional trip extensions, and more. You will receive a final trip email

including Final Reminders and local contact information in your destination 2-3 weeks before departure.

Terms and Conditions

Green Planet Expeditions has arranged your trip utilizing the travel services of local in-country ground operators who are independent contractors. These local outfitters, lodges, hotels, and other suppliers of your travel services will make every effort to conduct this trip as described in the itinerary; however, it is possible that due to transportation schedule changes, weather, delays, and unforeseeable acts of God, humans or nature, this itinerary may vary from what is described. Participants must assume all risks whether identified in advance or unforeseen. All optional activities are at your own risk. Extra costs due to unexpected changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control are not included.

Caring for our planet is integral to our ethos. In alignment with our commitment to sustainability, a carbon emissions mitigation fee is incorporated into all our trips. This fee contributes to environmental initiatives that offset the carbon footprint associated with our journeys, ensuring a positive impact on the destinations we explore. Your safety and peace of mind during the journey is our top priorities. **The purchase of traveler's insurance is mandatory for all participants, and it must cover trip delays, trip cancellations, baggage, accident, or sickness. In some specific cases like Antarctica, it must cover evacuation.**

All information and services provided are subject to our [Terms and Conditions](#).

At Green Planet Expeditions, we craft strategically curated journeys that immerse travelers in the finest of nature, culture, and local traditions, always seeking out opportunities for exceptional dining experiences. Our expertise lies in tailor-made trips to destinations where we maintain close relationships with local partners, ensuring flawless execution with the assistance of passionate guides deeply connected to their heritage and committed to its preservation.

We believe that tourism, when harnessed thoughtfully, becomes a powerful catalyst for conservation and community upliftment in the destinations we visit.

As with any good recipe, our trips are infused with the following flavors:

- Positive impact on the areas you choose to visit, directly or indirectly.
- Amazing private local guides.
- Lovely small boutique hotels according to your budget.
- Good food, no matter how remote the destination is, we strive to offer good cuisine.
- Our trips frequently include surprises, which often turn out to be the highlight of the journey.
- When open to it, visits to less-known destinations, reserved for the daring few, and engages in intimate and meaningful encounters with locals—a cherished treasure highly valued by discerning travelers, as we have discovered through our years of experience in the industry.

Still haven't found what you're looking for?

We offer a wide range of amazing trips that may not all be listed on our website. Plus, we can custom-build pretty much whatever your heart desires, so let us know what we can do for you. If you have any questions about our expedition cruises, private trips, or just want to talk travel, give us a call at + 1 800- 430 9498 or contact us via email at travel@greenplanetexpeditions.com