

Temples of Coral and Stone

# Belize Wildlife Walking Adventure



*Classic*  
JOURNEYS™

## DAILY ITINERARY

Belize: Temples of Coral and Stone | Wildlife Walking Adventure



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

### Monkey-Watching, Kayaking & Snorkeling

Imagine what it will be like when you stand at the foot of a towering pyramid, to see it like a stairway to the sky as the Mayans did. By itself it would be reason enough to visit Belize, but this amazing country offers so much more. Belize is home to some of the grandest archaeological treasures in the Western Hemisphere. Visiting them is made all the more worthwhile because they rise from a fascinating jungle, an environment you'll explore in detail with your local guides. Though the Mayan culture fell into ruin, the country's other great monument has never stopped growing. The barrier reef along the coast of Belize is second only to Australia's Great Barrier Reef in size and diversity. We're always on the lookout for destinations that provide the best in cultural or natural history experiences, and this tour offers both—only a few short hours from anywhere in the United States.

## DAY 1

**CAYO RAINFOREST****• Pay a hands-on visit to a cacao plantation**

Meet in Belize City and head for the nearby Cayo rainforest, one of the finest in Central America. Your first is a cacao plantation. As much as many love chocolate, the story of how it's created is much different than you might expect. You'll learn about growing cacao beans and try your hand at grinding them in the traditional method. You'll also get a taste of the original Mayan-style "hot chocolate".

Full of the flavors of Belize, arrive at your eco-lodge that's nearly hidden in the midst of its own private nature preserve. You may want to take an afternoon dip in the pool or relax with a cocktail, serenaded by the sounds of the forest.

At dinner tonight in San Ignacio town, you'll quickly learn Belize is a melting pot of Indian, Chinese, Nigerian and Central American cultures.

**Overnight:** Cayo Rainforest region

**Meals:** D

## DAY 2

**SAN ANTONIO****• Learn about Mayan ceramic making****• Walk through the rainforest to a massive limestone cave**

In San Antonio, the local women still make ceramics like the ancient Mayans did. Visit their cooperative to see them at work, and they'll show you the traditional way of grinding corn and making tortillas on a fire hearth. Add some roasted chicken and handmade salsa, and your lunch is served.

Just steps away, accept an invitation to San Antonio's local village school. Because your group is small, the school welcomes your visit, and you can spend time with the kids and teachers. (Consider packing pens, pencils and notebooks for the children.)

This afternoon, you're headed underground. In the limestone bedrock of Belize, great caverns are common, and the Mayans believed they were entrances to the underworld. Aboard canoes, float through the cave in search of pottery and other artifacts amid the fascinating rock formations.

**Overnight:** Cayo Rainforest region

**Meals:** B, L

## DAY 3

**XUNANTUNICH****?• Cross the Mopan river on a hand-cranked ferry****• Explore remote Mayan ruins at Xunantunich**

Just as you'd expect, breakfast includes a delicious selection of fresh tropical fruits and more. Fuel up because you're about to have a fun and fascinating Indiana Jones kind of day. First stop: the cattle ranch and stables owned by our friend Carla. You have the choice of climbing into the saddle or taking a scenic walk through shaded forest, over the lazy Mopan River by a hand-cranked ferry, to the 1,500-year-old ruins of Xunantunich. Nobody knows for sure why the city was abandoned around 750 A.D., but you will learn a lot about its history on a guided stroll around the site. Right at the center, there's a 130-foot-high pyramid called El Castillo, and from the top you can see all the way to Guatemala. Later in the village, enjoy an al fresco lunch.

For dinner tonight, why not enjoy the resort's open air restaurant with an acclaimed menu of local gourmet flavors.

**Overnight:** Cayo Rainforest region

**Meals:** B, L

## DAY 4

**AMBERGRIS CAYE****• Explore our luxurious beachside resort****• Kayak on turquoise water at Ambergris Caye**

Wave goodbye to your hosts at your luxe outpost in the jungles of western Belize for a quick flight to Ambergris Caye, an island right next to the Belize barrier reef. Here, your luxury resort sits right on the Caribbean Sea. You can take advantage of

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the many amenities and activities including two pools, bocci and bicycling. If you'd like, hop into a sea kayak on your own or with your guide to explore the coastline and its amazingly clear water.

Tonight, it's your choice to dine poolside at the hotel or try one of the small local restaurants in San Pedro.

**Overnight:** Ambergris Caye

**Meals:** B

### DAY 5

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#### HOL CHAN RESERVE

- **Cruise the Caribbean Sea by catamaran**
- **Snorkel in the world's second largest barrier reef**

This morning, hit the water! From the decks of our friend Steve's catamaran, follow him as he dives for lobsters and fish that one of his family members (and on-board chef) turns into the freshest seafood lunch you've ever eaten! You'll have an opportunity to try your hand at fishing if you choose. Timing your visit for when the tourist boats have all headed back to shore, stop at Hol Chan Marine Reserve. It is among the best snorkeling you'll find anywhere - shallow, clear and warm water. We provide all the gear, and you come nose-to-fin with incredible sea life in the barrier reef. The coral forest is almost beyond words, with dazzling schools of fish flashing through clear water. Sea turtles, spotted eagle rays and docile nurse sharks are common sights. It's an experience you won't forget. (And it will make you the envy of anyone who's ever put on a mask and fins.)

Tonight's farewell dinner is the perfect climax to a fantastic day of sun and sea.

**Overnight:** Ambergris Caye

**Meals:** B, L, D

### DAY 6

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#### AMBERGRIS / BELIZE CITY

- **Linger longer on the beach**
- **Return home**

After breakfast this morning, say goodbye to your new island home. (If this sounds too soon, tell us to extend your trip for a day or two or three to relax in the hammocks on the beach, go birding in the mangroves on the other side of the island, or go reef or deep-sea fishing...). When it's actually time to pull yourself away, you can return to Belize City by ferry or on a 15-minute hop by plane. If you have an afternoon or evening flight, why not hit the beach one last time?

**Meals:** B



## Tour Hotels



### **Chaa Creek**

Set in a private 365-acre nature reserve on the Macal River, each of this lovely lodge's palm-thatched cottages has its own verandah with rainforest views. There's a bi-level infinity edge pool and a spa.

**OVERNIGHT:** San Ignacio | **NIGHTS:** 3



### **Victoria House**

White Belizean beaches and turquoise seas are practically at your front door in this award-winning, plantation-style resort. There's a beachside pool, spa and wonderful restaurants – all less than a mile from the world's second largest barrier reef.

**OVERNIGHT:** San Pedro | **NIGHTS:** 2

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### Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

### Trip Essentials

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>TRIP LENGTH</b> | 6 Days, 5 Nights   |
| <b>START</b>       | Radisson Fort George Hotel lobby, Belize City, Belize                              |
| <b>END</b>         | Victoria House, San Pedro, Belize  |
| <b>TERRAIN</b>     | Easy to moderate forest, beach and jungle trails. 2 to 3 hours of walking per day. |

### What's Included

- All breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

### Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Privileged Access Events

**READY TO BOOK?**  
**CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION**

### Or give us a call

**1-800-200-3887**

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST  
[moreinfo@classicjourneys.com](mailto:moreinfo@classicjourneys.com)

#### AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

#### ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# THE Classic Journeys Difference

## HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

  
President & Founder



## You can expect the highest standards:



**Luxurious Lodgings:**  
Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



**Included Activities:**  
You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



**Local Guides:**  
Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



**Small Group Travel:**  
With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



**Amazing Cuisine:**  
From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



**Unmatched Value:**  
"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

## You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Belize...

- Snorkel with sea turtles and schools of angel fish
- Explore the 1,500-year-old ruins of Xunantunich
- Spot emerald toucans, nurse sharks and spider monkeys in the company of expert naturalists
- Learn about growing cacao beans and taste the original Mayan-style "hot chocolate"
- Enjoy a horseback ride through tropical jungle along the lazy Mopan River

"I never felt like a tourist."

-Elizabeth C.,