

CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS

Belize

Temples of Coral & Stone



“

*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

- Enjoy a hands-on visit to a cacao plantation
- Settle into your eco-lodge in the midst of its own private nature preserve

Meet in Belize City and head for the nearby Cayo rainforest, one of the finest in Central America. Your first stop 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.

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: CAYO RAINFOREST REGION

DAY 2 »

San Antonio

- Learn about traditional 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.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: CAYO RAINFOREST REGION

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 Santiago. 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. Back at the ranch, enjoy an al fresco lunch.

For dinner tonight, enjoy the resort's open-air restaurant with an acclaimed menu of local gourmet flavors.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: CAYO RAINFOREST REGION

DAY 4 »

Ambergris Caye

- Settle in to your 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 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.

MEALS: B OVERNIGHT: AMBERGRIS CAYE

DAY 5 »

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 his sister (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'll provide all the gear so you can 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.)

MEALS: B, L, D OVERNIGHT: AMBERGRIS CAYE

DAY 6 »

Ambergris / Belize City

- Linger on the beach one last time
- Depart to Belize City and part company

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



[Mystic River Resort](#)

Located along the beautiful Macal River, Mystic River Lodge is a resort oasis. Surrounded by nature, this eco-friendly property offers upscale accommodations, an outdoor pool, a relaxing spa, and warm hospitality in the heart of the jungle.
NIGHTS: 3 nights



[Mahogany Bay Resort & Beach Club](#)

Mahogany Bay Resort is a beautiful beachside property on the island of Ambergris Caye. This 4-star resort offers modern amenities and warm Caribbean hospitality, as well as exciting options for shopping, dining, entertainment, and excursions.
NIGHTS: 2 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

LOCATION: Radisson Fort George Hotel lobby
CITY: Belize City, Belize
TIME: 1:00 PM

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: San Pedro Airport
CITY: San Pedro, Belize
TIME: 9:00 AM
Guests depart from hotel at their leisure.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES
 - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES
 - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS
 - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS
 - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED
 - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ REGENERATIVE TRAVEL
 - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

What's Included

- Accommodations for 5 nights
- 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

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately.

▶ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.