



PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN

## LUXURY GUATEMALA AND BELIZE: TIKAL AND THE CARIBBEAN

13 days from **£3,375pp**

**GUATEMALA / ANTIGUA AND THE HIGHLANDS / TIKAL / BELIZE / MAYA MOUNTAINS  
AND JUNGLE / CARIBBEAN CAYES AND COAST**



## WHY US

We are the UK's No.1 specialist in travel to Latin America and have been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for over four decades; we pride ourselves on being the most knowledgeable people there are when it comes to travel to Central and South America and passionate about it too.

## OUR JOURNEY

As our name suggests, we are single-minded about Latin America. This is what sets us apart from other travel companies – and what allows us to offer you not just a holiday but the opportunity to experience something extraordinary on inspiring journeys throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

### WE LOVE LATIN AMERICA

- A passion for the region runs through all we do
- All our Consultants have lived or travelled extensively in Latin America
- Up-to-the-minute knowledge underpinned by 40 years' experience

### TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

- Fully bonded and licensed
- ATOL-protected
- On your side when it matters
- Book with confidence, knowing every penny is secure

### THE REAL LATIN AMERICA

- Our insider knowledge helps you go beyond the guidebooks
- We hand-pick hotels with character and the most rewarding excursions
- Let us show you the Latin America we know and love



## OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ITINERARY

Visit Guatemala and Belize's top destinations while staying at three unique properties inspired by their owner Francis Ford Coppola.

Special offer: Receive 1 complimentary night at each of the 3 Francis Ford Coppola's lodges: La Lancha, Blancaneaux Lodge and Turtle Inn when you complete your stay by 21 Nov 2025. The price advertised includes the saving.

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>DAY 1</b>        | Arrive in Guatemala and transfer to your hotel in Antigua. |
| <b>DAY 2</b>        | Guided walking tour of Antigua.                            |
| <b>DAY 3</b>        | Fly to Flores in the jungle Petén region.                  |
| <b>DAY 4</b>        | Guided tour of the archaeological site at Tikal.           |
| <b>DAY 5</b>        | Day at leisure or optional excursions                      |
| <b>DAY 6</b>        | By road to the Belize border and over to your Lodge.       |
| <b>DAY 7</b>        | Excursion to Barton Creek Cave                             |
| <b>DAY 8</b>        | Day at leisure or optional excursions                      |
| <b>DAY 9</b>        | Transfer to Placencia on the Caribbean coast.              |
| <b>DAY 10</b>       | Manatee spotting expedition.                               |
| <b>DAYS 11 - 12</b> | At leisure on the beach.                                   |
| <b>DAY 13</b>       | Fly to Belize City and connect with international flight.  |



## ITINERARY

This holiday combines two very contrasting countries. But distances are short, you travel at a lazy pace and you are based at intimate, high quality properties owned by film director Francis Ford Coppola, where the attention is on premium service.

Guatemala is steeped in indigenous and Spanish colonial tradition and religious mysticism. Belize, a truly Caribbean country, is English-speaking, utterly laid-back, and a popular destination for outdoor adventure enthusiasts.

Start off in Antigua, Guatemala's colonial masterpiece. On to jungle-stifled Flores and a visit to Tikal, the vast Mayan ruined city where ancient temples and pyramids penetrate the rainforest canopy. Cross the border into Belize and visit the cool forests of Mountain Pine Ridge, before rounding off the holiday at the sugar white beaches of low-key Placencia, maybe with a bit of snorkeling or scuba diving.

### 📍 DAY 1

#### Arrive in Guatemala and transfer to your hotel in Antigua.

You will be met by our local representative and taken to your hotel in the old colonial capital, Antigua. It's a journey of about one hour along a winding paved road.

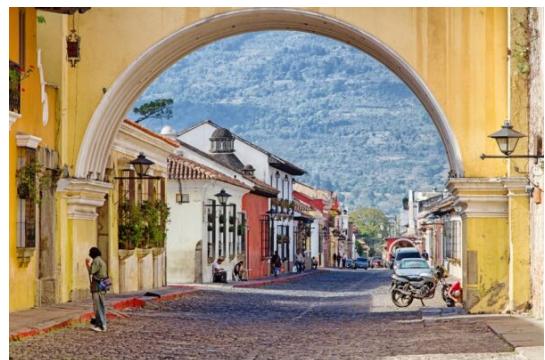


### 📍 DAY 2

#### Guided walking tour of Antigua.

Antigua is a colonial work of art, with cobbled streets, overhanging tiled roofs and a beautiful, leafy central plaza. There's an abundance of huge ruined churches, convents and monasteries, testament to a time when Antigua was the country's capital and its main religious centre. You'll have plenty of time to absorb this fascinating city, including on a walking tour of the historic centre. It seems that every doorway opens onto a fragrant tiled courtyard.

A dramatic backdrop of smoldering volcanoes and ruined churches and convents surrounded by parkland bears witness to the city's destruction by a volcanic eruption in 1773: but much has been painstakingly restored.



### 📍 DAY 3

#### Fly to Flores in the jungle Petén region.

Transfer to Guatemala City airport (1 hour) for an hour-long flight to Flores, in the sticky jungles of northern Guatemala, and from here continue to your lodge.



### 📍 DAY 4

#### Guided tour of the archaeological site at Tikal.

Steep-stepped and vertiginous temples emerge high above the rainforest canopy; the views over the site from one of these ancient skyscrapers are unforgettable. Spend the day wandering through the palace complexes.

Tikal was one of the largest and most important Mayan city states, reaching its peak around AD800 prior to its mysterious demise. The pyramids and temples seem frozen in time, but you're brought back to the present by the roar of curious howler monkeys and lithe spider monkeys as they swing through the trees; and by flashes of colour as toucans and parrots take flight.



### 📍 DAY 5

#### Day at leisure or optional excursions

There is a range of excursions available to pre-book, such as visiting the Mayan sites of Yaxhá and Seibal, exploring the lakeside villages of San José and Santa Barbara or discovering the hanging bridges at Ixpanpahul.

Alternatively, just relax at the lodge and soak up the impressive views, taking a dip in the inviting swimming pool or making use of the complimentary canoes and paddle boards to explore the lake. And in the evening, take part in a tortilla making workshop and learn how to make a staple of Guatemalan cuisine.



## 📍 DAY 6

### By road to the Belize border and over to your Lodge.

The drive across the border into Belize to the lodge takes about three hours. The first part of the journey is on the well paved Western Highway, the last section is mainly on dirt track heading to Mountain Pine Ridge to the Lodge, another ideal base to explore the surrounding forest, waterfalls, rivers and caves.



## 📍 DAY 7

### Excursion to Barton Creek Cave

Explore Barton Creek Cave by canoe, a remote grotto that was once used by the ancient Mayans as a burial site and for ceremonial purposes. Glide through the darkness armed with a spotlight and catch glimpses of the stalactites and stalagmites lining the walls. Your guide will point out the various stunning formations and ancient relics, and explain some of the beliefs and rituals of the ancient Maya.

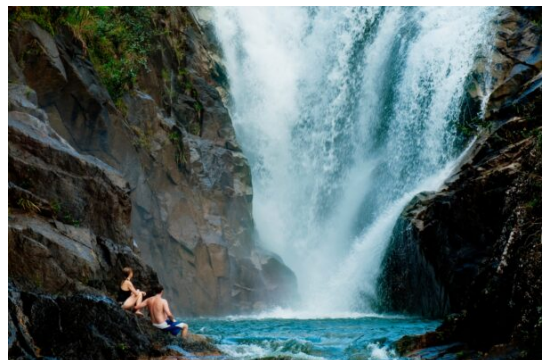


## 📍 DAY 8

### Day at leisure or optional excursions

There is a range of excursions available to pre-book, such as exploring the Actun Tunichil Muknal (ATM) caves, horseback riding to Big Rock Falls, hiking or visiting the Mayan ruins of Caracol and Xunantunich.

Alternatively, just relax at the lodge, treat yourself to a spa treatment or take a dip in the infinity pool or nearby natural pools.





## 📍 DAY 9

### Transfer to Placencia on the Caribbean coast.

This 3-4 hour journey takes you from the lush highlands to the coastal tropics. From a dirt road you join the Western Highway to the country's capital, Belmopan where you turn onto the Hummingbird highway with some outstanding views of the Maya Mountains and Victoria Peak in the Cockscombe reserve. The vegetation thins out as you approach the coast and your journey ends surrounded by water and driving down the peninsula to Placencia.

The village is a friendly and low-key beach resort typified by its ramshackle and colourful wooden houses built on stilts, linked by paths weaving under swaying palms. With some of Belize's finest beaches and one or two top notch hotels, it is developing into an increasingly popular tourist retreat. The nearby Monkey River and Placencia Lagoon provide good opportunities for spotting wildlife including the rare manatee.



## 📍 DAY 10

### Manatee spotting expedition.

Board a boat in search of the shy and elusive West Indian manatee. You'll slowly cruise Placencia Lagoon looking for neat trails of sea grass, the tell-tale sign that manatees have been munching their way along the bottom of the lagoon. The boat heads stealthily to where the manatee congregate at the mouth of a freshwater creek. If you're lucky you'll also spot Morelet's crocodiles or the bottle-nosed and Atlantic-spotted dolphins which frequent the lagoon.



## 📍 DAYS 11 - 12

### At leisure on the beach.

Placencia Lagoon, fringed by stifling mangrove forests and wild orchids, embraces a range of marine, estuarine and freshwater aquatic habitats providing various ecosystem services in which literally thousands of species can thrive. Over 70 species of fish are present and two types of crocodile. Kayak on the calm waters with an eye out for manatees on an optional adventure.

Alternatively just relax at the lodge, or choose another activity at the lodge: there's complimentary use of cycles, kayaks, windsurfers and Hobie cats; the dive shop (at extra cost) can organise scuba diving, snorkelling and fishing excursions, and a variety of land-based trips.



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📍 DAY 13

Fly to Belize City and connect with international flight.

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## WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- ✈ Services of our team of experts in our London office
- ✈ Services of Journey Latin America local representatives and guides
- ✈ All land and air transport within Latin America
- ✈ Accommodation as specified
- ✈ Meals as specified
- ✈ Excursions as specified, including entrance fees

## INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

- ✈ Guided walking tour of Antigua
- ✈ Guided tour of the Mayan ruins at Tikal
- ✈ Guided tour of Barton Creek Cave
- ✈ Manatee spotting

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- ✈ Tips and gratuities
- ✈ Meals other than specified
- ✈ International flights to Latin America
- ✈ Airport taxes, when not included in the ticket
- ✈ Optional excursions

## ESSENTIALS

### TRANSPORT

2 domestic flights, 5 road journeys.

### ACCOMMODATION

You will be staying at a restored convent in Antigua and three first class Francis Ford Coppola lodges.

### MEALS

Breakfast daily; lunch day 4.

### GUIDES

We carefully select our local partners, some of whom we have worked with for over 25 years. Their English-speaking guides understand the expectations of our clients very well, and are consistently singled out for praise by them on their return.

### SUMMARY OF NIGHTS

13 days, 12 nights: Antigua 2; Tikal 3; Mountain Pine Ridge 3; Placencia 4.

### CURRENCY

The unit of currency in Guatemala is the quetzal. In Belize it's the Belize dollar.

### HOW TO TAKE IT

Cash machines are available in all major cities and towns, and so taking a debit or credit card with a PIN number is the most convenient way of withdrawing money while on your trip, and in most shops and restaurants you can also pay by card. However, since cards can get lost, damaged, withheld or blocked, you should not rely exclusively on a card to access funds. We recommend that you also take a reasonable quantity of US dollars cash (no more than is covered by your insurance), which you can use as currency in Belize or exchange into local currency. Dollar bills should be in good condition; soiled or torn bills may be refused. You can take sterling, but the exchange rate is not always competitive or even available, which restricts the number of places where you can change money.

### DAILY SPEND

It is very difficult to give a guideline for essential expenses but a budget of around US\$45 per day should cover the cost of meals not included in the holiday itinerary, drinks and the odd souvenir. Eat at the best restaurants and you will pay considerably more.

### TIPPING

Tips are expected and local guides often rely on their tip as a significant proportion of their income.

Most service industry workers will welcome a tip of some kind and so it is useful to have spare change for hotel porters, taxi drivers and the like. It is common to leave 10 – 12% in restaurants.

Tipping guidelines can be found in our Briefing Dossier.

### INSURANCE

Travel insurance is essential.

Details of our recommended policy can be found on our Travel Insurance page.

### AIRPORT TAXES

If you have purchased your flights through Journey Latin America, the international departure tax is usually included in the ticket.

### VISAS

Holders of a full British passport do not require a visa, although passports must be valid for at least 6 months after the trip

begins. Anyone with a different nationality should enquire with us or check with the relevant consulate.

If flying to the US, or via the US you will need to fill in your online ESTA application.

### TRIP SUITABILITY

There are no long days of travel on this trip. This holiday is suitable for those wishing to combine first class facilities with a bit of adventure and time to relax in one's own time.

If you have a disability or other special requirements, please call us. In the summer the weather can be extremely hot and humid.

### CLIMATE

Travellers in May to October are likely to encounter high temperatures (around 35°C) and high humidity in the lowlands. There are likely to be some short bursts of heavy rainfall during these months.

December to April visitors will still encounter high temperatures in the lowlands, but cooler evenings in the Belizean highlands. Rainfall and humidity will be lower at this time.

### CLOTHING AND SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

Bring plenty of light cotton clothing and good, comfortable walking shoes. Some warm items and good waterproof jackets are also necessary. We suggest that you plan to 'layer' your clothing; it is easier and more efficient to put on a couple of light layers than one thick jumper, and sensible to have long sleeves for areas where mosquitos may be a problem.

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Please get in touch with the office before departure if you have any doubts. Good equipment is very important and hard to come by in Central America.

### VACCINATIONS

Preventative vaccinations are recommended against the following: typhoid; polio; tetanus; hepatitis A. You should consult your GP for specific requirements, including advice on yellow fever and malaria tablets (unlikely for this holiday). For specific requirements you must consult your GP.

You can also find helpful information on the Masta Travel Health website.

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### GET IN TOUCH WITH US...

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Our friendly, knowledgeable team of travel experts are always happy to chat about holiday ideas and share helpful advice. Give us a call today and begin planning your perfect trip to Latin America.

#### GIVE US A CALL

We'd love to chat

**0208 747 8315**

#### OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

#### SEND US AN EMAIL

[tours@journeylatinamerica.com](mailto:tours@journeylatinamerica.com)