



**PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN**

## **LUXURY BELIZE: NATURE, WILDLIFE AND CARIBBEAN CAYES**

11 days from **£3,885pp**

**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 the world-class eco-tourism destination of Belize on this luxury holiday staying in superb lodges and hotels combining the best of the country's natural attractions. Visit Mayan ruins, spot wildlife in bird-filled forests and go snorkelling on the world's second longest barrier reef.

<b>DAY 1</b>	Arrive in Belize City. Transfer to the Lodge.
<b>DAY 2</b>	At leisure.
<b>DAY 3</b>	Excursion to Caracol
<b>DAY 4</b>	Light aircraft flight to Gallon Jug, continue by road to Chan Chich.
<b>DAYS 5 AND 6</b>	At leisure at Chan Chich with onsite activities included
<b>DAY 7</b>	Light aircraft flight from Gallon Jug to San Pedro, Ambergris Caye. Transfer to Victoria House.
<b>DAYS 8-10</b>	At leisure on Ambergris Caye.
<b>DAY 11</b>	Transfer to San Pedro airstrip and fly to Belize City.

## ITINERARY

Belize is tiny - a little larger than Wales – so it easy to sample its natural and cultural attractions in a short space of time. This luxurious holiday visits just three places but yields a flavour of the variety of landscapes without arduous travelling.

Belize, formerly British Honduras, was once the haunt of back-packers and homesick British soldiers. Now it is now a much-sought-after destination for lovers of nature and beautiful beaches. This English-speaking republic is unique - a cocktail of Creole, British colonial, indigenous Maya, Mennonite and Spanish cultures. The coast is unmistakably Caribbean: silky white-sand beaches and coral atolls, palm trees, turquoise seas, laid-back people, reggae rhythms and rum punch. Belize has the world's second-largest barrier reef and the undersea world here is a theatre of exotic fish and other marine species living among the coral. Behind the coast in the back-country there are forested highlands cut through by sparkling rivers and waterfalls, with plenty of pools in which to swim.

### DAY 1

#### Arrive in Belize City. Transfer to the Lodge.

After your arrival, you will be transported to the Jungle lodge, set within a large private area of lush lowland rainforest at San Ignacio, close to the picturesque Macal river and just outside Mountain Pine Ridge Forest reserve.

### DAY 2

#### At leisure.

Day at leisure. Optional excursions on offer via Chaa Creek's concierge include horse riding and mountain biking through the pine forest. You can rent a canoe for a paddle or go tubing on the serene Macal river – a terrific experience and a good opportunity to spot wildlife. Another adventurous activity would be to ride a canopy zipline to get an exhilarating tree-top view of the forest and its inhabitants – birds and butterflies are particularly abundant. You might elect to take a jeep safari through the rainforest, or visit one of many cave systems in the vicinity. The local market at San Ignacio, bulging with fruit and vegetables, is well worth a visit too if you are there on the right day.

### DAY 3

#### Excursion to Caracol

Guided excursion to Caracol. Situated high on the Vaca Plateau, in the heart of the Chiquibul Forest Reserve, Caracol is the most extensive Mayan site in Belize and was only discovered in the modern age in 1936. The site is peppered with 30,000 structures: in its ascendancy the city supported a population of over 150,000. Squatting at an altitude of over 500m above sea level with no natural water body close by it remains a mystery how and why such a huge population centre like Caracol survived and evolved.

However, the close proximity to both extremely hard stone and copal, two commodities highly prized by the Maya, may help explain this enigma. At the heart of the site lies the massive pyramid of Caana (Sky Palace) which is now almost fully restored and reaches a height of over 35m. From the top you can enjoy panoramic views over the mountains. The drive to the site in the early morning occasionally allows you to glimpse tapir, jaguar or ocelot as they break their forest cover to cross the road.

### DAY 4

#### Light aircraft flight to Gallon Jug, continue by road to Chan Chich.

A real adventure today: you embark a light aircraft for the short flight from the airstrip at Mountain Pine Ridge to the evocatively named Gallon Jug. From there, you catch your breath and continue by road to your lodge in the Orange Walk District, which has thrived on the plantation cultivation of citrus fruit, and sugar.

A rich diversity of flora and fauna, including howler and spider monkeys, jaguars, ocelots and a myriad of bird species is found here.

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## DAYS 5 AND 6

### At leisure at Chan Chich with onsite activities included

Chan Chich Lodge is built within the lower plaza of one of many unexcavated Mayan ruins scattered throughout the area, and offers a genuine escape into nature, with little compromise on comfort. The area is rich in flora and fauna, including howler and spider monkey, ocelot, and an abundance of birdlife (birding check lists are available). Even sightings of jaguar and ocelot occur from time to time.

Relax and soak up this magical setting spotting toucans and other tropical birds from your veranda, cooling off in the pool. There are self-guided jungle trails and guests have complimentary use of bicycles. You can also sign up for other onsite activities according to your interests, such as guided walks which introduce guests to the wildlife, birds and archaeology of the area, night drives, jungle canoeing and horse riding. Also available are \_\_\_\_\_

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## DAY 7

### Light aircraft flight from Gallon Jug to San Pedro, Ambergris Caye. Transfer to Victoria House.

It's another light aircraft flight from Gallon Jug to Ambergris Caye, the most northerly and largest island in Belize, 46km long. The island offers a splendid vantage point from which to enjoy the Belize Barrier Reef less than a kilometre from the shore. The relaxed main town San Pedro has a wide choice of restaurants and bars. The island's main attractions are sea-orientated: first class diving, snorkelling and fishing.

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## DAYS 8-10

### At leisure on Ambergris Caye.

At leisure on Ambergris Caye. Your hotel is a short drive from the the resort of San Pedro which buzzes with waterside bars and restaurants. Or simply opt for the peace and quiet of the hotel, with its neatly-tended lawns grounds, inviting pool and superb restaurant.

Snorkelling and diving on the Belize barrier reef is outstanding. You'll need to book on to a boat trip, easily arranged and paid for locally through the Victoria House dive shop. The variety of underwater colour is astonishing with tropical fish, rays and even nurse sharks. If you have your driving licence, golf buggies can be hired to get around the island.

**DAY 11**

Transfer to San Pedro airstrip and fly to Belize City.

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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

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## INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

Guided excursion to Caracol Mayan ruins  
Walks, bird watching and other on-site activities at Chaa Creek and Chan Chich

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## 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

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## ESSENTIALS

### TRANSPORT

3 flights (longest 0.5hr); 2 road journeys (longest 2hrs).

### ACCOMMODATION

For this holiday we have chosen a mix of accommodation styles, all top quality properties and very suitable for honeymooners. They all have excellent and convenient locations, very personal service and good facilities.

### MEALS

Breakfast daily; lunch day 3; full board days 4-6.

### SUMMARY OF NIGHTS

11 days, 10 nights: San Ignacio 3, Orange Walk district 3, Ambergris Caye 4.

### TRIP SUITABILITY

There are no long days of travel on this trip. This holiday is suitable for honeymooners and other comfort-seeking couples.

If you have a disability or other special requirements, please call us. In the summer (Jun-Oct) the weather can be extremely hot and humid, you might bear this in mind if travelling with small children or elderly persons.

### 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 clients on their return.

### CLIMATE

The best weather conditions are during the dry season December to May. It can be cool in the highlands in winter, while the jungle areas are hot and humid all year round. There's a chance of tropical storms or hurricanes between June and November.

### CLOTHING AND SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

Bring plenty of light, loose and preferably cotton clothing and good, comfortable walking shoes, trainers or sports sandals. 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 or sand flies may be.

You might like to bring some smart casual clothing for restaurants in the evenings. Protection against the sun (sunblock, sun hat) and mosquito repellent are essential and you should bring swimwear. A daypack is useful for carrying sun block, guidebook, water and any extra layers. Binoculars are strongly recommended.

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.

### WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE JOURNEY PRICE

- International flights to Latin America.
- Tips and gratuities
- Meals other than specified.
- Airport taxes, when not included in the ticket
- Departure tax (US\$10.75)
- Optional excursions.

### HOW TO TAKE IT

Cash machines are available Belize City and San Pedro (Ambergris), and so taking a debit or credit card with a PIN number is the most convenient way of withdrawing money while on your trip. In each of the hotels, as well as 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 additionally you take a reasonable quantity of US dollars cash (no more than is covered by your insurance), 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, restricting the number of places where you can change money.

The Belize exchange rate is fixed at \$2 Belize dollars to 1 \$US. Both currencies are widely accepted in cash and credit cards can be used at the hotels.

### **CURRENCY**

The unit of currency in Belize is the Belize dollar which is always 2 to 1 US dollar .(US dollars also accepted).

### **DAILY SPEND**

It is very difficult to give a guideline for essential expenses but a budget of around US\$75 per person per day should cover the cost of meals not included in the holiday itinerary, drinks and the odd souvenir.

### **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 and so it is useful to have spare change for guides, hotel porters, taxi drivers and the like. It is common to leave 10 - 12% in restaurants.

### **INSURANCE**

Travel insurance is essential.

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

### **AIRPORT TAXES**

There is an international departure tax of \$20 to be paid on departure, also a security tax of about \$5 and a small conservation charge.

### **VACCINATIONS**

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

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

### **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.

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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)