

10 DAY WILDLIFE & ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO BELIZE & GUATEMALA



DAY 1 – BELIZE CITY/ ORANGE WALK

Following your arrival at the Belize City Airport you meet your guide and travel north to Orange Walk Town. After settling into your accommodations and dinner, you gather for an orientation talk and slide program presented by your naturalist guide. D.

DAY 2 – ORANGE WALK / LAMANAI ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE / CROOKED TREE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

After breakfast you depart, by boat, for the Mayan ruins of Lamanai. While on the river you may see the endangered Morelet's Crocodile and some of the 300 species of birds that have been recorded from this biologically diverse area. The Lamanai archeological site is one of the best examples and last strongholds of the ancient Mayan civilization, about which we know relatively little. Large troops of Howler Monkeys frequent the site and the gallery rainforest provides homes for Bat Falcons, several species of trogon, Blue-crowned and Tody Motmots, monkeys, anteaters and armadillos. In the afternoon you depart for Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary and check into your accommodations at the Crooked Tree Nature Resort. B/L/D

DAY 3 – CROOKED TREE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY / BELIZE ZOO / SAN IGNACIO

Following breakfast you depart on an excursion in the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. Howler Monkeys, Spiny-tailed and Green Iguanas, and several kinds of birds can be found here. Following a picnic lunch you travel to the Belize Zoo, which houses over 125 animals, all of them native to Belize, in naturalistic exhibits. In the evening you drive to your accommodations, which are owned and operated by a Belizean family. Following a traditional Belizean dinner you join your guide for a discussion about Mayan civilization and its history and culture. B/L/D

DAY 4 – XUNANTUNICH / MACAL RIVER

In the morning you drive to Xunantunich, the largest Maya ceremonial center in the valley. The hilltop location of this important archeological site provides a panoramic view of house mounds, pyramids, palaces and three ceremonial plazas. Following lunch at a riverside restaurant, you board canoes and paddle a short distance down the gentle Macal River to Ix Chel. Here you step ashore and go on a guided walk in the rainforest to learn about the medicinal plants which grow here and have been used by the Mayan people for thousands of years. In the evening you return to your accommodation for a barbecue dinner around the campfire. B/L/D

DAY 5 – SAN IGNACIO / TIKAL, GUATEMALA

Following breakfast you cross into Guatemala and drive to Tikal National Park. After checking into your accommodations you have the rest of the day to explore. More than 3,000 separate buildings and other structures have been uncovered within the ruins of this ancient city that dates from about 900 AD. The surrounding forest is rich in Spanish cedar, mahogany and zapote, and wildlife thrives in this tropical rainforest. Two hundred eighty-five species of birds have been recorded here and you may also see monkeys, Coati, Peccary and Brocket Deer. The sheer immensity and towering structures of this ancient city make your visit a most memorable experience. B/L/D

DAY 6 – TIKAL / SAN IGNACIO

You are awakened by a joyful chorus of birds and are soon out witnessing the magnificence of dawn as the sun breaks through the morning mist. After breakfast you depart on a guided walk through the ancient city of Tikal and the nearby museum. In the afternoon you drive back to Belize and your accommodations near San Ignacio. B/L/D

DAY 7 – SAN IGNACIO / PLACENCIA

Following a morning bird walk and breakfast you drive south to Placencia and your accommodations at the Singing Sands Inn. This private and secluded resort is located on Maya Beach with the beautiful Placencia Lagoon at its doorstep. Placencia is one of the oldest continuously

inhabited villages in Belize. Archeological finds provide ample evidence that it was a Maya fishing camp long before Europeans arrived. For the last few centuries it has been home to a close-knit cluster of Creole families whose ancestry includes Garifuna warriors, freed African slaves, and Scottish pirates. A long and gently curving beach graces the village's windward side. A few hundred yards opposite this wide strip of fine sand is Placencia Lagoon, harboring a wealth of marine life. After checking into your rooms and lunch you have the afternoon to explore the beach, the lagoon and the town of Placencia. B/L/D

DAYS 8 & 9 – PLACENCIA

During the next two days you have the opportunity to explore and learn about the biologically diverse marine environment that surrounds you. At 195 miles in length, the Belize Barrier Reef is the largest in the Western Hemisphere. Over 220 species of fish, as well as hundreds of invertebrates, are found along this magnificent structure. One of your first lessons will be a familiarization exercise with snorkeling equipment and a review of the proper techniques and procedures for snorkeling and observing marine creatures. Your boat takes you to patch reefs off this, the world's second largest barrier reef. The calm waters here are protected making it an excellent area for your first snorkeling experiences. Depths vary from three to thirty feet, with exquisite coral gardens and schools of colorful tropical fish. Juvenile Nurse Sharks, Southern Stingrays and octopus may sometimes be seen. Your excursion takes you to a mangrove-covered island where there is a nesting colony of Great Blue Herons, Brown Pelicans, Red-footed Boobys and other sea birds. Your days are filled with snorkeling, swimming, kayaking amongst the mangroves and learning about this dynamic ecosystem. Optional excursions, but at an additional cost, may be arranged to visit Monkey Village and the Jaguar Reserve. B/L/D

DAY 10 - PLACENCIA / BELIZE CITY

Following breakfast you transfer to the Placencia airstrip and board the Tropic Air flight back to the Belize City international airport. Here you check in for your flight to the U.S. B

B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner; () = an In-flight meal.

2010 costs for World Discovery Safaris 10-day Wildlife & Archeological Expedition to Belize & Guatemala exclusive of international air.
(all costs subject to availability at the time of booking)

- 1 passenger – \$4,595
- 2 passengers – \$3,475 per person, double occupancy
- 3 passengers – \$3,248 per person, double occupancy
- 4 passengers – \$3,150 per person, double occupancy
- 5 – 9 passengers - \$2,925 per person double occupancy
- 10 or more passengers – \$2,795 per person, double occupancy
- Single supplement – \$ 350



Costs include the services of World Discovery Safaris, all transportation, accommodations and meals in Belize, as per this itinerary, top-quality, English speaking, naturalist / guide service, hotel taxes as imposed by government agencies, entrance fees to parks and sites visited, and portage while in Belize.

Costs of obtaining passports and visas, international air to and from Belize, excess baggage charges, traveler's insurance and items of a personal nature, including souvenirs, excursions and services that are not included in the itinerary, tips to the boat drivers, hotel staff and naturalist guides, drinks that are not included with meals, laundry, faxes, e-mails, and telephone calls are not included.

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Individual departures and customized itineraries are available upon request. Please contact us for more details and costs at wds2830@bellsouth.net or call World Discovery Safaris at 205-972-8733

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