



# Belize: Blue Caribbean to Lush Rainforest



LEARN SERVE INSPIRE

# 8 DAYS

## BELIZE: EXPLORING OUR BLUE PLANET



### INCLUDED IN PROGRAM FEE:

- Full Time Tour Guide
- Accommodations
- Flights and Transportation
- All Taxes
- Fees For All Activities Not Listed As Optional
- Meals
- T-shirts
- 1 Free Chaperone For Every 8 Paid Students
- Does not include snorkel gear rental

\*Order itinerary occurs in may vary.

Belize blends the best of two worlds, lush tropical rainforest and blue Caribbean Sea. Offshore, kayakers glide from one sandy, palm-dotted islet to another, while snorkelers swim through translucent seas, gazing at a kaleidoscope of coral, fish, dolphins, and turtles. Inland, explorers investigate ruins of ancient civilizations, and birders aim their binoculars at some 570 species. Between national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and marine reserves, more than 40% of the country's area is protected in one form or another, creating a haven for countless creatures of land, sea, and sky.

#### Day 1 • Arrive in Belize City

Your Appleseed Expeditions guide will meet you upon arrival in Belize City. Here you will go through an orientation meeting where you will become familiar with this country.

#### Day 2 • Volunteer at an Orphanage and the Baboon Sanctuary

In the morning your group will help mentor children at a local orphanage in Belize City. Students will have a chance to educate local children about conservation by teaching them how to use a microscope, help them identify wildlife, and mentor them in other ways. Later the group will assist a primatologist with the care of endangered Howler monkeys at the Community Baboon Sanctuary.

#### Day 3 • Cave Tubing & Belize Zip Ride at Caves Branch Outpost

Explore the Caves Branch River and its winding waterway through the ancient caves via inner tubes. Thousands of years ago these caves were inhabited by the Maya. Become a "Zip rider" today as

you connect to a series of overhead cables criss-crossing the rainforest canopy. Hike through the rainforest with a naturalist who will discuss symbiotic relationships and ecological diversity.

#### **Day 4 • Visit the Xunantunich Ruins**

Its name means “Stone Woman” in the Maya language, and, like many names given to Maya archaeological sites, is a modern name; the ancient name is currently unknown. The “Stone Woman” refers to the ghost of a woman claimed by several people to inhabit the site, beginning in 1892.

**Day 5 • Kayaking and snorkeling in Caye Caulker** - Spend the morning transferring Caye Caulker via water taxi. After enjoying lunch the group will kayak among mangrove

Manatees in all of Belize. Your naturalist will discuss the biology and habitat of these endangered animals. We will explore a deep spring at the center of the lagoon that is a location where manatee congregate. You will probably see Tarpon circling also as they too enjoy the warm fresh water that emanates from the spring.

#### **Day 8 • Belize City and Flight Home**

After shopping in Belize City the group will fly home.

**“Lifes most persistant and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”** **Dr. Martin Luther King**

islands and learn about their importance as a nursery system for coral reef ecosystems. In the late afternoon we will snorkel in Caye Caulker among the mangroves, sea grasses and fringing reef.

#### **Day 6 • Snorkeling at the Caye Caulker Preserve**

- Take a boat trip to snorkel/dive the reef at the Caye Caulker Reserve. The reef at Shark Ray Alley and other coral gardens can provide a euphoric experience. Snorkel in 3 ft. of water with brightly colored parrotfish or drift over 60 ft. of Caribbean Sea outside the reef and marvel at the whole other world this marine paradise presents.

**Day 7 • Manatee Lodge-** With your naturalist guide, students will explore a mangrove lagoon known as the southern bay. This lagoon has the heaviest concentration of West Indian





*“Seeding a Revolution of Change Through Service”*



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