



Tour:

Caribbean Biology

A BELIZE PRIVATE ISLAND EXPERIENCE

Itinerary:

9-days / 8-nights, departing Fridays

Location:

Belize, Central America

Belize: Caribbean Biology						
Day		Morning		Afternoon		Evening
1	Fri	Fly to Belize City, Belize		Transfer to Belize City Hotel; check-in	Welcome, Safety & Orientation	Belize History & Culture Master Class
2	Sat	Boat to Long Caye, Glover's Reef Atoll - approx 3-hours		Island Orientation & Cabin Assignment	Swim Test & Snorkel Orientation	Evening Island Hike
3	Sun	Caribbean Reef Fish Identification Master Class	Glover's Reef Snorkel	Beach Yoga / Stretching Class	Animal Identification & Habitats Master Class	Coral Reef Ecology Class
4	Mon	Kayaking Orientation & Open Water Paddle	Kayak & Snorkel Session	Kayak Surfing Orientation	Conservation Town Meeting	Caribbean Drumming & Dance Party
5	Tues	Windsurfing Orientation	Invertebrate Biodiversity Class	Beach Volleyball Competition	Island Olympics	Crab Race & Marine Life Master Class
6	Wed	Surfing Orientation	Island Geology & Tidepool Investigation	Marine Research Station Visit / Research Project / Travel by Kayak		Mayan Culture Master Class
7	Thur	Marine Debris Island Clean Up + EarthDive Snorkel Project	Boat to Mainland		Belize Zoo & Tropical Education Center Tour	Dinner at Hotel
8	Fri	Xunantunich Mayan Ruins	Cave Tubing on the Caves Branch River		Ziplining Adventure	Farewell Dinner & Camp Awards
9	Sat	Depart to Airport; Fly Home				



As with all sample itineraries, please be aware that this is an “example” of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.

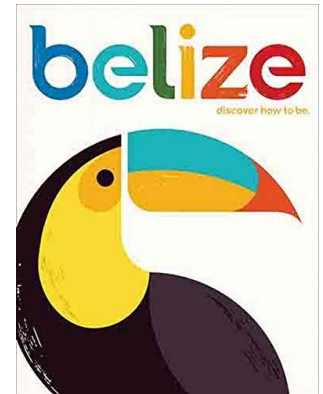


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As with all our tours, if you find you desire a longer experience, we are happy to assist. This experience is designed for **a minimum of 20 students and a maximum of 30 students**, plus teachers. If you have smaller group numbers, please contact us to determine if we might be able to partner you with another small school to meet minimum numbers. Please contact us for your custom trip option.

Belize.... Although this small Central American nation spans less than 9,000 square miles, few places on Earth can match Belize's diverse natural beauty. The barrier reef's turquoise and coral hues contrast with the staggering Mayan ruins scattered throughout the country's lush rainforests. Plus, it's not just the landscape, the history, culture and people of Belize are just as splendid. This Central American country beckons visitors with its thatch-roofed jungle lodges, impressive Mayan ruins, secluded snorkeling and scuba diving havens, and laid-back atmosphere. Sandwiched between Mexico and Guatemala, Belize's eastern shoreline flanks the Caribbean Sea, while its mainland extends into a myriad of wild rainforests to the north, west and south. Facing off against the sun-drenched mainland coast are hundreds of tiny islands known as cays and atolls, luring travelers with swaying palm trees and cerulean waters.



Before European colonization, Belize was the heartland of the Mayan Kingdom's vast empire. The region served as a complex trade route between Guatemala and Mexico during the Classic Period (A.D. 250 to 900), and there is also evidence that the country served as a centerpiece for ceremonial practices as well. In present day Belize, there are 1,400 Mayan sites.

By the mid-17th century, the British Empire took possession of the country and introduced other types of cultures into the land. Full independence wasn't gained by the country once known as the "British Honduras" until 1981.

Today, Belize is a mixture of cultures. Home to about 350,000 people, the largest ethnic group is the Mestizo people, who are a mix of Mayan and European descent. Creoles are the second largest ethnic group, making up about 25% of the population. Smaller groups include the indigenous Mayan descendants of the Yucatec, Mopan and Kekchi tribes, as well as the Garifuna people. The rest of the population consists of people of European, East Indian, Spanish and Mexican descent. Most Belizeans speak English, although you're likely to hear a spattering of Spanish, Garifuna and Creole as well. Since the country is such a melting pot, including expats from Canada, Europe and the U.S., the Belizean people are known for being welcoming and hospitable.

Did you know?



✓ **Belize has the only Jaguar Preserve on the planet!** Half a dozen great cats, including jaguars and pumas, are indigenous to Belize and Central America. Belize is the only country in the world with a nature sanctuary dedicated to preserving these magnificent animals.

✓ **Belize is the capital of the Ancient Maya Empire.** Hundreds of years before the arrival of European colonists, the Maya Empire stretched for over a thousand miles in what is now Central America. Today's Belize was located in the center of all of the most important Maya trade routes. Visitors to Belize can explore more than 900 different Maya ruins and sacred sites.



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- ✓ **Speed bumps are everywhere.** Most of Belize is unspoiled tracts of jungle, rainforest, and verdant hills. In order to enforce speed limits inside towns, villages and near schools, Belize uses speed bumps instead of traffic lights.
- ✓ **Belizean Money.** Also called the dollar, the Belizean currency is conveniently pegged to the American dollar. At this time, one U.S. dollar always equals two Belize dollars, making it easy to convert prices.
- ✓ **Belize is the home of the Great Blue Hole!** In 1971, famed marine biologist Jacques Cousteau discovered what had long been the sole province of local fishermen – the Great Blue Hole, a unique diving site in the middle of an offshore coral atoll. The Great Blue Hole is regularly voted as one of the Top 10 ‘must do’ diving sites in the world.
- ✓ **Belize’s mother tongue is English.** A British colony for more than 200 years, Belize today is the only nation in Central America where English is the official language. More than 80% of the population speak English as their mother tongue. Other languages spoken in Belize include Mayan, Kriol (Creole), Garifuna, and Spanish.
- ✓ **The Royal Rat.** A few decades ago, when Queen Elizabeth visited Belize, she was served with one of the country’s finest delicacies – gibbon meat. Locally referred to as the “Royal Rat”, this large rodent looks something like a cross between a chipmunk and a tapir and tastes similar to rabbit.
- ✓ **See the amazing Belize Barrier Reef.** As part of the second-largest barrier reef system in the world (only Australia’s Great Barrier Reef is bigger), the Belize Barrier Reef is an incredibly diverse marine ecosystem stretching for more than 180 miles off the coast of Belize. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the reef is an ideal place for snorkeling, scuba diving, kayaking, and sailing.
- ✓ **You’ll get to hear Black Howler Monkeys.** Known locally as baboons, these tree-dwelling primates are listed as one of the top 10 loudest animals in the world equipped with a piercing shriek that can be heard up to three miles away through the thick rainforest.
- ✓ **Belize has a small and friendly population.** With only 355,000 people living in an area the size of Massachusetts, Belize has the lowest population density in Central America, an average of 15 per square kilometer. Belize is also universally known as having a very friendly population renowned for their amiability and hospitality.



Day 1

Lunch & Dinner included

Welcome to Belize! Groups will have started their flights in the morning hours, arriving into Belize in the early afternoon in most cases. Since there may not be a lot of time between connecting flights, please plan on purchasing appropriate snacks once you have passed through airport security as lunch is seldom served while in flight. Upon arrival, you'll clear Customs & Immigrations and our team will meet you just outside.

Travel to Belize – Important Information: *School groups should be able to provide a notarized letter for every student, signed by both parents, allowing the specified teachers to serve in the capacity as legal guardians on their trip to Belize. The document should cover the dates of travel and the location where the student will be (Slickrock Resort, Long Caye, Glover's Atoll, Belize), the name of the school, the school contact information, the student's full legal name, gender, date of birth and passport number. This is also a good place to have the parents grant consent for any needed medical treatment in case of need. Each signature (**both** mother and father) **MUST** be notarized. In the case of a divorce, signatures may be signed and authenticated by different notaries on the same document. If a parent is deceased, a death certificate may be requested by Belize officials prior to entry so please ensure you have this available for inspection if asked. If you would like us to provide a sample document, please ask.*



Once you arrive, we'll arrange for ground transportation to get you to our base hotel located just outside of the main Belize City area. Upon arrival, we'll get checked in and refreshed, have a late lunch and our **Welcome, Safety & Orientation** meeting.

Sample Hotel: The Belize Biltmore Plaza – Conveniently located just 10 minutes from both the International Airport, the hotel is well known for its commitment to high-quality service plus an extensive array of amenities. With a total of 90 guest rooms, an on-site Biltmore Bistro Restaurant, fitness center and outdoor pool with relaxing courtyard, the hotel has everything needed for a comfortable stay. Guestrooms have complimentary wi-fi, coffee makers, hair dryers, in-room safety deposit boxes, and more. Groups sleep 2 per room in rooms with 2 double beds.



This evening we will have dinner in our hotel, followed by a Master Class to start to understand the culture of this awesome country!



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Belize History & Culture Master Class - Allow our team to personally introduce you to the Belize we know and love. From its location and history, to culture, food, families and games, we will explore the traditions, the people, and the background of beautiful Belize.

If we have free time, we can enjoy the refreshing hotel pool, but we will want to get a good night's sleep because we are off bright and early tomorrow morning! Please note that the hotel does not provide lifeguards at the pool so if this is a requirement for your school, please ensure one of your staff is certified for pool safety.

Day 2

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Rise and shine! After breakfast at our hotel, we'll transfer to the Belize City Waterfront with our luggage, ready to board the Batfish!



The Batfish, Slickrock's 41' power boat, runs the 130-mile round trip to and from the island to serve guests on scheduled days. Powered by three 200 hp engines, and fully covered for protection when crossing the open sea section of the run, the Batfish makes the shuttle comfortable in all weather conditions. You arrive in Belize City and are on the island less than 24 hours later! The Slickrock captains are among the best in Belize. A bathroom is available on board.



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Where is the island?

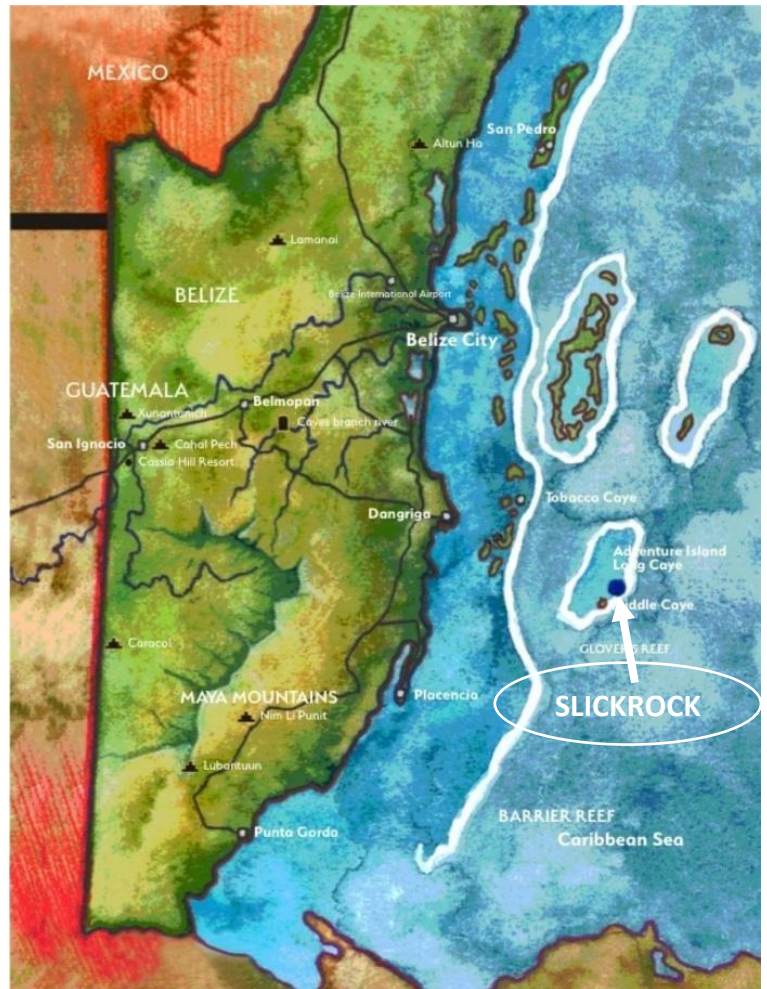
Long Caye, Glover's Reef Atoll – Belize has the second largest barrier reef on the planet, running parallel to the Belize coast for 190 miles. The region is part of a much larger system called the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System running from Mexico to Honduras.

One of the three atolls offshore of Belize, Glover's Reef was named after the English pirate John Glover who used this remote offshore ring of islands and coral reefs as a base from which to raid Spanish merchant ships. The shallow waters offshore of Belize with innumerable coral reefs, mangroves and small islands were ideal for pirates and buccaneers to hide their raiding ships after plundering Spanish galleons laden with riches, destined for the Old World.

Today, the attractions found within the atoll (20 miles long by 7 miles wide) are the clarity of the water and the remarkable abundance of marine life. Glover's Reef contains some of the richest diversity of marine life in the Caribbean, and the reefs are considered by WWF (World Wildlife Fund) to be of highest priority as important habitats for Nassau Grouper, Queen Conch and Spiny Lobster. In 1993, the atoll was declared a marine park and designated as a World Heritage Site in 1996. The reefs of Belize have long been known as the richest in the Caribbean and Glover's Reef is by far the best in Belize.

Long Caye is located 35 miles offshore and 65 miles from Belize City, approximately 3-hours by boat. All groups are transported to and from the island on The Batfish in most instances.

Upon arrival on the island, guests will be assigned cabins, have a chance to unload, set up your new home and have lunch.



The Island Accommodation

As an eco-resort, Slickrock maintains a delicate balance between comfort and responsible stewardship, limiting our impact on the island's ecosystem. As a result, the resort is purposely rustic with thatched-roofed cabanas, solar and wind-power for electricity, freshwater harvesting tanks and composting toilets. Slickrock is an off-the-grid, true eco-resort powered by renewable energy.



Student cabins generally sleep 2 - 4 campers but are dependent upon the cabin size. Staff sleep 2 to a cabin, based on gender. All guests have individual beds and all cabin facilities are shared with their cabinmates. All cabins are on the water, perched right above the surf, and each has a large porch with a hammock and lounge chairs. The cabins are located on the windy side of the island; on the lee side lies one of the best beaches in Belize. Air-conditioning is not necessary since the ever-present breeze keeps the temperatures well below what they are on the mainland. Cabins come complete with mattresses, linens, blankets, and pillows, and are lit with solar-powered lights. Students are responsible to make their beds with linens provided on arrival, cleaning up upon completion of their week. Restrooms and showers are centrally located.

The island is **totally private** (only accessible by boat) and you will have the entire resort dedicated to your school. Farther down the island there is one other company which has 4 cabins and is specifically for scuba divers. Other than that, the island is yours! **The minimum number of students is 20, the maximum number is 30, traveling with teachers.** If you have other configurations that fall outside of these guidelines, please contact us for assistance. We are happy to set up two smaller schools to participate together to meet minimum numbers. If you have a larger group, contact us and we can creatively split the group between the island and jungle activities, swapping midweek, with a minimum of 15 in each group.



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Food & Beverage - Belize Island Cuisine

Our Belize island menu is designed to take advantage of the fresh seafood of Belize and fresh fruits and vegetables available in the local markets. All of our meals are served buffet-style in the dining hall. A typical dinner includes an appetizer, one entrée (fish, chicken or pork), two side dishes including fresh vegetables and carbohydrates, and dessert. Fresh homemade breads and salads are often served as part of the meal. Vegetarians, vegans, and persons who follow a gluten-free diet will find that our menu easily accommodates these preferences. There's always plenty to choose from during any meal and we guarantee you will not go hungry!



Please know that guests may not have access to the kitchen facilities to cook their own food; the kitchen is used by staff only for health and safety reasons.

- Everything is made from scratch!
- All coconut dishes use coconut picked on the island that day
- Pure water, fresh-squeezed orange juice, soda, coffee, and tea are available at all times
- Yogurt and homemade granola are served with every breakfast

It is important that students with dietary issues are able to self-govern what they can and cannot consume. If you have a student that is allergic to any type of food, please ensure they can identify it and make proper choices concerning consumption. We will review all dietary needs with the chefs, but your student should also be able to identify possible causes of personal injury/illness.

Swim Test - After having lunch and getting set-up, we'll start with a swim test in the lagoon. To participate in water sports, we urge all group members to be good swimmers. The Swim Test demonstrates the student's comfort level in the water. There are no required time limits or strokes to swim the 100 feet required in the test. If a student appears uncomfortable at all, instructors pay special attention to that student while in the water. All staff members are experienced in instructing students in the water and hold Lifeguard certifications.

After our dip, we'll engage in a **Snorkel Orientation**. The Snorkel Orientation reviews all equipment, proper use, and how to successfully participate in the sport. No one is able to participate in any sport activity without going through a full orientation on each individual sport. After going through the orientation, we will test our skill levels using our equipment just offshore. This allows for participants to get their bearings and test their equipment. All swimming and snorkeling are done under constant watch of guides.



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IMPORTANT – Each guest MUST bring their own snorkel equipment. If you do not have equipment, you will not be able to participate in the activities. Your snorkel equipment should include a mask, snorkel, and fins. These can be purchased from any sporting goods store, dive shop or online; you can buy them individually, or as part of a set. For beginners, we suggest you purchase a set from an outfitter like Dick’s Sporting Goods, Academy Sports, Bass Pro or Cabela’s. If you are an advanced water sports enthusiast, you may want to purchase upgraded equipment from a local dive shop. If you have forgotten to bring this equipment, please alert your Guide immediately upon arrival into Belize. In this instance, we will try to set up transportation (taxi) for a student/teacher to travel to buy needed equipment prior to going to the island.

Additionally, some guests also like to bring a light wetsuit or rash guard to keep warm in the water and protect from coral brushes. This is not mandated and is dependent upon the student’s preferences. Finally, dependent on the type of fins you purchase, **you may also need to purchase booties** if the fins you purchase are not ‘full-foot’ fins with an enclosed heel.

Snorkeling in Belize - Most famous for its extensive Barrier Reef ecosystem and pristine coral, Belize is the perfect place for snorkeling. The clear warm waters of the Caribbean are saltier than in temperate regions and creates extra buoyancy for swimmers which allows anyone to feel comfortable while exploring the reefs. We are proud to say that our island at Glover’s Reef is the premier snorkeling destination in the country. We access nearby snorkeling spots right off the beach as well as by kayak. It is stunning!



This evening, after dinner, we’ll embark on an **Island Hike** to get to know our new home. The island is small and easily walked. Just watch out for hermit crabs in our path!

Day 3

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Good morning Belize! Today is going to be a brilliant day! We’ll start by learning about the fish we may encounter, followed by a snorkel!

Caribbean Reef Fish Identification Master Class - Caribbean Reef Fish Identification is a fun and interactive program that highlights many of the numerous fish we will see while snorkeling. Getting to snorkel on the coral reefs allows us to introduce fish behaviors, life strategies, and how those factors relate to morphological characteristics. After a brief presentation from our guides, we will use our new knowledge to identify fish species from an island-base before venturing out to get a look at them up close and personal during our snorkel sessions. Most Master Classes range from 1 to 1.5-hours.



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Morning Snorkel – After our class, we'll don our snorkel gear and set off to see what we find. Snorkeling from different parts of the island varies greatly so we'll check the direction of the trade winds and then choose our direction. Snorkeling off of the east side of the island, towards the Caribbean Sea, is literally some of the best in the world!

Fish	Creatures	Coral	Sponges
French Angel Fish	Spotted Eagle Ray	Elkhorn	Giant Barrel
Queen Angel Fish	Southern Stingray	Staghorn	Yellow Tube
Blue Tang	Spotted Yellow Ray	Grooved Brain	Row Pore Rope
Stoplight Parrotfish	Bottlenose Porpoise	Symmetrical Brain	Red-Orange Branching
Queen Parrotfish	Atlantic-Spotted Porpoise	Knobby Brain	Orange Encrusting
Lizard Fish	Loggerhead Turtle	Golf Ball	Loggerhead
Tiger Grouper	Hawksbill Turtle	Lettuce Leaf	Stove-Pipe
French Grunt	Flamingo Tongue Snails	Blade Fire	Iridescent Purple Vase
Queen Triggerfish	Caribbean Octopus	Purple Sea Fan	Fire
Trumpetfish	Common Octopus	Corky Sea Finger	Branching Tube
Barracuda	Caribbean Reef Squid	Red Sea Whip	Antler
Midnight Parrotfish	Spiny Lobster	Black	Brown Bowl
Creole Wrasse	Spanish Lobster	Star	Green Finger
Whitespotted Filefish	Green Moray Eel	Pillar	Red Boring
Whiteline Toadfish	Chain Moray Eel	Encrusting Fire	Brown Mound

After our fabulous morning, we'll have lunch and a bit of downtime, then meet on the beach for some **stretching**.

In the afternoon, dependent upon time and weather, we can go for another snorkel or perhaps get a head start on learning another sport. We're super flexible so if you have any preferences, we want to hear them! In the late afternoon we'll participate in an Animal Identification class.

Animal Identification & Habitats Master Class - Have you ever thought about what kind of animals inhabit an island? In this session, we will review animals native to our island, as well as animals native to Belize. Learn about their habitats, threats, and reproduction. Find those that are cute and cuddly and those that we prefer to reside away from our homes! From hermit crabs to jaguars, learn all about the native species of Belize.



In the evening, we'll have dinner and then learn all about Coral Reef Ecology!



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Coral Reef Ecology - Coral reefs are some of the most diverse ecosystems in the world. Coral polyps, the animals primarily responsible for building reefs, can take many forms: large reef building colonies, graceful flowing fans, and even small, solitary organisms. Thousands of species of corals have been discovered; some live in warm, shallow, tropical seas and others in the cold, dark depths of the ocean. This session is devoted to learning about the corals and sponges we experience off our island.

Day 4

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Rise & shine Long Caye! After breakfast today, we're going to learn to paddle!

Sea Kayaking - The shallow waters inside the Belize Barrier Reef are usually quiet and contain no strong tidal currents, and the swells of the open sea are stopped by the long reef offshore. All Belizean waters are clear and warm (80 degrees), just like the rest of the surrounding Caribbean Sea. A calm kayak overlooking the crystal-clear water is an amazing rest for your soul!



Kayaking Orientation & Open Water Paddle – We'll start by a full orientation on our equipment, how to use it, safety processes and best practices. We'll learn how to enter and exit a kayak on land and in the open water. We'll pick out a kayak to use and then after a few practice runs, we'll get our snorkel gear loaded and head to the sandbar just offshore. We'll tie-up, go for a snorkel, get back into our crafts, and kayak back to the island. A perfect morning!

After lunch, now that we know how to properly kayak, those of us with an adventurous spirit can participate in a **Kayak Surfing** session. If kayak surfing isn't your bag, no worries! Take some downtime and play board games, read a book while swaying in your hammock, take out a paddleboard, build a sandcastle, or just cheer on your team as they tackle the waves offshore!

Kayak Surfing – A primary wave-sport activity is surf kayaking with our fleet of high-tech sit-on-top surf kayaks with planing hulls, fins, ankle leashes, seat backs, and leg straps. The ocean kayak surfing here is great for beginner through advanced learners. Even those with no experience are soon riding the waves after a short orientation. Surf kayaks allow anyone to easily catch a wave since you are using a paddle rather than your arms to propel your craft, and it is easy to adjust your position to start a ride in exactly the right spot. With a few fast strokes



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you are on the wave, and the thrill of accelerating down its face is like no other.

After our amazing day on the water, we'll wrap up the afternoon with a Conservation Meeting.



Conservation Town Meeting - What would happen to Long Caye if the foundation that works to preserve it was threatened? Our group will find out when half of our students become Developers lobbying for change, while the other half act as Conservationists hoping to preserve the island. A group of youth acting as the Board of Directors gets to make the ultimate decision after both sides present their ideas and strategies for Long Caye's future.

After dinner this evening, we'll go on a hunt for acoustic instruments. Our goal – a **Caribbean Drumming & Dance Party!** Pull out your dancing flipflops, we're going to have fun!

Day 5

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Rise and shine Belize! We're going to kick off the day with windsurfing!



Windsurfing – The island of Long Caye sits astride the ring reef of Glover's Reef, allowing easy access to both the waves and swells of the open sea and a launch from the beach into the sheltered waters just off the shore. The average wind speed is 10-20 mph nearly every day, so although some days will be spent on light-wind gear skimming across the flats of the lagoon, others will find you on a 4.5 sail, blasting on the swells or trying your luck in the surf. The warm air and water temps make for the perfect adventure!

We'll have our normal **full orientation** on Windsurfing and then try our hand playing in the lagoon!

In the late morning, we'll skip over to study invertebrates.



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Invertebrate Biodiversity Master Class

Our shoreline is the laboratory for this amazing program. After a brief presentation that teaches students about the unique characteristics of the eight most common invertebrate phyla in our waters, we will search the island for specimens. Whether they are found via snorkeling or tide-pooling, participate in a hands-on session to identify and gently examine each organism. After careful exploration, all specimens are released back to their original habitats. You will be amazed at the variety of life that you will find!

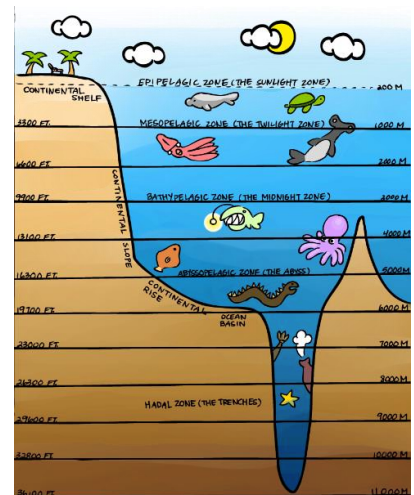


This afternoon will be all about the fun as we take a break from learning and kick back with a ***Beach Volleyball Tournament*** and Island Olympics!

Island Olympics – break into teams and enjoy the fun! Games will include things like Tug-a-War, Egg Toss, 3-Legged Races, Discus Throwing (Frisbee), Swim Race, Standing Long Jump and a Surprise Cabin Inspection. If you have any specific games you wish to include, let us know!

After dinner tonight, we'll enjoy a ***Hermit Crab Race*** and then settle in for a special Marine Life class.

Marine Habitats & Adaptations - Marine Habitats focuses on the main habitats found around Long Caye: Seagrass Beds, Shallow Hardbottom and Coral Reefs. The presentation explores the common environments students are exposed to during their time on Long Caye. In the class, students learn about each ecosystem, their benefits and threats, as well as how they can help. In the Marine Adaptations segment, the guides will introduce students to the plethora of adaptations that marine organisms have developed for survival. From obvious features like fins and gills, to the more obscure such as protective setae of a fireworm, students are immersed in everything from claws, camouflage, night vision and bioluminescence!



Day 6

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Rise and shine Slickrock! Are you ready to learn how to surf?



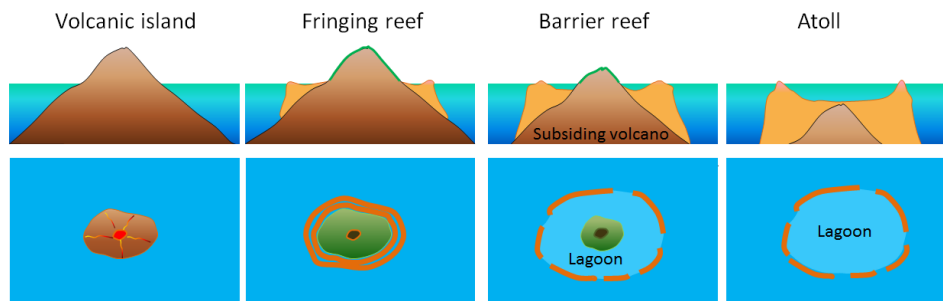
Surfing - Belize surfing is indeed a reality! Long Caye enjoys the only surf break in the country that is both accessible and safe (not breaking over live coral). Because the Belize Barrier Reef blocks ocean swells, only shoals outside the reef or bordering a break in the reef will form a wave. It turns out there are only three spots like that in the entire country, and ours is the only one of the three with a surf center right here. Hang 10, dude!

We'll have our normal **full orientation** on Surfing and then try out our boards! If surfing isn't your bag, there are so many things to do, just enjoy! In the late morning, we will switch to educational topics.



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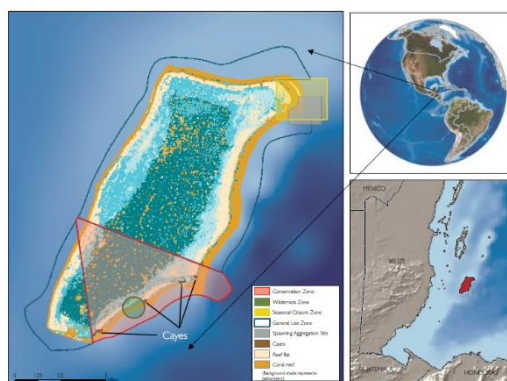
Island Geology & Evolution - In this session, we will talk about how our islands were formed and the atoll in which they reside. We will take a closer look at the geology and formations and discuss the past evolution as well as theories for the future. We'll discuss island ecology, biodiversity, and what it takes to be stewards of this beautiful land. We'll also discuss the wind and how we harness it as an alternative power source.

Tidepool Investigation - Let's search the sea for treasure! Explore the shallows to find geology and sea life. The "intertidal zone" is divided into four sub-sections. Sea cucumbers and sponges live in the low tide zone but can only be seen during extreme low tides. The mid-tide zone offers the most exciting finds including hermit crabs, sea stars and anemones. Look for hard shelled creatures like barnacles in the high-tide zone. And at the high-water mark, or splash zone, one might find dead seaweed, driftwood and marine debris washed ashore.

After lunch, we'll grab our kayaks and head south for an incredible afternoon!

Marine Research Station Visit - Claim your kayak and paddle to the [Glover's Reef Marine Research Station](#) located on Middle Caye, our atoll neighbor. The Glover's Reef Research Station is owned by the Wildlife Conservation Society and provides a platform for scientists to conduct cutting-edge research at one of the Caribbean's most complex and important coral reef systems. The goal of the station is to promote the long-term conservation and management of the Belize Barrier Reef through in situ research, cooperative management, training and education. Additionally, the station provides a home for the Belize Fisheries Department's GRMR headquarters. While there, we'll learn about ongoing projects, concerns, and if time permits, participate in a research objective.

WATCH THIS VIDEO!



After dinner, we'll learn about Belize's native people!



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Mayan Culture - The Maya Empire reached the peak of its power and influence around the sixth century A.D. The Maya excelled at agriculture, pottery, hieroglyph writing, calendar-making and mathematics, and left behind an astonishing amount of impressive architecture and symbolic artwork. Most of the great stone cities of the Maya were abandoned by A.D. 900, and since then, scholars have actively debated what might have caused this dramatic decline. Many of our Belize guides are from Mayan descent. We'll learn about their culture, how they count, how they raise their families and their traditions in an

informative class. Later in our trip, we'll have a chance to visit a true Mayan ruin!

Day 7

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Rise and shine Belize! Today is the day we say goodbye to the island and head inland. Before leaving though, we have two more activities.



Marine Debris Clean-Up - One of the most important issues in the coming years for our oceans, Marine Debris examines the overwhelming presence of unnatural items or trash in our oceans. It was recently stated there is now more trash in our oceans than fish. This issue is something Long Caye sees first-hand as different items wash up on our shore. Students are taught about the different types of marine debris, common causes and most importantly, what they can do to help. Afterwards, students are asked to perform an island stewardship by collecting trash.

Earth-Dive Snorkel Project - Citizen Science is a growing form of data collection by members of the general public in collaboration with professional scientists. Students become a part of this Citizen Science when they participate in the EarthDive Research Project, which helps create a database of indicator species in the Caribbean. Students snorkel in teams with a dive slate and record certain species of marine creatures they observe and in what quantity. When you arrive back home, your students can then enter in the information collected to reflect your school's participation. [Caribbean Snorkel Briefing Pack](#)



In the late morning, we will have an early lunch and then board the Batfish for our trek back to the mainland. Full speed ahead! Upon arriving back in Belize City, we'll disembark and gather our belongings, board our transportation and head to the Belize Zoo.

Belize Zoo & Tropical Education Center Tour - On the mainland, we'll break into smaller groups to visit the Belize Zoo, home to more than 175 animals of about 48 species, all native to Belize. The natural environment of Belize is left entirely intact within the zoo; the dense, natural vegetation is separated only by gravel trails through the



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forest. The Belize Zoo focuses on educating guests about the wildlife of Belize through encountering the animals in their natural habitat and hopefully, instilling a desire to protect and conserve Belize's natural resources.



Later, we'll check in to our mainland hotel, the Belize Biltmore. We'll have dinner at the hotel.

Day 8

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Good morning Belize! Today is a day for adventure! It's our last full day in Belize and we're going exploring!

Xunantunich Maya Ruins – Today we'll take a unique trip to look at incredible Maya ruins. Xunantunich is known as an Ancient Maya archaeological site in the Cayo District. Xunantunich is located atop a ridge above the Mopan River, in sight of the Guatemala border. It served as a Maya civic ceremonial center in the Late and Terminal Classic periods to the Belize Valley region. At this time, when the region was at its peak, nearly 200,000 people lived in Belize. Xunantunich's name means "Sculpture of Lady" in the Maya language. The first modern explorations of the site were conducted by Thomas Gann in the mid-1890s.



After putting our knowledge of the Maya to the test by visiting an ancient ruin site, we will travel to the **Caves Branch River** to cool off a bit.

Cave Tubing - Explore stunning caves while floating through on your tube! Guided by experienced river guides, you will hike through the Belizean rainforest then tube down the refreshing Caves Branch River and through spectacular cave systems which the ancient Mayas regarded as a sacred underworld and home to many powerful gods. Imagine the experience as you float through an underground cathedral, turning your lights off and floating away into time as your guide shares the history of the caves and the Mayan world. An exciting and fun adventure!



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Ziplining - Enjoy soaring through the rainforest canopy! Located on the **Nohoch Che'en Caves Branch Archaeological Reserve**, it features a "beginner's zip run" of 150 feet and six other zip runs that range in lengths from 200 to 600 feet between treetop platforms secured in the canopy of tropical hardwood trees. Intriguing karst limestone cliffs provide a scenic backdrop as you zip through the rainforest canopy.

After our amazing day, we'll head back to the hotel for dinner and awards. What a day!

Day 9

Breakfast included but dependent upon flight time

It's time to pack up and head home. Following breakfast and dependent upon our flight times, we'll have the morning free and then start to say goodbye to Belize as we head off for home; taking memories with us that will last forever!

Farewell Belize!



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BELIZE: PACKING GUIDE

PERSONAL GEAR

Snorkeling Gear - fins, mask & snorkel
(plus possibly scuba booties if you do not have full-foot fins)
Sunscreen, ideally 30+, "reef safe"
Mosquito repellent (jungle use)
Wide-brimmed hat / baseball-type cap
Towel (necessary for camp showers)
Toiletries - shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, lotion, etc. (soap is provided)
Camera / Small binoculars
Headlamp / Flashlight / extra batteries
Sunglasses with strap / reading glasses
Battery-operated travel clock
Personal first aid kit - allergy tablets, pain reliever, swimmer's ear, tummy tablets, lip balm, anti-itch for bug bites, sea sickness tablets, etc.
1-2 water bottles
Beach bag / dry bag
Books / Journals
Cash
Passport

CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR

2 Bathing suits
2-3 Pairs shorts
3-4 Shirts (consider quick dry material)
Lightweight long-sleeved shirt
1 Sweatshirt
Lightweight long pants / joggers
Fast drying underclothes
Lightweight "dive skin" / rash guard (optional)
Lightweight rain jacket
Neoprene reef shoes or sturdy river shoes
Athletic shoes / Hiking boots / socks
Sandals / Flipflops

MOST IMPORTANT: A GREAT ATTITUDE!



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CARIBBEAN BIOLOGY

Booking Numbers:

Minimum 20 students, maximum 30 students
Contact us for different number variations

What's Included:

Round-trip international flights to Belize
Airport transfers & shuttle transportation to included activities
8-nights' total accommodation including 5-nights on private Long Caye Island and 3-nights on the mainland
Boat transportation to/from the island
Breakfasts, lunches & dinners daily starting with lunch on arrival and ending with breakfast on your day of departure
Fund-a-Forest: A tree is planted in the name of each guest
Dollar\$ For Scholars: \$2 donation in the name of each guest

Master Classes, Workshops & Educational Visits:

Belize History & Culture	Animal Identification & Habitats
Coral Reef Ecology	Caribbean Reef Fish Identification
Conservation Town Meeting	Marine Research Station Visit
Invertebrate Biodiversity	Marine Habitats & Adaptations
Island Geology	Belize Zoo & Tropical Education Center Visit
Tidepool Investigation	Xunantunich Mayan Ruins Visit
Mayan Culture	EarthDive Snorkel Project
Marine Debris / Clean-Up	

Activities & Sports / Full Instruction Provided:

Snorkeling	Island Hike
Beach Yoga / Stretching	Kayaking
Kayak Surfing	Caribbean Drumming & Dance Party
Crab Race	Windsurfing
Paddleboarding	Beach Volleyball
Island Olympics	Surfing
Cave Tubing	Ziplining

What's Not Included:

Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
Use of Snorkel equipment / Everyone must bring their own
Wetsuits or rash guards
Scuba Diving (available at extra cost)
Transfers to/from home airport
Cost of visas, full or collective passports
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown in Itinerary
Hotel incidental deposits & bills, mini-bar items, purchases
Any gratuities – shuttle drivers, local guides, tour ambassador

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming.
If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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