



International Natural History Tours

Belize 2018

Hosted by:



Day 1:

We will arrive at the Phillip Goldson International Airport and transfer as a group to the Crooked Tree Lodge. After check in, orientation, and settling in, we will eat dinner at the lodge. A guided night birding walk will ease the group into the upcoming adventures of the trip.

Day 2:

An early morning guided bird walk will start everyone off first thing, followed by breakfast at the lodge. We will then transfer to Orange Walk for a guided tour of the Lamanai Maya Ruins and an all day tour up New River by boat. The tour will include a picnic lunch and we will transfer back to Crooked Tree Lodge for an evening of free time (or self-guided birding, if you prefer) and dinner.

Day 3:

After a guided early morning birding tour of the lagoon by boat, we will eat breakfast and prepare to transfer to the T.R.E.E.S. hosting center. On the way, we will stop at the Belize zoo to explore and eat lunch. After arriving at T.R.E.E.S., we will check in, have an orientation, and then eat dinner. The night will finish off with a welcome Kriol drumming presentation.

Day 4:

For early risers, we will have the customary early morning guided birding, followed by breakfast in the dining area. The day will consist of a guided ethnobotanical walk around the trails and a “Will Walk” from the knowledgeable resident guide. Lunch and free time will be followed by a lecture about bird banding at T.R.E.E.S., and dinner will cap the night off.

Day 5:

We will wake up for an early morning bird banding workshop, followed by breakfast. The group will then set off for a tour of the local village, returning in time for lunch. Prior to dinner, we will have a cooking workshop where participants can learn how to prepare local dishes from the region. A brief lecture about the reserve’s reptile and amphibian inhabitants after dinner will be followed by a “Herp Hike” to look for them.

Day 6:

After another great breakfast, those who opted in for ziplining will have a guided walk to the Angel Falls property for some adventure, lunch, and swimming in the Hidden Falls pool. **This is an optional add on to the tour and costs \$85 per person.** Those who do not wish to participate in ziplining are welcome to relax or explore the reserve at their own pace. There will be a bat sampling talk prior to dinner, followed by a bat mist-netting workshop at night.

Day 7:

After an early breakfast, we will depart for Dangriga and take a boat to Tobacco Caye. Along the way, we will stop to view a colony of Frigate birds at Man-O-War Caye. Check in and orientation at Tobacco Caye Paradise Lodges or Reef’s End Lodge will be followed by an introduction to snorkeling from the shore. We will settle down for lunch then head out on another boat to snorkel on the outer reef, returning for dinner and relaxing the rest of the night.

Day 8:

Breakfast on this day will be followed by another boat ride to the outer reef for some snorkeling, returning in time for lunch. Everyone will be free to relax or explore for the middle of the day, gathering again for dinner. At night, we will have a guided night snorkeling session to explore the ocean after dark.

Day 9:

Breakfast on our last day will be followed by our departure for Dangriga. We will take a short domestic flight (included in the cost of the tour) to Belize Philip Goldson International Airport and finally part ways to return home.

Included in the cost of the tour:

- All accommodations, meals for the duration of the tour, ground transportation and domestic flights within Belize, tour guides, park entrance fees, and a representative from the Audubon Society of Omaha throughout the duration of the tour.

Not included in the cost of the tour:

- International airfare to and from Belize
- Personal travel insurance
- Exit tax for leaving the country of Belize (approximately \$30 USD). This can be included in some airline ticket purchases, so please confirm prior to travel.
- Personal purchases such as souvenirs and alcoholic beverages.

Special considerations:

- We will make every effort to accommodate dietary preferences, but please be aware that some requests may not be possible in a remote field station. Please list any allergies or dietary preferences when registering.
- It is highly encouraged that participants purchase personal travel insurance for the tour. There is no guarantee against severe weather or other unpredictable factors that may lead to an unforeseen last minute cancellation of the trip.
- This tour may include physically demanding activities such as hiking and snorkeling. Please consider if you are reasonably capable of participating in these activities prior to registration.
- It can be hot and humid in Belize, so please be prepared for this when choosing which clothing and luggage you pack. There is typically the option to wash and dry a load of laundry at the T.R.E.E.S. location for \$5 USD.
- Please ensure that all travel documents such as passports are valid prior to the trip. Applying for new documents can take a while, so plan accordingly.

Travel facts:

- 1 Belize dollar is equal to approximately \$0.50 US. This makes conversion of money very simple.
- US currency is readily accepted throughout most of the country, as long as it is in relatively good physical condition.
- The standard electrical outlet and current in Belize is the same as in the US, so power converters are typically not necessary.
- English is the official language of Belize, though Spanish and a unique Creole dialect are also widely spoken.
- The country of Belize is small, so commuting across it rarely takes very long.

For more information, please email:
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