

SAN IGNACIO

Welcome to San Ignacio and its sister town, Santa Elena, who both serve as the gateway to the Cayo District. These towns are more than tourist towns, with a very local flavor, a thriving community along the Macal River, whose residents are as diverse as the ecology of this region of Belize.

Day 1 ARRIVE CAYO DISTRICT:

Arrival meet and greet at the Belize airport. Your transfer from Belize City to San Ignacio departs promptly at 3:30 pm. (Note: your flight would need to arrive before 2:30 pm to be ready for a 3:30 pm shared transfer. For arrivals after this time, the transfer would need to be private.) The scenic two hour drive by minivan takes you from the mangrove swamps of the coastal area outside Belize City through the savannahs of central Belize, to the green forested hills of the Maya Mountains of the Cayo District, and finally to the lively little town of San Ignacio, situated between the Macal and Mopan Rivers. From there it is only a short distance to your selected hotel or lodge.

Private Transfer - Belize City to San Ignacio/Cayo District

Day 2 CAYO DISTRICT:

Visit the ancient Maya city of Xunatunich for an opportunity to view original carved monuments depicting Maya rulers and warriors in their full regalia and journey 130 feet to the top of "El Castillo" to capture a panoramic view of the Belize River Valley. Then continue to Barton Creek Cave in Amish territory. Gently paddle your canoe into Xibalba (she bal ba), Maya for underworld. You will be dazzled by the glistening crystalline formations and awed by the Maya artifacts secretly tucked in overhead alcoves. (Lunch)

Private Cave Tubing and Zipline Tour with Lunch from San Ignacio - 7 Hours Duration: 7 Hours Category: Eco/Nature, Adventure/Active Tour Type: Car/Bus Tour, Walking Tour Zip through the tree tops and then continue with a jungle hike to the entrance of the tunnel. Take in the unique scenery on your tube as you ride through the caves with many intricate formations of stalagmites and stalactites. Become a `Zip rider` today as you connect to a series of overhead cables criss crossing the rainforest canopy. Your cave tubing adventure starts with a jungle trail hike where your guide will point out various plants, roots, and herbs once used by the ancient Maya. Your guide hands out head lamps, and you are ready to float in inflated inner tubes assisted by gentle currents taking you through the cave system.

Day 3 CAYO DISTRICT:

Early morning departure for your journey to Tikal. Tikal Ruins Tour: The first stop will be in the border town of Benque Viejo (Belize) and Melchor (Guatemala) where you will go through Customs (you will pay your border crossing fee which is approximately US \$18.75). Here you will be processed by the

Immigration and Customs officials at both border points. Continue the drive to Tikal National Park in Guatemala (approximately 2 hours from the border). The majestic Maya Ruins of Tikal (in the Mayan language the name Tikal means Place of Voices) are nestled in the dense jungle of the Peten region of Guatemala. This site has been extensively excavated and restored and is probably the most recognized and impressive of all the Maya Ruins in Central America. Upon arrival at Tikal National Park, you will have a 4 hour tour of the site (including a lunch stop at a local diner within the park grounds). You will visit the most important monuments: Complex Q, R, Temple IV, Temple III; and in the Main Plaza, Temples I and II, the North Acropolis and the Central Acropolis. Late afternoon departure from Tikal for the return drive to the Guatemala/Belize border and return to your hotel. (Breakfast, Lunch)

Private Caracol Tour with Packed Lunch - 9 Hours Duration: 9 Hours Category: Adventure/Active, Eco/Nature, Historical Tour Type: Walking Tour Explore Caracol, the largest known Maya center in Belize, covering about 75 square miles. It is a remarkable city complex deep in the rainforest of Belize. "Caana" meaning Sky Palace, the main pyramid at the site, features 4 palaces and 3 temples. At 141 feet, it is considered the tallest building in Belize even to this day! After exploring the site, you can add on a swim and picnic at the Rio On Pools or Big Rock Falls.

Day 4 CAYO DISTRICT TO PLACENCIA:

Today, after breakfast, you have a transfer to Placencia. (Breakfast) Private Transfer - San Ignacio/Cayo District to Placencia

PLACENCIA

Placencia encompasses everything we love about the off the beaten path. A care free atmosphere dominates this beach destination with the calm waters of the Caribbean sea gently pulsing on and off the beach. People are friendly and ready to shared their laid back culture. With a variety of resorts from rustic to luxurious, you`ll surely find the place that speaks to you. Quality service, infinity pools and scenic sea views are just part of the experience. Experience Belize`s natural wonders both on land and underwater. Cockscomb Basin hosts a great number of exotic animals while the barrier reef will mesmerize you with its vivid colors. Finish off your day with a drink on a long chair and relax. Tomorrow will get even better.

Day 5 PLACENCIA:

Explore Monkey River by boat, as it winds it way through the jungle from the Maya Mountains to the sea. Teeming with birds, fish, and the howler monkeys that gave name to the river, this is an easy way to see some of the bounty of this unique ecosystem. On the trip to Independence Town, you will pass through large banana plantations and small Maya villages. Near Independence, you will board a small boat that will take you through a lagoon and coastal waters where you can spot manatees, crocodiles,

and tropical birds. Up river, you will take a short hike in the jungle in hope of seeing howler monkeys close up. You may also spot a tarantula, bats, or even the illusive jaguar! (Breakfast, Lunch)

Shared Ranguana Caye Tropical Island Experience with Lunch - 8 Hours Duration: 8 Hours Category: Adventure/Active, Eco/Nature, Family Friendly Tour Type: Boat Tour Cruise to the picture perfect 2 acre private island of Ranguana Caye, and spend your day in tropical paradise. Paddle board, kayak, take a hammock nap, sunbathe, snorkel, drink, eat, and play beach games. Bully`s Beach Bar provides the music and libations while the staff prepares a delicious beach BBQ.

Day 6 PLACENCIA:

Today, after breakfast, you are free to explore on your own or take one of our optional tours of the area. (Breakfast)

Day 7 PLACENCIA:

Today, after breakfast, you are free to explore on your own or take one of our optional tours of the area. (Breakfast)

Day 8 DEPART PLACENCIA:

Today, after breakfast, you have an air transfer to Belize City. Continue on to your next Avanti destination! (Breakfast) One Way Air Transfer - Placencia Airport to Belize City International Airport
Category: Unique Experiences Tour Type: Air Tour