

Belize – Hidden Valley to Ambergris Caye



Trip Summary

With one foot in the Central American jungles and the other in the Caribbean Sea, Belize may be small but it's packed with adventure and culture. This nine-day adventure will take you from the heart of the jungle where you're sure to spot at least a few of Belize's 570 bird species to the Belize Barrier Reef, the second largest in the world and a pure paradise for marine life lovers and snorkelers. By night, relax at your luxurious accommodation with a candlelit dinner, walk along a sandy beach at sunset, or a warm Jacuzzi soak under a starry Belize sky.

Itinerary

Day 1: Belize City Arrival / Hidden Valley Reserve

Arrive at Belize City International Airport • After passing through immigration and customs you will be greeted by your driver, holding a sign with your name on it • Transfer to Hidden Valley Inn, approx. two and a half hour's drive • Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure • *Overnight: Hidden Valley Inn (D)*

Day 2: Caracol Mayan Ruins / Rio Frio Caves / Rio on Pools

Today, take in the largest Mayan site in the country known as Caracol • Visit ancient courtyards, ball courts, residential complexes and a complete astronomical observatory as your guide recounts the history of nobles and peasants living in a mystic world • The largest of the structure is Caana measuring 43 meters in height, making Caracol the Largest Mayan Ruin in Belize • On your way back from Caracol, stop by the Rio Frio Cave and Rio on pools of the Mountain Pine ridge • Here you can jump in for a swim before returning to your hotel • *Overnight: Hidden Valley Inn (B, L, D)*

Day 3: Hidden Valley Inn & Reserve

Spend the day at your leisure either exploring the 7,000+ acres of Hidden Valley Reserve or relaxing back at the Inn with a yoga class or spa day • Seek out one of the seven waterfalls on property • Take on a self-guided hiking or mountain biking adventure or arrange a bird watching or vehicle tour with the concierge • Included in your stay is a private scenic picnic lunch at one of the reserve's many natural sites • *Overnight: Hidden Valley Inn (B, L, D)*

Day 4: Belize City / Ambergris Caye

Today, we drive to the municipal airstrip located in Belize City • En route to the airstrip, we'll stop at Jaguar Paw to experience an exhilarating cave tubing adventure • Hike a short distance across the subtropical forest where you begin your underworld tubing experience • Once there, sit back and relax while you float through a series of caves with crystal blue waters, limestone walls and much more! • After lunch, we'll continue on our two and a half hour transfer to Belize City • A short 20 minute flight will bring you to La Isla Bonita • A representative from your hotel will be waiting for you at the airstrip to take you to Victoria House • *Overnight: Victoria House (B, L, D)*

Day 5: Ambergris Caye / Hol Chan Marine Reserve / Shark Ray Alley

After breakfast you will be picked up at the pier of your hotel by your boat captain • Today you will visit the Hol Chan Marine Reserve, located four miles away from Ambergris Caye by boat • Hol Chan is the Mayan translation for "little channel" and is home to over 160 species of fish, nearly 40 species of corals, 5 sponges, 8 algae, 2 sea grasses, 3 marine mammals and 3 species of sea turtles • Your next adventure is at



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Shark Ray Alley, lying just three minutes from Hol Chan • Nurse Sharks and stingrays politely greet you as you arrive to visit them • *Overnight: Victoria House (B, L, D)*

Days 6 – 8: Ambergris Caye / Victoria House

Experience three days of leisure at and around Victoria House • You may opt to visit the lively town of San Pedro which is a short bicycle ride away; the resort can help you get a cab to take you into the village if you desire • The second largest barrier reef in the world is just minutes away by boat; the concierge can assist you in booking a snorkeling, scuba diving, or fishing excursion • There is also an award-winning spa with 36 different treatments that you may opt to take advantage of • However you choose to spend your days on Ambergris Caye is up to you! • *Overnight: Victoria House (B, L, D)*

Day 9: Belize City Departure

This morning, you will be taken to the nearby San Pedro airstrip for your twenty minute flight to the International airport • From here, make your post trip connections home • *End of Services (B)*

*** Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures and Darah Travel.*

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Activities

Activities at each location are customized to meet the interest level of each guest and include: snorkeling, jungle hiking, swimming, and safari cave tubing. Adventures also include exploring Mayan ruins and primeval caves, wandering nature trails on foot and watching over 400 species of exotic birds and other wildlife -- or simply luxuriating on a beautiful tropical beach. Your guides will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, your guides will help you select the distance that's right for you.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.

Darah Travel

Austin Adventures is proudly offering this trip in conjunction with our Belize partner, Darah Travel. Darah Travel is an extremely guest-oriented company and their mission is to provide you with a safe and reliable Belize services provider on your vacation in a foreign land. They believe in matching their products and services to what best fits their guests needs, treating their guests with the utmost respect and courtesy, and providing you with the vacation of a lifetime on your trip to Belize. The employees of Darah Travel truly believe that Belize has it all, and that there is something for everyone in this small country, regardless of your budget, time constraints, and comfort requirements. Whatever your desires are for the ultimate Belize Vacation, Darah Travel and Austin Adventures are teaming up to provide you with your dream adventure!



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Distinctive Accommodations

Nights 1 – 3: Hidden Valley Inn

Hidden Valley Inn comprises an estate lodge and just six surrounding cottages, each with two suites, making for a highly personal and exclusive vacation experience. The lodge, once the Main House of the Hidden Valley estate, boasts several fireplace lounges, a handsome bar room that opens to the pool's stone terrace, beautifully surrounded by gardens of orchids, lilies and bromeliads. At night, enjoy the Jacuzzi under Belize's starry skies or cozy up with a book after dinner.

The restaurant at Hidden Valley Inn is an epicurean delight reserved for property guests only. Candelight dinners are best when followed by a nightcap in the cocktail lounge. And after, guests make their way back to their individual cottages where, on cooler evenings, a fire is glowing.

In the morning, refreshed and ready to venture out into the broad landscape of Hidden Valley Reserve, guests meet the friendly staff to go over the day's itinerary. Your hosts will personally see to it that your plans are met and that the day is properly arranged for maximum satisfaction. Should your plans include a spa service, that can be arranged as well!

Nights 4 – 8: Victoria House

Spectacular, private, and located on a breathtaking Caribbean island, the award winning Victoria House Resort & Spa features 42 rooms offering a variety of world-class accommodations. Whether you stay in a spacious pool villa, luxurious suite, well-appointed Stateroom, or a romantic tropical Casita, Victoria House provides the perfect venue for total relaxation and comfort.

As a boutique resort, Victoria House is unsurpassed in the art of pampering its guests with an abundance of services and conveniences. The spa facility truly sets Victoria House apart from any other resort on Ambergris Caye.

Perched at the edge of one of the most stunning natural wonders of the world, the Belize Barrier Reef, the resort offers a variety of exhilarating adventures, from exploring Mayan ruins to diving the world renowned Great Blue Hole. Whether you are looking for a relaxing beach vacation or an adventurous assortment of world class activities, Victoria House is sure to deliver an unforgettable experience.

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Arrival and Departures

Upon arrival at Belize International Airport, pass through immigration and immediately enter the luggage claim area. After collecting your luggage you will pass through customs and then continue towards the airport exit door on your right hand side. Outside look for a representative of Austin Adventures who will be holding an Austin Adventures sign with your name on it. Your driver will then transfer you two and a half hours to Hidden Valley Inn, where you may spend the rest of the day resting and preparing for your adventure. On your last day, you will be taken to the nearby San Pedro airstrip for your twenty minute flight to the International airport where you will make your post trip connections home.

Trip Price

Please call for pricing

Trip Length

9 days / 8 nights

2019 Dates

Departing weekly; call for availability

Host City

Belize City, Belize (BZE)

Reservations & Availability

1.800.575.1540

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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$750 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800.575.1540

Phone: 406.655.4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

You may also book your AA adventure with your preferred travel professional.

We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures).

Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths as noted in itinerary.
- Meals as indicated in detailed daily itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Non-alcoholic beverages during meals.
- Road and boat transfers throughout duration of trip.
- Daily tours and activities listed in itinerary.
- Tour entrance fees and equipment.
- Local flight to/from Ambergris Caye.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures / Darah Travel guides & drivers.
- Gratuities for guides on Caracol, cave tubing and Hol Chan Marine Reserve experiences.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- Any meals not indicated in itinerary.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.

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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you.

Minimum Age

Family Adventures are suitable for children seven years old and up (six years and older for our Costa Rica and Yellowstone Family Adventures). Children who share a room with one or more adults receive reduced rates. The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

Cancellation 45-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-44 days before trip departure – No refund is given

*** Note: During Peak Season no refund is given if the cancellation is received 60 days or less prior to guest's arrival.*

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.