

Belize Family – Western Belize



Trip Summary

Imagine.....an underground world chock-full of sparkling stalagmites, hanging stalactites and sheet-like flowstones; visualize yourself standing atop an ancient Mayan ruin staring out at the crumbling kingdom surrounding you; envision colorful corals, vibrant fish, and sleek sharks as seen through the shield of a snorkel mask. Welcome to Belize, with its unspoiled ruins, thick jungles, pristine ocean, and untouched caves. On this eight day adventure, you'll discover secrets of the Mayan past and fly through the air on a jungle zip line. Cave tube through a cave system and snorkel with huge lobsters, arrow crabs, snapper, and barracuda. Wind down with some beach time on the crystal clear Caribbean. If you're looking for an excellent mix of exploration and downtime, Belize is the perfect vacation destination for you!

Itinerary

Day 1: Belize City Arrival

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 Mystic River Resort, approx. two and a half hour's drive • Relax in your cabana or by the shallow splash pool after a long day's travel • *Overnight: Mystic River Resort (D)*

Day 2: Canoeing to San Ignacio / Xunantunich / Cahal Pech Ruins

This morning, paddle and float downstream the Macal River to San Ignacio Town, enjoying the beautiful scenery and variety of birds and wildlife along the way • Upon arrival to San Ignacio, your guide will take you on a tour of Xunantunich Maya Site located in the San Jose Succotz Village • The center is composed of six major plazas surrounded by more than 25 unexcavated temples and palaces • The largest pyramid, El Castillo, is well known for the frieze or band of stucco decoration which at one time extended around the entire temple • El Castillo rises 131 feet above the main plaza and offers an impressive panoramic view over the Mopan River valley including views of Belize's neighboring country, Guatemala • Our second stop will be Cahal Pech Maya site, once a hilltop home of an elite Mayan family and recognized as one of the oldest Maya sites in Western Belize • Later this afternoon, we'll head back to Mystic River for some downtime • *Overnight: Mystic River Resort (B, L, D)*

Day 3: Actun Tunichil Muknal Cave

After breakfast your guide will transfer you to the start of your tour of Actun Tunichil Muknal Cave • After a short hike to reach the cave entrance, swim a short distance, leading to an amazing underworld realm • A 45 minute trek leads to the main water passage where you can admire sparkling stalactites, stalagmites and flow stones • This chamber is known as Xibalba; a world beneath the face of the earth, into which kings and shamans of Mayan past could communicate with gods and ancestors through rituals and ceremonies • Late afternoon, we'll head back to the resort • *Overnight: Mystic River Resort (B, L, D)*

Day 4: Chabil Mar Villas / Jaguar Paw

Today, we drive to Chabil Mar located in Placencia • En route to Chabil Mar, we'll stop at Jaguar Paw to experience an exhilarating zip lining and cave tubing adventure • The zip lining adventure gives you the ultimate bird's eye view of the lush jungle that leads you into a



Belize Family – Western Belize

cavernous opening to one of the Maya's ancient ceremonial caves • 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 three-hour transfer to Chabil Mar via the Hummingbird Highway, one of the most scenic highways in Belize •
Overnight: Chabil Mar (B, L, D)

Day 5: Snorkeling Belize's Barrier Reef

This morning we'll depart the nearby marina en route to Belize's Barrier Reef – the second longest in the world! • We'll experience one of the many snorkeling spots off the coast of Placencia, the coast of Southern Belize is known for its abundance in aquatic life, fish stocks, and coral reef biodiversity • *Overnight: Chabil Mar (B, L, D)*

Day 6: Placencia / Chabil Mar

Experience two days of leisure at Chabil Mar with countless options of how to spend your time at this beautiful resort • Choose to relax by the beach, enjoy one of the many complimentary activities offered by the resort or go on an organized tour • You may opt to visit the Placencia Village which is only a short drive or bicycle ride away; the resort can help you get a cab to take you into the village if you desire • *Overnight: Chabil Mar (B, L, D)*

Day 7: Placencia / Chabil Mar

Enjoy a relaxed breakfast before taking on another day exploring Placencia's peninsula paradise at your leisure • Opt to bike along paved roads past colorful beach houses in Placencia Village • Enjoy a casual gourmet lunch at the resort • Spend the afternoon wading in crystal Caribbean waters, or relaxing while soaking up the Belize sunshine • Dine on some of the best island cuisine this evening while reflecting on your incredible Belize adventure • Tonight, watch the sunset paint the sky in brilliant orange shades illuminating a quivering path across the waters • *Overnight: Chabil Mar (B, L, D)*

Day 8: Departure to Belize City International Airport

This morning, you will shuttle 3 hours from Placencia to the International Airport by private transfer • From here, make your post trip connections home • *End of Services (B)*

**This trip is operated in partnership with Darah Travel.*

***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.*

Belize Family – Western Belize



Activities

Activities at each location are customized to meet the interest level of each guest and include snorkeling, jungle hiking, swimming, safari cave tubing and zip lining. 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!



Belize Family – Western Belize

Distinctive Accommodations

Nights 1 – 3: Mystic River Resort

On a steep bank of the beautiful Macal River, eco-friendly Mystic River Resort Jungle Lodge offers the best of all worlds to those traveling to Belize. In this oasis of privacy, serenity and rejuvenation, there are no crowds, just the soothing sound of birds, rustling trees and soft breezes. Located in the jungle of Belize, seven miles from the twin towns of San Ignacio and Santa Elena, Mystic River Resort is best place to find the perfect something – or nothing – to do. The friendly and accommodating staff will strive to make your stay at Mystic River a wonderful experience. Mystic River takes pride in the fact that they generate their own electricity, without sacrificing the small luxuries life has to offer. They also collect and purify their own water, which is safe to drink anywhere on the property. As part of a reforestation program, Mystic River has endeavored to replant many indigenous trees cut down during the logging years in Belize. Hotels may have fancy lobbies and high-rise views, but Mystic River is returning to nature – in comfort and style!

Accommodation: Miles of well-kept trails, Lily pool, Complimentary use of tubes and boogie boards, Free Wi-Fi, Complimentary basket of tea or coffee in the morning

Nights 4 – 7: Chabil Mar Villas

Maya for “Beautiful Sea”, Chabil Mar is nestled on 400 feet of Caribbean beach front, just five minutes from Placencia Village. Nineteen individually designed Villas, each with a personal sea-facing veranda, grace the property. A private pier for dining, lounging and sunning, al fresco dining at “Café Mar” beach-side and two infinity swimming pools amidst lush tropical gardens top the list of amazing amenities at Chabil Mar. Because of the resort’s premier location, guests can enjoy Belizean culture, the people, shops and nightlife of the Village at your leisure and convenience, on your own schedule and as often as you like. The luxury accommodations strike a perfect balance between Belizean flair and modern amenities. Original art and local artifacts complement the comforts of home. One- and two-bedroom villas (some with lofts) grace the properties. King sized beds, fine linens and bedding, Belizean hardwood cabinetry, granite counter tops, fine tiling and marble, in spacious 1000-square foot living areas, create a tranquil resort experience.

Accommodation: Two beachfront modern infinity pools, Kaleidoscope Seaview Bar and Lounge, Café Mar (exclusive beachside restaurant with tropical outdoor seafront dining), Free Wi-Fi, Complimentary bicycles, paddleboards, and kayaks, Complimentary evening shuttle service to and from Placencia village, Room service, Gift shop

Belize Family – Western Belize



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 Mystic River Resort, where you may spend the rest of the day resting and preparing for your adventure. On your last day, you will take a 3 hour private transfer to the International airport where you will make your post trip connections home.

Trip Price

Call for pricing

Trip Length

8 days / 7 nights

2020 Dates

July 25 – August 1
August 17 – 24

Host City

Belize City, Belize (BZE)

Reservations & Availability

1.800.575.1540

*Colorful corals, vibrant fish and
sleek sharks seen through the
shield of a snorkel mask*



Belize Family – Western Belize

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. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** 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 Austin 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 as listed in itinerary.
- 10% service charge at Mystic River & Chabil Mar (includes tips for hotel and restaurant staff).
- Tour entrance fees and equipment.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt and luggage tags.
- Pre-departure and packing information.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures Guide and Driver.
- Gratuities to cave tubing and snorkeling guides.
- 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.

Belize Family – Western Belize



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.

Child Age and Pricing on Family Adventures

Family Adventures are suitable for children seven years old and up (five 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 46-60 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 50% per person is refunded

Cancellation 0-45 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.