

25+ Best Things to Do in Belize: Ultimate Travel Guide (2025)

Planning a trip to Belize? You're in for a tropical adventure filled with breathtaking beaches, world-famous diving spots, ancient Mayan ruins, lush jungles, and vibrant culture. Whether you're an adventure seeker, honeymooner, nature lover, or family traveler, **Belize offers something for everyone.**

This guide shares **25+ unique things to do in Belize** to help you [plan your trip](#) like a pro. From **snorkeling at the Great Blue Hole** to **relaxing on Caye Caulker**, we've got it all covered.

Where is Belize?

Belize is a small but stunning country located on the **eastern coast of Central America**, bordered by **Mexico to the north, Guatemala to the west and south**, and the **Caribbean Sea to the east**. Though it's in Central America geographically, Belize often feels more like the Caribbean in terms of culture, food, and rhythm.

Its location makes it a **perfect tropical getaway** — just a short flight from many major U.S. cities. For example:

- From **Miami**: ~2 hours
- From **Houston or Dallas**: ~2.5 hours
- From **Los Angeles**: ~4.5 hours

Belize is the **only English-speaking country in Central America**, which makes it even easier for travelers to get around and connect with locals. And despite its small size, Belize packs in a world of variety — from lush jungle adventures to turquoise reef dives and laid-back island life.

Fun fact: Belize's barrier reef is the **second-largest in the world**, right after Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

Why Visit Belize?

Belize is a **Caribbean paradise in Central America**, where the sea meets the jungle, and the past meets the present. It's English-speaking, uses the U.S. dollar, and is known for:

- The **second-largest barrier reef** in the world
- A unique blend of **Mayan, Creole, Mestizo, and Garifuna cultures**
- Access to **incredible nature and wildlife**
- Year-round sunshine and laid-back island vibes

Let's explore the very best experiences Belize has to offer.

Top 10 Things to Do in Belize for Adults

1. The Great Blue Hole, Belize

The Great Blue Hole is a famous underwater sinkhole and a stunning natural wonder in Belize. It's a popular spot for divers and tourists.

- **Location:** Belize
- **Rating:** ★★★★★ 4.6 out of 5 stars (based on 958 reviews)

Helpful Information

- **Best for Divers:** The Great Blue Hole is known worldwide for its deep-sea diving opportunities. Divers can explore the giant sinkhole and see sharks, fish, and incredible rock formations.
- **Unique View:** For a unique perspective, you can take a small plane or helicopter flight over the hole to see its perfect circular shape from above.
- **Tours and Cost:** Visiting the Great Blue Hole is done through a guided tour, and prices vary. Flights over the hole can cost around **\$315**, while full-day trips that combine the Blue Hole with other national parks can be found for around **\$135**.
- **Accessibility:** As it's a deep-sea dive site, the main activities are best for experienced divers.
- **What to expect:** You'll be visiting a deep ocean cave, not a typical beach or snorkeling spot. It's a true natural wonder for adventure seekers.

2. Nohoch Che'en Caves Branch Archaeological Reserve, Belize

This reserve is a network of stunning limestone caves and a famous spot for adventure tours. It's a great place to go cave tubing, kayaking, and ziplining.

- **Location:** 37 Miles George Price Highway, Frank's Eddy Village Cayo District, Belize
- **Rating:** ★★★★★ 4.8 out of 5 stars (based on 621 reviews)

What Makes This Place Special?

- **Cave Tubing:** This is the most popular activity. You'll float on an inner tube down a gentle underground river, through ancient Mayan caves. It's a mix of relaxation and history as your guide points out crystal formations and Maya relics.
- **Jungle Ziplining:** For a thrill, you can fly high above the rainforest canopy. The zipline course offers amazing views and an exhilarating experience.
- **Cave Kayaking:** You can also explore the cave system by kayaking through the underground river.
- **Rich History:** The caves were considered sacred to the ancient Maya people, who believed them to be a portal to the underworld, adding a unique cultural layer to your adventure.

Helpful Information for Your Visit

- **Tours are Required:** You can't enter the reserve on your own. You must book a tour with a licensed guide.
- **Physical Activity:** Expect a moderate amount of physical activity, including a walk on a jungle trail to get to the cave entrance.
- **Cost:** The cost of a tour varies depending on the activities you choose and the tour operator. A basic cave tubing tour can be around **\$50**, with an additional **\$45** for the zipline. Combo tours with multiple activities can range from **\$100-\$200** per person.
- **What to Bring:** Wear clothes you don't mind getting wet, and sturdy water shoes. Bring an extra set of clothes and a towel for afterward.
- **Reservations:** Booking your tour in advance is highly recommended, as they can sell out.

3. Rio Frio Cave, Belize

Rio Frio Cave is a stunning limestone cave known for its massive 65-foot arched entrance. Inside, you'll find unique rock formations and an internal river.

Location: XXHR+6M7, Douglas Da Silva, Belize

Rating: ★★★★★ 4.7 out of 5 stars (based on 154 reviews)

Helpful Information

- **Easy to Explore:** Unlike some other caves, Rio Frio is fairly easy to walk through. A trail leads you right through the cave, so you don't need any special gear.
- **Natural Wonders:** The cave has large rock formations, stalactites, and stalagmites. A small river runs through the center of the cave, so be prepared for a bit of mud.
- **Cost:** Entry to the cave is free. However, it's located within the **Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve**, and you'll have to pay a small fee to enter the reserve itself.
- **Tours are recommended:** The cave is a bit remote, so most visitors go with a guided tour. A guide can provide interesting information about the history and geology of the cave.
- **What to Bring:** Wear sturdy shoes that you don't mind getting wet or muddy. Also, a flashlight or headlamp is a good idea to help you see the details inside the cave.

4. Xunantunich Mayan Ruins, Belize

Xunantunich is a spectacular Mayan archaeological site featuring towering pyramid-shaped stone structures. You can climb to the top for incredible panoramic views of the surrounding area.

Location: San Jose Succotz, Belize

Rating: ★★★★★ 4.9 out of 5 stars (based on 2,994 reviews)

What Makes This Place Special?

- **El Castillo:** The main pyramid, known as "El Castillo," is the most famous part of the site. It is one of the tallest structures in Belize and offers breathtaking views from its top.
- **Ancient History:** The site was an important ceremonial center during the Classic period. Exploring the plazas and ball courts gives you a glimpse into the ancient Maya civilization.
- **River Crossing:** To get to the ruins, you must take a hand-cranked ferry across the Mopan River, which is a unique and fun part of the experience.

Helpful Information for Your Visit

- **Cost:** A small admission fee is required to enter the archaeological site.
- **Getting There:** The ruins are a popular day trip, and tours are widely available from San Ignacio and other nearby towns. You can also drive there on your own.
- **Physical Activity:** Be prepared for a walk and a climb. The ascent to the top of El Castillo is steep but rewarding.
- **What to Bring:** Wear comfortable shoes for walking, and bring water, sunscreen, and bug spray. A hat is also a good idea.
- **Hours:** The site opens at 8:00 AM, so arriving early is a great way to avoid the crowds and the heat of the day.

5. The Belize Sign Monument, Belize City

The Belize Sign Monument is a fun and colorful landmark perfect for taking a memorable photo. These large, brightly painted letters spell out "BELIZE" and stand against a beautiful ocean backdrop.

Location: Sea Shore Drive Area, Belize City, Belize

Rating: ★★★★★ 4.5 out of 5 stars (based on 585 reviews)

Helpful Information

- **Great Photo Op:** This is a top spot for tourists to take a picture to remember their trip to Belize.
- **Open All the Time:** The monument is accessible 24 hours a day, so you can visit at any time.
- **Easy to Find:** It's located right along the water in Belize City, making it easy to get to.
- **Free to Visit:** There is no fee to see the monument.

6. Lamanai Archaeological Reserve, Belize

Lamanai is an impressive ancient Mayan city located along the New River. It's a great place to see ancient temples and enjoy a scenic boat ride to get there.

Location: Water Bank, Belize

Rating: ★★★★★ 4.8 out of 5 stars (based on 1,009 reviews)

What Makes This Place Special?

- **Jungle River Tour:** The journey to Lamanai is part of the adventure. You'll take a boat ride on the New River, and your guide will point out wildlife like monkeys and crocodiles along the way.
- **Massive Temples:** The site features several large, well-preserved temples, including the "Mask Temple" and the "High Temple."
- **Climb to the Top:** You can climb to the top of the High Temple for stunning views of the surrounding jungle and the river.
- **On-site Museum:** There's a small museum on the premises with artifacts and information about the site's history.

Helpful Information for Your Visit

- **Cost:** A small fee is required to enter the reserve.
- **Getting There:** The best way to get to Lamanai is by booking a guided tour, which typically includes the boat ride, entrance fees, and a guide.
- **Physical Activity:** Expect some walking and climbing. The trails are not paved, so wear comfortable, sturdy shoes.
- **What to Bring:** Bring bug spray, sunscreen, and a hat. Binoculars can also be a good idea for spotting wildlife during the boat ride.
- **Hours:** The reserve opens at 8:00 AM.

7. Barton Creek Cave Reserve, Belize

Barton Creek Cave is a unique attraction where you explore an ancient Mayan cave system by canoe. You'll float through the cave, seeing evidence of ancient Mayan rituals on raised ledges.

Location: Seven Miles, El Progresso, Belize

Rating: ★★★★★ 4.6 out of 5 stars (based on 224 reviews)

What Makes This Place Special?

- **Canoe Tour:** The main activity is a guided canoe tour through the cave. Your guide will paddle you along the underground river, pointing out impressive formations and ancient artifacts.
- **Mayan History:** The cave was an important ceremonial site for the ancient Maya, and you can see artifacts like pottery and human remains on ledges that are a testament to their use.

- **Peaceful Adventure:** Unlike some of the other more adventurous activities in Belize, the canoe tour offers a peaceful and serene way to explore the caves.
- **Natural Beauty:** The cave itself is a natural wonder with huge chambers and incredible rock formations.

Helpful Information for Your Visit

- **Cost:** Tours typically cost around **\$80.00** per person.
- **Getting There:** The cave is a bit remote, so it's best to book a tour that includes transportation.
- **Physical Activity:** This is a low-impact activity, making it suitable for many ages and fitness levels.
- **What to Bring:** Wear clothes and shoes that you don't mind getting wet. It's a good idea to bring a change of clothes and a towel.
- **Hours:** The reserve opens at 7:00 AM.
- **Website:** You can find more information at bartoncreekcave.com.

8. St. Herman's Blue Hole National Park, Belize

St. Herman's Blue Hole National Park is a protected area offering a variety of activities, from hiking and caving to swimming in a stunning natural pool.

Location: Mile 42 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan, Belize

Rating: ★★★★★ 4.6 out of 5 stars (based on 354 reviews)

What Makes This Place Special?

- **The Blue Hole:** This is the park's main attraction, a beautiful cenote (natural sinkhole) with turquoise blue water perfect for a refreshing swim.
- **St. Herman's Cave:** You can explore this cave on a guided tour, where you'll see large chambers and impressive formations.
- **Jungle Trails:** The park has well-maintained hiking trails that take you through the lush jungle, where you can see local flora and fauna.

Helpful Information for Your Visit

- **Cost:** There is an entrance fee to the national park.
- **Getting There:** The park is located on the Hummingbird Highway and is easily accessible by car or as part of a tour from Belmopan or other nearby towns.

- **Physical Activity:** The park offers a range of activities, from a gentle walk to the Blue Hole to more strenuous hiking and caving.
- **What to Bring:** Bring a swimsuit and towel for swimming in the Blue Hole. For caving and hiking, wear comfortable, sturdy shoes. Also, remember to bring water, sunscreen, and bug spray.
- **Hours:** The park opens at 8:00 AM.
- **Phone:** You can reach them at +501 223-4985.

9. The Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center

The Belize Zoo is a unique and famous zoo dedicated to the animals of Belize. It's a great place to see native wildlife in a natural setting.

Location: Mile 29 George Price Hwy, La Democracia, Belize

Rating: ★★★★★ 4.6 out of 5 stars (based on 2,008 reviews)

Helpful Information

- **A Zoo with a Mission:** The zoo is a non-profit organization focused on conservation and education. All the animals are native to Belize and have been rescued, rehabilitated, or born in the zoo.
- **See Native Wildlife:** This is the best place to see Belize's native animals, including jaguars, toucans, howler monkeys, tapirs, and harpy eagles.
- **Cost:** Admission is around **\$20**.
- **Getting There:** The zoo is located right off the highway, making it easy to visit on your way to or from other parts of the country. Many tours include a stop here.
- **Website:** You can find more information and contact them through their official website: belizezoo.org.

10. Baron Bliss Lighthouse, Belize City

The Baron Bliss Lighthouse is a historic and iconic landmark located in Belize City. This famous red and white concrete lighthouse stands 15 meters tall and was built in 1885.

Location: 4 Fort St, Belize City, Belize

Rating: ★★★★★ 4.4 out of 5 stars (based on 440 reviews)

Helpful Information

- **Historic Landmark:** The lighthouse is named after Baron Henry Edward Ernest Victor Bliss, a British benefactor who left his fortune to the people of Belize.
- **Open to the Public:** You can visit the lighthouse at any time, as it is open 24 hours a day.
- **Scenic Spot:** Located at the entrance to Belize City's harbor, it's a great place to enjoy views of the Caribbean Sea.
- **Free to Visit:** There is no fee to see the lighthouse.
- **Phone:** You can reach them at +501 628-9932.

Locations on Map:

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Discover Belize's Ancient Mayan Ruins



Xunantunich

Just a short ferry ride and hike, this ancient city offers sweeping views from El Castillo — one of Belize's tallest Maya structures.



Caracol

Hidden deep in the Chiquibul Forest, this massive ruin is larger than modern-day Belize City. Great for history buffs and off-the-beaten-path explorers.



Lamanai

Reached by a river boat, Lamanai blends adventure and archaeology. Watch howler monkeys and explore ruins by the water.



Altun Ha

Famous for the jade head of Kinich Ahau, Altun Ha is close to Belize City and great for short trips or cruise excursions.

Relax on Belize's Best Beaches & Islands

Ambergris Caye

The most popular island, home to San Pedro Town, beach bars, and diving excursions. Perfect for nightlife and water adventures.

Caye Caulker

"Go slow" is the island motto. Ideal for backpackers and chill travelers. Great for snorkeling, seafood, and barefoot vibes.

Placencia

A charming peninsula with 16 miles of sandy beaches. Explore coral islands or just relax at beachfront resorts.

Hopkins

Known for **Garifuna culture**, **drum music**, and yoga retreats. A tranquil spot for cultural immersion and wellness.

Dive Into Belize's Rich Culture

Garifuna Drumming & Dancing

Attend a live drumming performance in **Hopkins or Dangriga**. Learn about the Garifuna people — descendants of West Africans and Caribs.






Museum of Belize

Located in Belize City, this museum is inside a former prison and showcases Maya artifacts, colonial history, and cultural exhibits.

Attend Local Festivals

- **Lobsterfest** (June–July) – San Pedro, Placencia, and Caye Caulker
- **Costa Maya Festival** (August) – regional music, dance, and food
- **September Celebrations** – parades, pageants, and patriotism

Belize Adventures for Thrill Seekers

-  **Zipline in the rainforest** near Belmopan
-  **Kayak on Sittee River or Placencia Lagoon**
-  **Horseback ride to ruins** in the Cayo District
-  **Bike through San Ignacio**
-  **Paddleboard at sunrise** in Placencia


Best Local Foods & Where to Try Them

Don't leave Belize without trying:

Dish	Description	Where to Find It
Stew Chicken & Rice & Beans	Belize's national comfort food	Local restaurants in San Pedro, Placencia, Belize City
Fry Jacks	Puffy fried dough breakfast staple	Street vendors early a.m.
Hudut	Garifuna coconut fish stew	Hopkins
Conch Fritters & Lobster	Seafood favorites (in season)	Ocean-front restaurants in cays / Placencia
Cassava Pudding	Sweet dessert, baked or steamed	Local bakeries / food stalls

Don't miss sampling local rum and fresh fruit juices. Eat where locals eat — vibrant flavor, small prices.

Family-Friendly Activities

-  Visit **The Belize Zoo** – known for natural enclosures

- 🦋 Explore butterfly farms in Cayo
- 🏊 Enjoy gentle snorkeling at Hol Chan
- 🌿 Go hiking at **Bocawina National Park**
- 🎣 Try handline fishing with locals

Romantic Things to Do in Belize for Couples

- 🌅 Take a sunset sail in Ambergris Caye
- 🌴 Book a private beach dinner in Placencia
- 🧖 Enjoy couples massages at jungle lodges
- 🛶 Paddle under the stars in Hopkins Lagoon
- 🏖 Stay in an **overwater bungalow** at Coco Plum or Thatch Caye

Practical Information for Your Trip

How Many Days Do You Need in Belize?

- 7-10 days is ideal. This lets you split time between the islands and the jungle.
- With 5 days, focus on one region. Either the cayes or the Cayo District.

What is the Best Time to Visit Belize?

- **The dry season (December to April) is best.** There is less rain.
- **The shoulder seasons (May-June, Nov)** are also good. There are fewer crowds.
- **Avoid the rainy season (Sept-Oct).** Some activities may be closed.

Is Belize Safe for Tourists?

Belize is generally safe for tourists who use common sense. However, it is important to be aware of your surroundings.

- Petty crime, like theft, can occur. Do not leave valuables unattended on the beach or in cars.

- Violent crime is a concern in certain areas of Belize City (southside) that tourists have no reason to visit.
- Popular tourist destinations like the cayes (Ambergris Caye, Caye Caulker), San Ignacio, and Placencia have a much lower risk and are considered very safe.

The U.S. Department of State advises exercising increased caution in Belize. Stay in well-traveled areas, do not walk alone at night, and be vigilant. This cautious approach will ensure your trip is both safe and incredibly enjoyable.

What to Do in Belize's Cities

Belize City

- Museum of Belize
- Altun Ha (half-day trip)
- Shopping at the Tourism Village

San Pedro (Ambergris Caye)

- Dive shops and nightlife
- Beachfront bars like The Truck Stop




Placencia



- Boardwalk strolls
- Art galleries and ice cream spots

Caye Caulker

- Lazy Lizard beach bar
- Rent bikes or snorkel from shore



Travel Tips for Belize

-  **Currency:** Belize Dollar (BZD), but USD is widely accepted
-  **Language:** English is the official language
-  **Best time to visit:** Nov–May (dry season)

-  **Transport:** Domestic flights, water taxis, buses
-  **Sunscreen:** Reef-safe only! Non-reef-safe sunscreens are banned in many areas

Safety Note

Belize is generally safe, especially in tourist-friendly areas such as **Ambergris Caye, San Pedro, Placencia, and Cayo District**. However, the U.S. State Department and local advisories recommend **vigilance in Belize City**, especially after dark. Avoid isolated neighborhoods, keep valuables secure, and use official transportation.

-  **Health tips:** Use reef-safe sunscreen (non-oxybenzone formulas), drink bottled water where needed.
-  **Transport:** Water taxis, domestic flights, local buses; plan travel time carefully.

FAQs – Answering What People Ask

Q: Is Belize worth visiting?

Absolutely! Belize offers beaches, culture, food, and eco-adventures all in one place.

Q: Can you snorkel in Belize without diving?

Yes! Most of the reef is accessible by snorkel — especially at Hol Chan and Shark Ray Alley.

Q: Do I need a visa to visit Belize?

Not for U.S., UK, EU, and most travelers. Always check your country's requirements.

Q: Is Belize good for families?

Yes. Many areas offer kid-friendly activities and eco-lodges.

Q: What are the must-see places in Belize?

Ambergris Caye, Great Blue Hole, Caracol, Cockscomb Basin, and Hopkins are top picks.

Conclusion: Belize is a Treasure Worth Discovering

From swimming with sharks to exploring ancient ruins, Belize offers an **unforgettable blend of adventure, relaxation, and culture**. Whether you're planning a quick island escape or a deep jungle expedition, there's something for every type of traveler.

Start planning your Belize adventure today — and remember to **pack your sense of wonder!**