



a guide to
BELIZE

BAHAYAN

HIGHLY CURATED INCENTIVE DESTINATIONS





Bahayan Belize

Bahayan LLC and the experts in Meeting, Incentive, Conferences & Event experts realized a dream to exit commercialism and present a unique travel experience for our customers. The Bahayan Belize experience redefines incentive travel for a new group consciousness while relieving big brand destination fatigue.

The Bahayan travel experience is a curated, hand-crafted, soulful experience for locals and travelers alike, while providing the opportunity to create an amazing experience within an elite collection in unique destinations. Our underlying goal in sharing the destination with a wide new audience is to lend a spiritual and meaningful experience to the corporate world.



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GETTING HERE

This unexplored, extremely safe, bucket-list country has ample airlift to Belize City (BZE) with several non-stops on multiple carriers from the USA.

WHY BELIZE?

Belize fits the bill for all types of travel; English as the primary language. Land, Sea and Culture experiences unlike no other Caribbean destination. 2 Hours flying time from Houston.

ATTRACTIONS & ADVENTURES

“One location. Countless quests.” Jungles. Ceremonial Caves. Reefs. Cayes, Mayan temples. No matter your desires, you’ll find everything here.

CURRENCY & LANGUAGE

Belize has a storied history influenced to modern day by a variety of cultures and is the only Central American country that maintains English as the Official Language.

HISTORY, CULTURE, CUISINE

Belize is warm and moist year round, lending a tropical feel and rainforest humidity with a cooling breeze along 295 miles of unspoiled Caribbean Sea coast.

GEOGRAPHY & WEATHER

Belize is a Caribbean country located on the northeastern coast of Central America. Belize is bordered by Mexico, Guatemala and the Caribbean Sea.



WHY BELIZE?

In 2018, “last chance” tourism was a trending term when it came to the travel industry, a new wave of globetrotters manically racing across the globe, crossing as many items off their bucket list before that place/site was gone forever. In the new age many are embracing the opposite of the “last chance” tourism: the slow travel trend.

Visitors want to spend longer vacations in destinations, and according to Travel Weekly, slow travel is “focused on single versus multiple destinations as those venturing out again first seek to avoid both potential points of contact as well as fast-changing border restrictions.”

There is also the rise of regenerative travel, where visitors are actively trying to leave the destinations better than they found it, as opposed to simply erasing their own footprints.

Belize fits the bill for such types of travel, especially because our country is already encased in nature, with 70% of our land being forested. It also has a myriad of activities for every type of traveler thus boredom never ensues. Some of the activities leave right from the home resort and further afield has never been so close.



Thanks to Larry Waight for his contribution to tourism and inspiration to Bahayan in his [**‘Ultimate Belize Bucket List’**](#) >



EASY TO GET HERE, HARD TO LEAVE

Escaping to Belize is easy with direct flights out of many major city hubs. With most major airlines making trips daily, it's easier than ever to get in, out, and all around Belize.

Philip S W Goldson International (BZE) is the largest airport in Belize and is based in Belize City. You can fly to 28 destinations with 12 airlines in scheduled passenger traffic.

The route with the most departures is the route to San Pedro (SPR) with an average of 356 flights from Philip S W Goldson International every week which is 31% of all weekly departures.

The top international destinations from USA are Houston (IAH) and Miami (MIA). The two longest flights are Belize City (BZE) to Calgary (YYC) that takes around 6 hours and 18 minutes and Belize City (BZE) to Los Angeles (LAX) with a flight time of 5 hours and 31 minutes.



LOCAL AIRLINES

Tropic Air is the largest airline here by counting the number of departures with around 589 scheduled take-offs every week.

The second largest operator from Philip S W Goldson International is Maya Island Air. The aircraft types with most scheduled flights are the Cessna Light aircraft and the Cessna 208B. This is a service provided by Bahayan

in providing bulk tickets for each participant to choose from a plethora of daily flights to their destination in Belize.

Between the two, there are 36 flights a day to Placencia and departures are very relaxed. If a flight is missed and there are enough passengers waiting, they will just bring in another plane from next door. Local airlines are friendly, laid back, somewhat prompt and not at all confined to perfect schedules and considerable regulation.

FLY, BE FREE

Airlines with service to Belize City (BZE)
Philip Gordon International Airport:

- American Airlines
- Avianca - Aerovías del Continente Americano S.A.
- Copa Airlines
- Delta Air Lines
- Midwest Airlines (Egypt)
- Transportes Aéreos Guatemaltecos (TAG)
- Tropic Air
- Unavia Suisse
- United Airlines





TOP ATTRACTIONS

One location. Countless quests. Jungles. Ceremonial Caves. Reefs. Ancient Mayan temples. No matter your desires, you'll find everything here. Just be sure to remember to take some time off. The north of Central America sits Belize, a spectacular country full of cultural and ecological diversity seen nowhere else in the world. Hike the ancient Mayan ruins, lost for centuries to the dense jungles. Swim with the creatures that make up the second largest barrier reef in the world. Explore the beauty of the underground through the caves carved by the country's rivers.

Visit untouched swathes of jungle, home to the elusive jaguar. Relax along 386 kilometers of coastline staring out over the crystal blue waters of the Caribbean or on one of its over 400 tropical island paradises. Salivate over the locally caught fresh seafood. Dive the world-famous Great Blue Hole and scale Big Rock Falls.



MYSTERIES OF MAYA

With only a small percentage of our ancient Maya temples uncovered, it's not uncommon to come across ancient pieces of pottery or hear that a distant hill is actually a temple.

Whether you want to explore for an afternoon, a day or a week, the ancient Maya sites are well worth it. All sites are managed by the Institute of Archaeology and have interpretive centers, as well as trained guides to show you around.

From Caracol and Cerros to Lamanai and little villages and forest areas, pretty much anywhere you go here, you'll find ancient Maya temples.



100's of CAYES

Around 450 Belize islands and islets dot the Belize Barrier Reef, the world's second-longest. Belize's islands are known as cayes, pronounced "keys". The largest Belize cayes, energetic Ambergris Caye and laid-back Caye Caulker, are traveler favorites, while the more isolated cayes and atolls exemplify that deserted island fantasy.

DIVE THE GREAT BLUE HOLE

Made famous by world-renowned underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau, the Great Blue Hole is a gigantic underwater sinkhole surrounded by a ring of coral in the sparkling, shallow water of the Lighthouse Reef Atoll.

Its vertical plunge, passing Caribbean Reef Sharks into the ancient cenote, eventually gives way to enormous stalactites and caves. If you aren't a diver, you can still see the Great Blue Hole via aerial tours that depart daily. Even more captivating when seen from the air, the Great Blue Hole is so large it can even be seen from space.



FISHING

From spi to fly to trolling, our abundance of game fish guarantees excellent sport fishing all year round. Since many rivers empty into the Caribbean Sea, you're practically guaranteed a daily catch, not to mention the fact that our guides have no problem sharing their own "secret" spots with guests.

Explore Turneffe Atoll, which provides you with some of the most desired areas in the world for fly-fishing. Bonefish, permit and tarpon are everywhere here. In fact, Belize is one of few places where you can fish a Grand Slam—bonefish, permit and tarpon all in the same day.

SNORKELING

Explore the kaleidoscope of colors found in hard and soft corals, sponges, and over 500 species of fish and marine life.

There are hundreds of snorkeling sites of varying depths along the Belize Barrier Reef. Every snorkel spot is a little different from the other and if you go back to the same spot, each time you will see something different.

From schools of fish, to turtles, to the occasional barracuda, there's a lot going on underwater.





JUNGLES

Although tourists mostly travel to Belize to partake of the warm Caribbean waters and the plethora of water sports, those who adventure inland can explore a lush rainforest densely populated with a myriad of plants and animals. This small, ecologically diverse country is home to some of the most captivating animals on earth, including howler monkeys, crocodile, and the elusive jaguar and tapir (let's hope you only see the tracks).

CAVES

We have thousands of caves in Belize. They range from easy walks to challenging hikes that can often turn into squeezes, crawls, climbs, rappels and swims. Choose your cave accordingly.

In most caves, you'll find extensive stalactite and stalagmite formations and pottery shards. Others have ancient intact pottery

(Che Chem Ha) and human remains (sometimes intact skeletons, like in Actun Tunichil Muknal Cave) and other natural formation such as underground waterfalls (Blue Creek, Caves Branch).

The Rio Frio Cave is considered one of the best caving systems throughout Belize. With a length of around a quarter mile, there is no shortage of natural wonders along the way. Explore the many natural fresh-water pools, waterfalls and stalactite formations. This is one of the top attractions within the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve and is easily accessed at the entry point of the reserve.



FACTS ABOUT BELIZE

CURRENCY

The Belize dollar (BZD) has a fixed exchange rate of \$2 BZD = \$1 USD. So it's very easy to see how much something is costing in USD when you go shopping. Nearly everywhere readily accepts USD currency.

ATMs are also available across the country, particularly in most tourist destinations- including Placencia, Punta Gorda, Belmopan, Dangriga, Belize City, San Pedro Ambergris Caye, Caye Caulker, Orange Walk, San Ignacio and Corozal.

RELIGION & LANGUAGE

Today, most Belizeans are Roman Catholic, but because of the long influence of the British Empire, there are many Protestants and Anglicans found in the country. Due to their unique history, many Maya and Garifuna peoples practice a unique blend of Christianity with traditional spiritual practices.

Today, English is the official language of Belize, used in all schools and government business. However, the main language spoken by most



Belizeans is a Creole variant of English with heavy borrowings from Spanish and Mayan tongues. In the north and west of Belize, many communities speak Spanish, while other population groups continue to speak their native languages of Arabic, German, or Chinese. Many Mayan communities still speak dialects of the original Maya tongue.

ETHNIC GROUPS

One of the predominant ethnic groups in the country is the Creole people, descendants of African slaves imported during the colonial era, who today speak their own unique form of English. The Creole tongue has no official standing, but competes with standard English as the lingua franca spoken throughout the country, including by Belizeans who speak Spanish or Mayan tongues in their homes.

Although part of mainland Central America, many people consider that Belizean culture is much more similar to nearby Caribbean islands, as the people of Belize have a laid-back easygoing culture more suited to relaxing in hammocks, dancing to the beat of drums, and enjoying a languid day on the beach.





BELIZE CULTURE & HISTORY

Belize has an incredibly unique history, being the only country in Central America where English is the official language.

Approximately 3000 years ago, the original Maya culture began moving into the area now known as Belize, establishing an extensive trading network that would flourish until approximately the year 1200 A.D., building the enormous stone cities of Cahal Pech, Caracol, and Altun Ha.

Initially passed over by European conquerors due to a lack of gold and other precious mineral resources, the first European settlement was founded in 1638 by English sailors who survived a shipwreck. Thriving in the mild climate of Belize, more English settlers began arriving in the area, and the country became a base for English privateers and pirates who would sally forth to harvest the rich plunder of Spanish galleons.



Although sporadic Spanish settlements attempted to take root in Belize, the country fell under complete British domination in 1798 after a British fleet won a decisive naval battle against the Spanish in the waters off of St. George's Caye. In 1840, the British government formally seized control of the country, naming it the Colony of British Honduras. Taking advantage of the American Civil War, the British annexed Belize in 1862, making it a crown colony. In the latter half of the 19th century, many Mayan tribes, Mestizos and Mennonite people emigrated to Belize to escape unrest in neighboring Mexico.

In 1931, a combination of fallout from the Great Depression in the United States and a devastating hurricane strike that completely demolished the capital of Belize City drastically altered the political landscape in Belize, with British overseers taking the opportunity to vastly increase their control of the colony. This prompted many native Belizeans to begin organizing politically, forcing Britain to recognize that Belize wanted full independence in 1961.

Due to a long-standing border dispute with neighboring Guatemala, it took another 12 years before Belize was assured of sovereignty, formally changing their name to Belize from the long-standing colonial name of "British Honduras". However, it was not until 1981 that Belize became fully independent.

BELIZEAN CUISINE

While food and drink varies from region to region, tropical staples such as coconut, banana, and spicy hot peppers are popular nationwide, with chicken or pork being the preferred meat of most Belizeans.

Belizean cuisine has a strong Caribbean influence, with many spicy Creole staples like rice and beans blending harmoniously with native Maya delicacies like fried paca (jungle rat). Not to be outdone, traditional English favorites like corned beef and beans on toast still have their place, appearing on menus alongside Mexican classics such as tamales, escabeche (onion soup), and empanadas. Small “pancakes” made from fried dough known as “fry jacks” are commonly eaten for breakfast, while lunch might consist of meat pies or rice and beans. Dinner might be sere (fried fish with either coconut or banana) or tamales, polished off with local rum or the national brew, Beliken Beer.

One major contributor to the fresh flavors and enriching fruits & veggies is that everything comes organically from nature.



WEATHER

The weather in Belize is typically hot and humid day and night year-round. Temperatures vary by only about 4°C between the coolest part of the year (December to March) and the hottest (May to September). The daily temperature range is around 10°C from the hottest part of the day to the coolest part of the night. In the uplands (Mountain Pine Ridge and the Maya Mountains) you can expect temperatures to fall by about 3°C for every 1000ft rise in altitude, making things noticeably more comfortable. – Wikipedia

Belize has distinct wet and dry seasons. The wet season runs from mid-May to November in the south and from mid-June to November in the north. November to February is a transitional

period, with the year’s coolest temperatures and a limited amount of rain. The true dry season and most popular time to travel is January to early May, making things noticeably more comfortable. – Wikipedia. Belize has distinct wet and dry seasons. The wet season runs from mid-May to November in the south and from mid-June to November in the north. November to February is a transitional period, with the year’s coolest temperatures and a limited amount of rain. The true dry season and most popular time to travel is January to early May. In short, now is the perfect time to visit Belize.