

Journey Idea to Belize

15 Days



Jaguar

Prepared for
Steppes Travel Clients

QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1	Fly UK/Miami
Day 2	Fly Miami/Belize City
Day 3	Belize City/Orange Walk
Day 4 & 5	Orange Walk
Day 6	Chan Chich/San Ignacio
Day 7	San Ignacio
Day 8	San Ignacio/Placencia
Day 9 & 10	Placencia
Day 11	Placencia/Ambergris Caye
Day 12 & 13	Ambergris Caye
Day 14	Fly Ambergris Caye/Belize City/Miami/UK, flying overnight
Day 15	Arrive UK

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DETAILED TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1

UK/Miami



Depart the UK on a flight to Miami.

Miami known as the 'Magic City' is located in Southeast Florida and is home to a wide variety of cultures with a buzzing nightlife, a stunning beach and some world class shopping, it is a great city to spend a night or two at the start of your holiday.

Once you have cleared customs and immigration and collected your luggage, please arrange your own transport to your hotel. (Yellow taxis outside Miami airport have a standard rate of \$30 each way to South Beach). For guests staying at the Miami International Airport hotel, this is within walking distance, and is inside the airport building.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Miami on a room only basis.

Day 2

Miami/Belize City



Depart Miami on a flight to Belize City.

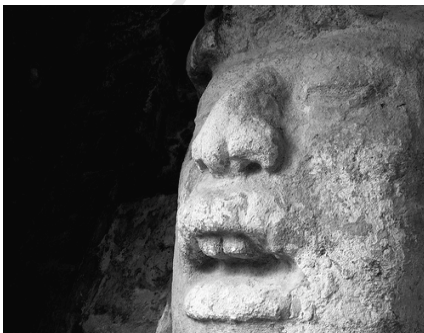
You will be met upon arrival by the Steppes Travel representative at the airport and transferred to your hotel. All transfers are private (unless stated otherwise) and included in your trip, however it will not detail every transfer on this itinerary.

Born on the river, Belize City is a small town that combines the Caribbean with Latin America. Colonial style houses on stilts line the small streets while the main thoroughfare through the town is still reliant on its antiquated swing bridge.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Belize City on a bed and breakfast basis.

Day 3

Belize City/Orange Walk



Early morning pick up from your hotel for your transfer to your jungle lodge. You will drive approximately an hour and half to the New River where you will aboard a small boat and travel for an hour and a quarter along the river to the ruins of Lamanai.

Hidden deep in the jungle, just south of Orange Walk, is Lamanai, Belize's largest archaeological site. Lamanai is one of only a few sites whose original Mayan name is known. It translates to 'underwater crocodile', representations of which can be seen all around these impressive, yet mystical ruins. Lamanai features the second largest Pre-Classic structure in the Mayan world and the view across the surrounding forest from the top of the temple is magnificent. Lunch included.

Transfer (approximately 3 and half hours) overland from

Lamanai through an ever changing landscape, and Mennonite communities to your Lodge.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in the Orange Walk area on a full board basis.

Days 4 & 5



Orange Walk

Days at leisure to enjoy the lodge and the jungle that surrounds it.

Over nine miles of extensive trail systems in the area allow you to experience the jungle and spot the animals and birds. The vast array of species found in the surrounding forest make this a birder's and naturalist's paradise, and this area also has the highest number of cat sightings in Belize. Horse riding, canoeing, visits to Maya ruins and local communities are also readily available.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in the Orange Walk area on a full board basis.

Day 6



Orange Walk /San Ignacio

Depart by local charter to Belize City, where you will be met and transferred to San Ignacio.

San Ignacio is in the Cayo District that is filled with vast areas of jungle rainforests, picturesque rivers, waterfalls, and limestone caves along with a people who embrace a remarkable cultural diversity and harmony.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in the San Ignacio area on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 7



San Ignacio

Day at leisure to enjoy the surrounding area.

Options include guided naturalist activities on foot or by horse, canoeing on the pristine Macal River, archaeology tours (including Tikal in Guatemala), mountain biking, caving expeditions and trekking the nearby area of Mountain Pine Ridge with its spectacular waterfalls.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in the San Ignacio area on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 8



San Ignacio/Placencia

Transfer from San Ignacio to Placencia, a scenic drive of approximately 5 hours.

As you drive out on to the Western Highway, you'll see how the landscape changes and the Maya Mountains come in to view. The Western Highway takes you through mile upon mile of stunning citrus groves before you turn off onto the Hummingbird highway that runs parallel to the coast. The scenery changes again, to flat lands of dense jungle, before you reach the last 23 miles of red dirt road of the spit that



divides the Caribbean Sea with the lagoon and finally brings you to the small town of Placencia.

The area of Placencia has sixteen miles of natural sandy beach, a wilderness of coral-studded cayes, a virgin mangrove-fringed lagoon, nearby jungle rivers, and pristine rainforest. Swim with the many varieties of tropical fish in the warm Caribbean waters or venture into the dense jungle to spot for monkey and the ever-elusive jaguar.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Placencia on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 9 & 10



Placencia

Days at leisure to relax and unwind.

There are many activities on offer and you can enjoy everything from snorkelling to bird watching, scuba diving to rainforest hiking, sport fishing to kayaking in the Placencia Lagoon, or swimming in waterfalls to visiting ancient Mayan cities.

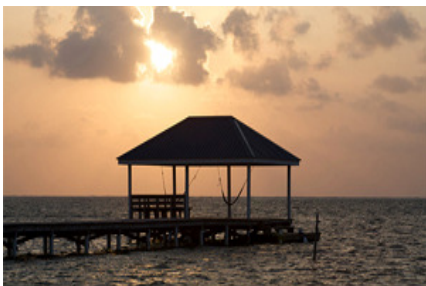
A visit to The Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary can also be arranged. This reserve is one of the best and most undisturbed nature centres in the country and easily one of the most beautiful, covering an area of about 150 square miles of tropical forest, and is the world's only Jaguar Preserve. The Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) is the third largest member of the cat family and endangered in most of its range. These wonderful animals are masters of stealth and their very existence is based on their seeing, but not being seen, so sightings are rare. Other cats that live in the reserve are the Puma, Ocelot, Jaguarundi and Margay, as well as Peccary, Paca, Brocket Deer, Tayra, Otter and Coatimundi.



Cockscomb is also renowned for its bird populations and boasts up to 300 recorded species. These include Macaw, the Great Curossow and Keel-billed Toucan.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Placencia on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 11



Placencia/Ambergris Caye

Depart Placencia on a short flight via Belize City to Ambergris Caye

Ambergris Caye is the largest of some 200 cayes dotted along the coast of Belize and while it is 25 miles long it is only 1 mile wide. The roads are purely sand and transport is by golf buggy or bicycle. It is located in the clear shallow waters of the Caribbean Sea just off the tip of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and its coast is protected by the world's second largest living coral reef.

The history of the island goes back to the days of the Maya, European pirates, Mexican refugees and more recently the English army. The descendants from Mexico make up most of the island's population today.



The economy of the island was the coconut industry, followed by the fishing industry and today it depends on tourism. San Pedro is the only inhabited town on the island and has the atmosphere of a laid-back fishing village. The houses, the food, the music and the 'dress-code' are a mixture of English, Mexican, Caribbean and Spanish. What more could you want than relaxed Caribbean style!

Overnight at your chosen hotel on Ambergris Caye on a bed and breakfast basis.

Days 12 & 13

Ambergris Caye



Days at leisure to relax and enjoy your stay on the island.

There are many activities to choose from including Sea Kayaking, Manatee watching, Catamaran/Hobycat/Laser Sailing, windsurfing and parasailing. You can organise too, diving, snorkelling & fishing trips should you wish. The snorkelling trip to Shark-Ray Alley is particularly exciting. Please note that the diving is best organised in town through one of the many dive centres.

The town of San Pedro is worth a visit as well and shopping there is a very laid-back affair.

Overnight at your chosen hotel on Ambergris Caye on a bed and breakfast basis.

Day 14

Ambergris Caye

Depart Ambergris Caye on a flight to Belize City and connect with a flight to Miami.

Depart Miami on a flight to the UK, flying overnight.

Day 15

Arrive UK

TRIP PRICE

In each location there is a variety of different category of hotels, lodges and guest houses, therefore as a guide we have broken these down into 3 categories; Traveller, Deluxe and Superior Deluxe. It is difficult to categorise each property as they vary so much therefore this is a general price guide only.

Traveller price from £2,730 per person + flight taxes

Deluxe price from £3,100 + flight taxes

Superior Deluxe price from £3,920 per person + flight taxes.

The rates quoted are subject to the availability of all services, currency fluctuations, written confirmation and Steppes Travels terms and conditions.

The price includes return flight from UK, internal flights, local transport, airport-hotel transfers and tours on a shared basis (or can be organised on a private basis), accommodation (twin/double with private facilities where available) and board. Accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis, unless staying in a remote lodge when normally this will be on a full board basis.

The price excludes entrance charges to sites, parks and museums, extra local excursions and guided tours, international and domestic airport taxes. Travel insurance, visas, single supplements (if applicable) and items of a personal nature, such as laundry, drinks, etc.

Please note that the above is only a suggested journey, allowing in-depth visits to the highlights of the country and the chance to explore the wide range of possibilities this fascinating country has to offer. We have a separate list of escorted tours and specialise in tailoring individual itineraries to your particular interests and requirements. This journey idea serves more as a general guide on what there is to see and do, as well as a guide on price.

Why Travel with Steppes?

Steppes Travel was founded in 1989 with the objective of creating a travel company where service and knowledge are of the highest priority. We aim to design itineraries and include the highlights of any country, whilst taking travellers off the beaten track to see lesser known, interesting places not frequented by large numbers of tourists. We offer individuals the ability to travel safely in remote areas, with the knowledge that we have travelled there before.

Financial Protection

Steppes Travel is a fully bonded tour operator that complies with the Civil Aviation Authority bonding conditions of the UK. This fully guarantees your money in the unlikely event of us going out of business before you start your holiday. Our ATOL number is 6945 and we have full insurance to cover the financial failure of an airline. In addition, all accommodation-only bookings (such as hotels, lodges and boats) which are not covered by the ATOL regulations are financially protected with all payments being held in a separate trust account until the date of departure. This is in accordance with the Package Travel Regulations Act 1992.

Specialist Knowledge

We demand and employ only a very high calibre of staff. All of our specialists have a wealth of travel experience and have travelled, and continue to travel, extensively throughout their regions of specialisation. You can therefore rely on their first hand knowledge and expertise. Some have been with us for more than ten years. They will tell you about those intimate, friendly hotels and introduce you to our charismatic guides - those little extra qualities that make your holiday both unique and special.

A Tailor-made Journey

After an initial discussion with you, one of our specialists will create a unique itinerary for your trip, designed around your own interests, preferred style of accommodation and the pace at which you like to travel. This will be fine tuned until you are completely satisfied with it. Throughout this whole process, you will be dealt with by the same specialist and you are welcome to call them at any time.

24 hour Emergency Service

We have an emergency service so that we can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Recognition

More than 65% of our business is achieved through recommendations, referrals and repeat bookings. This, for us, is the highest endorsement we could have. In addition, our 20 years of experience in this specialist travel sector confirms our expertise.

Please contact the Latin America team on 01285 885 333 or visit our website www.steppestravel.co.uk for further information.

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