



REEF. RUINS. RAINFOREST.

LIKE NO OTHER PLACE, BELIZE OFFERS TRAVELERS A CARIBBEAN EXPERIENCE IN A CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRY. TOURISM, THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST INDUSTRY, IS INCREASING EVERY YEAR.

Belize is a small country in Central America that is home to culture, adventure, and relaxation. It is the only primarily English-speaking nation in Central America. Adventure travelers frequent Belize for hiking, biking, snorkeling, scuba diving, boating, kayaking, fishing, but most importantly for exploring. With an average temperature of 84 degrees Fahrenheit, visitors experience an array of ecological and cultural diversity.

Belize is home to people of Maya, Mestizo, Kriol, Garifuna, East Indian, Mennonite, Arab, and Chinese Heritage, making it a melting pot of culture. It has many historical and cultural landmarks spread throughout. 'A Curious Place' according to the Belize Tourism Board, Belize offers sites, attractions, and activities for all who visit.



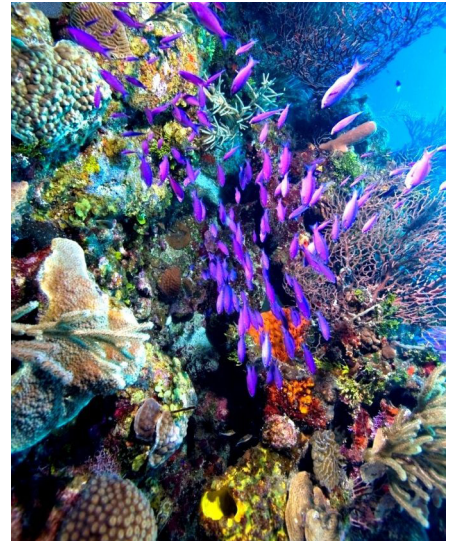
FAST 'BELIZEAN' FACTS

- ◇ The Belize dollar is locked at \$2 Belize = \$1 USD.
- ◇ Belize is located in Central America and it is bordered by Mexico, Guatemala and the Caribbean Sea.
- ◇ In 1981, Belize achieved full independence from England.
- ◇ Belize is the only English language-speaking country in Central America.

REEF

The Belize Barrier Reef spans 185 miles of the country's coastline and it is the largest reef system in the Northern Hemisphere. The Belize Barrier Reef comprises seven key marine reserve zones, over four hundred cayes, and three atolls. These areas include Glover's Reef Marine reserve, the great Blue Hole, Halfmoon Caye Natural Monument, and Hol Chan Marin Reserve. The reef's crystal blue waters are a haven for its marine community and an enticing exploratory region for SCUBA divers and snorkelers.

In Belize, discover more than five hundred species of fish, seventy hard coral and thirty six soft coral species among the beautiful Belizean views. In 1996, the Belize Barrier Reef System was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for significant habitats and natural development. With its size, the Belize Barrier Reef is second to the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. The Belize Barrier Reef is one of the most riveting, exploratory, and popular tourist attractions in Belize.



RUINS

Belize's fertile ground, warm climate, and access to rich marine life of the Belize Barrier Reef ecosystem led to a population explosion for the Mayan empire. Large cities prospered in Belize and today their ruins can be seen all over Belize. There are many restored ruins for tourists to visit and learn about the history of the Mayan civilization.

Caracol, Lamanai, and Xunantunich, all offer exploration and adventure. In addition to these well-excavated ruins, many more other large cities are still awaiting exploration in the rainforests. The Maya utilized the Belize River as a highway to transport goods throughout the country and to connect with the big city-states of the Mayan civilization in Guatemala. Visitors to these sites will take a true walk through history and feel a part of the Mayan community.

MAJOR AIRPORTS FLYING TO BELIZE:

- ♦ LAX - Los Angeles
- ♦ MIA - Miami
- ♦ ATL - Atlanta
- ♦ IAH - Houston
- ♦ DFW - Dallas Fort Worth



RAINFOREST

Half of Belize is covered by dense jungle, much still unexplored. These tropical forests provide habitats for a wide range of animals including jaguar, puma, ocelot, armadillo, tapir and many exotic birds, like toucans! More than 500 birds make Belize their home. While hiking through the forest, tourists often see the birds soar through Belize's vine-trailed jungles. Belize is also home to 4,000 species of tropical flowers, including 250 kinds of orchids.

Belize is like no other. If you are a traveler looking for adventure, tourists hike the mountains and jungles of Belize all of the time. Hiking amongst Belize's tropical rainforest you are bound to hear the prominent and distinct sounds of howler monkeys enjoying their natural habitat. Not only are these jungles exciting for guests to enjoy, they are safe to explore. Hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and canoeing down a river are only a few of the many ways to enjoy the diverse flora and fauna in Belize's tropical rainforest.

Visit
BELIZE

