

# BELIZE ITINERARY

We will meet at the bar each evening for cocktails and to discuss the next day's plans between 6 – 7 p.m.

## DEPARTURE:

**July 31th: 11:00 PM:** Check in for our 1:35 a.m. flight.

**August 1st, 2:00AM:** Flt. #531 LAX-SAL connecting to Flt. #410 SAL-BZE. We arrive in San Salvador at 7:20 a.m. and depart at 8:45 a.m. arriving in Belize City at 9:50 AM.

**August 1st:** Our bus ride from Belize City Airport will take approx. 2 hours. We will have lunch waiting for us. Get unpacked, rest, use pool or take the 1/2 day tour you may have signed up for.

**August 2nd:** Caves Branch River Tubing. See info below.

**August 3rd:** Variety of tours that you have signed up for.

**August 4th, 9:30 a.m. departure:** Tikal Mayan Ruins. Along the way we will now include a stop at the village town of El Remate where we will have time to visit, shop, swim in the lake and enjoy a lunch that is now included in this tour. Bring a swim suit and towel if you'd like to enjoy a swim.

**August 5th:** Depart via bus approx. 9:30 a.m. for Belize City and our flight to Ambergris Caye. Our domestic flight will take people over in several prop planes. Day of leisure. Walk into town. Rent golf cart, etc..

**6:00 PM:** Meet at the open air room above the bar for information on tours for the next 3 days. We will be setting up snorkel and diving trips, including a scuba dive to the famous Blue Hole, as well as other tours. Check out their web site at <http://aquadives.com/> They are offering us 20% off on our dives. After this meeting we will have a day by day itinerary set.

**August 7th, 8 a.m.:** Today we've set up a full day tour via boat to a couple of the local islands including the very cute Goff's Caye, snorkeling stops including the Hol Chan/Shark Ray Alley and a stop to see the manatee's. It's a great day that you should plan on coming on. Cost, with our 20% discount including lunch is just \$72. We'll also sign you up for this at the 6 pm. meeting with the dive shop on the 1st.

**August 9th:** Our domestic flight to Belize City is at 2 PM. We will head over to the airstrip at 1:15 PM

**August 9th:** Flt #411, 5:20 PM BZE-SAL connecting to Flt #526. We'll arrive at 12:20 a.m. in LA.

## ADVANCE TOUR SIGN-UPS:

We need to know how many people are interested in our 2 tours in San Ignacio. Here is some information on those tours:

## **CAVES BRANCH RIVER TUBING:**

See <http://www.cavesbranch.com/adventures/caving.html> for full description and photos.

This is one of the most fun and unusual tours you will ever take. Everybody thoroughly loved this experience the last two times we were here. It's a tour not to be missed.

Enter an exciting realm where rivers disappear into the underworld as you float on inner tubes with only your headlamp to lead the way. Ian Anderson's first and still Belize's longest and most spectacular "River of Caves" cave tubing float is over 7 miles underground. Enter the exciting world of rivers disappearing into the underworld as you float on inner tubes with only your headlamp to light your way. Floating past side windows that filter the jungle light through the mist as you swirl around stalagmites jutting from the river and stalactites looming from above. Float past underground waterfalls then into the crystal cathedral, a spiritual center to the ancient Maya.

Since Ian introduced Cave Tubing to Belize tourism, Cave Tubing has become Belize's most popular adventure trip. The original and full 7 mile "River of Caves" tube float is only available through the Caves Branch Adventure Company

Some underground hiking and jungle trekking is necessary.

Our group rate is \$99 with tax, lunch and transportation.

## **TIKAL:**

Visit this site for a great description and photos: <http://www.belizex.com/tikal.htm>

Parque Nacional Tikal is located in Guatemala, about 50 miles northwest of its border with Belize. In this remote area, one of the greatest civilizations of its time established a city that endured for centuries.

Set in the jungle canopy, this spectacular site today consists of over 3,000 buildings, including a handful of impressively tall temples that tower above the forest. At its peak some 1,500 years ago, Tikal was home to an estimated 100,000 Mayans.

As is the case with all Mayan sites, the origins of Tikal are only barely discernible. Findings of pottery dating from a few hundred years before Christ give evidence that Tikal was inhabited then. By the time of Christ, the Great Plaza had already taken its basic form, with platforms and stairways on the north side.

Our group rate on this tour with lunch and bus transportation is just \$55 per person (reg \$85). This does not include the \$18.75 tax to enter Guatemala.

## **OTHER TOURS IN SAN IGNACIO**

Click on this link [http://www.cahalpech.com/activities\\_tours.htm](http://www.cahalpech.com/activities_tours.htm) to read about more tours. If you do Tikal and the River Tubing that will still leave time for a half day tour on when we get in on the 28th and time for either a half-day or full-day tour on the 30th. Rather than picking for you, we thought we'd spread ourselves

out over these choices. The only other tour that I have done is Barton's Creek, which is the canoeing. Our hotel will be setting up these tours and would like to sign us up in advance so they're prepared for us. All prices listed for their tours are 20% off!

If drive time is an important factor in your choices for tours on the 30th, pick Actun, which is just 1/2 hour drive. Caracol with Mountain Pine Ridge is about 2 hours away. Not sure how far away the Lost Valley of Maya is. All the full day trips on the 30th include lunch.

## ON AMBERGRIS CAYE

We will have diving, snorkeling and a manatee/ island hopping tour set up for our 4 days on Ambergris but these are not tours you will need to sign up for in advance. The dive shop is located right on our property. When we arrive, on August 1st, we will have a meeting with the dive shop where you will be able to sign up for your dives and the manatee/ island hopping tour. We will receive 20% off on all our dives and other tours from Aqua Dives! Visit their website at <http://www.aquadives.com/> Click on "rates" to see what their regular rates are.

### OUR HOTELS:

Cahal Pech Resort  
<http://www.cahalpech.com/>  
011 (501) 824-3740  
Fax: 011 (501) 824-2225

Sunbreeze Beach Hotel  
Ambergris Caye, Belize  
Tel: 501-226-2191  
Fax: 501-226-2346  
Email:  
[sunbreezehotel@sunbreeze.net](mailto:sunbreezehotel@sunbreeze.net)

**USEFUL WEB SITE:** <http://www.belizenownetwork.com/Destination/>

### MORE INFO:

Location:	Central America
Population:	250, 000 approx.
Land Area:	8,866 sq miles
Time Zone:	U.S. CST
Passport Required?	Yes
Electrical System:	110 v.
Official Language:	English
Currency:	BZ\$ fixed 2 to 1 US\$
Status:	Independent since 1981
Government:	Parliamentary Democracy

### Currency

The official currency of Belize is the Belize Dollar (BZ\$). It trades on the open market fixed 2 BZ\$ to 1 US\$. Everyone in Belize will accept US\$ so there is no need to exchange your money. I usually bring about \$300 in cash. Belize also accepts Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. Most places in Belize will exchange traveler's checks for a fee.

**Warning:** It is advised that you not take currency exchanges from locals and that you not trade services for cash directly with individuals. Showing the amount of currency you are holding is never wise no matter where you travel on vacation. Travel smart and be conservative and you should be okay.

It is also advised that you not leave large sums of cash or expensive personal items in your room or with tour guides during your stay. Most hotels, lodges, and resorts will allow you to turn in your items for safe keeping at the main office. You should request a deposit receipt from the hotel or resort owner or manager when turning in any items for safety deposit.

### ***WHAT SHOULD I BRING?***

**Don't forget your passport.**

ATM card (works best for accessing cash)

Light-colored clothing

Snorkel gear

Comfortable shoes

Suntan lotion

A hat

Medications

Bug spray

Sea sickness prevention, if you'd like

Sunburn creams or remedies

Rain Poncho (just in case)

Hiking boots if you have them for the tubing adventure. Otherwise they will rent some to you. They will get wet.

An adventurous spirit

### ***WHAT SHOULD I LEAVE AT HOME?***

Expensive jewelry

Large amounts of cash

Cell phone

The safety of drinking water varies from location to location. Use caution in drinking public access water. Bottled water is always your best bet.