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Caves To Cayes

BELIZE: The scenic and tropical paradise of Belize is an adventurer's paradise. Situated south of Mexico and east of Guatemala, it has unparalleled natural beauty, rich animal and plant life, unspoiled Caribbean coastline, lush rainforests, crystal clear tropical waters, coral reefs and amazingly friendly people.

Belize has a long and fascinating human history. The Maya, who ruled the land up until the 12th Century, built an outstanding archaeological heritage and many of their cities and temples are only now being uncovered. Over the years, many have laid claim to this beautiful country. This fascinating cultural mosaic of people includes Mayans, Creoles, Garifuna, Latin Americans, Chinese, East Indians and Lebanese. All make distinct contributions to the Belizean way of life. Belize's clear waters contain the second longest barrier reef in the world which has recently been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our trip gives the traveler ample opportunities to discover the wonders of the reef and come face to face with the Caribbean's most beautiful marine life.

CAYES: Belize is laced with dozens of small islands or "cayes". Some of the Cayes located on the southern half of the reef are completely uninhabited and offer plenty to visitors, including snorkeling, fishing and diving. Bird watchers see many different types of seabirds such as brown pelicans, yellow-crowned night herons and the magnificent frigate bird, to name just a few.

PLACENCIA: Our trip includes a stay in Placencia, one of the oldest inhabited villages in Belize. Along its three mile long beachfront are houses and lodges all nestled under palm trees. The waters are calm and clear, with dolphins often seen feeding and playing close to shore. Known for its sleepy, tranquil and informal way of life; this is a place where one can fit in by doing absolutely nothing!

For the more active, however, Placencia is an excellent take off point for the interior nature parks, Mayan ruins and lesser known southern caves. Placencia also has a lively nightlife to enjoy.

SEA KAYAKING IN BELIZE: Sea kayaking does not require you to be a super athlete. The kayaks that we use are very stable and easy to manoeuvre. For safety purposes, life jackets will be provided as well as full instruction on kayak use.

OUR GUIDES: Are fully qualified wilderness guides certified by Slipstream First Aid in B.C., Canada. They have guided trips in Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands), Vancouver Island, Belize, Baja, India, Chile, Argentina and Vietnam. Our trips always include a local Belizean guide who shares with us his intimate knowledge of the area, local folklore and way of life.

WEATHER: Normal conditions in Belize are subtropical; sunny and warm with temperatures averaging between 23 and 30 degrees Celsius. Evening temperatures drop a little but generally remain warm and comfortable throughout the day and night. The dry season runs from December to May.

SAFETY: A VHF radio will be carried for quick communication. Our experienced guides are trained in wilderness first aid and carry an extensive first aid kit. All group equipment is of the highest standard and is meticulously maintained and checked prior to our expeditions.

THERE ARE TWO TOUR OPTIONS:

Excursion 1: Combo

Price:	\$1979 USD
Length:	12 days
Accommodation:	5 nights lodge, 6 nights camping
Transportation:	boat, jeep
Meals:	all days 1 to 12
Outfitting:	all adventure gear, guides, and assistants

Excursion 2: Lodge

Price:	\$2639 USD
Length:	12 days
Accommodation:	12 nights lodge
Transportation:	boat, jeep
Meals:	all days 1 to 12
Outfitting:	all adventure gear, guides, and assistants

CANCELLATIONS:

Any cancellations are regrettable, but in the event of cancellation, the following policy will apply.

- 1). 60 days prior to departure a full refund will apply, less a \$200.00 administration fee.
- 2). 59-30 days: 50% refund.
- 3). 29 days or less: no refund.

TOUR DATES:

2010

Nov 7 – 18, Nov 21 – Dec 3, Dec 4 – 16, Dec 19 – 30

2011

Jan 2 – 13, Jan 16 – 27, Jan 30 – Feb 10, Feb 13 – 24

Feb 27 – 10, Mar 13 – 24, Mar 27 – Apr 7, Apr 10 – 21

Apr 24 – May 5, May 8 – 19

TYPICAL ITINERARY – Caves to Cayes (Excursion 1: Combo)

Day 1

Accommodation: SeaKunga cabanas, Placencia

Activities: explore seaside village

Destinations: Placencia

Description: Land at Belize City, then go through customs to Maya Island Air. The Maya flight takes 30-40 minutes to Placencia. A SeaKunga Adventures representative will be waiting for you and will show you to your hotel. The afternoon is yours to settle in and explore. Dinner will provide a great opportunity to get to know your fellow travellers and go over plans for the week ahead.

Day 2

Accommodation: camping

Activities: transport by powerboat, familiarization with equipment, snorkel.

Destinations: Round Caye, Buttonwood Caye

Description: After breakfast, we will head out to the Cayes in a local powerboat. This first day will allow us plenty of time to prepare our kayaks and to cool off in the Caribbean with our first snorkel.

Day 3-4

Accommodation: camping

Activities: island hop by kayak, snorkel, fish, swim, hammock lounge, fresh seafood dinners, windsurfing, scuba diving, bird watching

Destinations: We will travel amongst some of the most beautiful small islands in the world. There will be ample opportunities to snorkel, fish and swim in addition to kayaking. Alternatively, you can just relax in your hammock and watch the sun go down into the Caribbean Sea.

Day 5

Accommodation: SeaKunga cabanas, Placencia

Activities: morning kayak paddle or snorkel, transport by power boat, evening dinner and celebration in Placencia

Destinations: Scipio Caye, Placencia

Description: This will be our last day in this peaceful world. We will kayak in the morning and then take a power boat back to Placencia. After a refreshing shower and hearty meal, the evening will be one of music and dancing with our Belizean friends.

Day 6

Accommodation: Maroons Drum School (Camping) / Manatee Lodge (Lodge)

Activities: Hiking through various trails and evening drumming.

Destinations: Jaguar preserve and Gayles Point

Description: The whole day will be spent exploring the trails through the Jaguar Preserve in the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, an area of tropical, moist forest that lies within the shadows of the Mayan Mountains. Waterfalls, rivers, wildlife and plant life abound here.

Day 7

Accommodation: Sleeping Giant Farm (Camping)/ Mama Noots (Lodge)

Activities: Small boat sailing and manatee viewing.

Destinations: Gayles Point and Sleeping Giant Farm.

Description: Spend the day sailing in Gayles point lagoons. This is one of the world's last strongholds of the West Indian Manatee (sea cow). To be followed by an afternoon departure to Sleeping Giant farm, or Mama Noots Lodge.

Day 8

Accommodation: Clarissa Falls (camp & lodge) Above the Mopan River.

Activities: Cave Tubing along the Caves Branch River.

Destinations: Clarissa Falls

Description: Traveling by foot, inner tube through a network of caves which are situated on the caves branch river off of the hummingbird highway.

Day 9

Accommodation: Black Rock Lodge (camp/lodge)

Activities: Visiting Mayan Ruins, walking, swimming.

Destinations: San Ignacio, Black Rock.

Description: After breakfast we will head to the Mayan ruin of Cahal Pech perched on a hill above San Ignacio. Late afternoon will find us high on a hill above the Macal River. The black granite rocks above the river and the surrounding rainforests provide us with the perfect backdrop to take pictures, swim or take a walk.

Day 10

Accommodation: Black Rock Lodge (camp/lodge)

Activities: Mayan Caves, Inner tubing.

Destinations: Macal River

Description: After breakfast in our lodge in the jungle we will walk up to an old Mayan Cave with a guide. Here we will explore a cave of pottery shards in the ambience of another era. After lunch we will take our inner tubes and float down the Macal River. A journey of waterfalls and small rapids interspersed with calm water.

Day 11

Accommodation: Community Baboon Sanctuary

Activities: River Kayaking, Rare Wildlife Viewing

Destinations: Belize Zoo, Baboon Sanctuary and Belize River.

Description: Morning will find us at the Belize zoo; a refuge and rehabilitation center for injured wildlife. Here we can find some of the rare forms of rainforest wild life. After the zoo we head to the baboon sanctuary where we can observe the boisterous howler monkeys in the wild. Time permitting we will paddle quietly down the Belize River which provides us with great wildlife viewing opportunities.

Day 12

Accommodation: none

Activities: breakfast, transport to airport

Destinations: airport

Description: After an incredible week of exploring Belize, we bid farewell.