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Rivers and Rainforests

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 maneuver. 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 sub-tropical; 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: **\$1319 USD**
Length: 8 days
Accommodation: 4 nights lodge, 4 nights camping
Transportation: internal flights, airport, boat
Meals: Dinner day 1 to breakfast day 8
Outfitting: all adventure gear, guides, assistants

Excursion 2: Lodge

Price: **\$1759 USD**
Length: 8 days
Accommodation: 7 nights lodge
Transportation: internal flight
Meals: Dinner day 1 to breakfast day 8
Outfitting: all adventure gear, guides, 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.

FOOD REQUIREMENTS: If you have any specific food requirements, we will be glad to accommodate them. Please let us know under the dietary requirements section on the medical form. *(We recommend that clients arrive a few days early to acclimatize themselves to the warmer weather. Should you require a hotel, or our three day extensions, or side trip suggestions, just call and we would be more than happy to assist in any way we can).*

TOUR DATES:

2010

Nov 4, Nov 18, Dec 2, Dec 16, Dec 30

2011

Jan 13, Jan 27, Feb 10, Feb 24, Mar 10, Mar 24, Apr 7, Apr 21, May 5, May 19

ITINERARY – Rivers and Rainforests

Day 1

Accommodation: SeaKunga Resort (see our cabanas on www.seakunga.com)

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

Activities: Hiking through various trails and evening drumming.

Destinations: Jaguar preserve and Gayles Point

Description: Depart Placencia and explore the famous Jaguar preserve by foot with end destination of exquisite waterfalls.

Day 3

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 in Gayles point sailing, followed by an afternoon departure to Sleeping Giant farm or Mama Noots Lodge.

Day 4

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 5

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 6

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 7

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.

(If you are joining us for the 3-day inland extension, morning will find us on our way to Jaguar Preserve.)