

# BELIZE WINTER ESCAPE

February 2027



Belizean Beach

Belize, formerly British Honduras, is a small but captivating country on the Caribbean coast of Central America, bordered by Mexico and Guatemala. This journey invites you into the intriguing world of the Maya, with visits to remarkable archaeological sites such as Xunantunich and Altun Ha. Along the way, you'll encounter Belize's extraordinary wildlife, shaped by its unique geography and diverse habitats, with stops at a baboon sanctuary, a butterfly farm, and the Iguana Conservation Project.

A Maya Cultural Immersion adds even more depth and features a culinary demonstration. You can also choose to go snorkelling or fishing, and you'll even learn how to make chocolate. This tour is ideal for travellers who enjoy being active and are comfortable walking on a variety of uneven, natural, or rocky terrain while exploring vibrant communities and historic sites. Come and admire the natural, historic, and cultural wonders of Belize on this unique 12-day escape from the Canadian winter.



INTERNATIONAL



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

## ► Departure from:

- ❶ **BC Interior:** February 3, 2027 - 14 days
- ❷ **Vancouver Island:** February 3, 2027 - 14 days
- ❸ **Lower Mainland:** February 3, 2027 - 14 days

## ► Fares per person

- ❶ from **\$9,995** double/twin, **\$12,225** single\*
- \*Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.*

## ► Early Booking Bonus

**\$250** discount on first 8 seats; **\$125** on next 4.

## ► Earn 183 Experience Points



# DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Your departure point will be discussed at the time of booking.

- I BC Interior:** We fly from Kelowna to Calgary on Wednesday, February 3 and overnight at the airport. We fly to Belize City the following day. We return from Belize City to Calgary on Monday, February 15. We return home, flying to Kelowna on Tuesday, February 16. Transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure, and back again when we return.
- V Vancouver Island:** We depart on Wednesday, February 3, flying from Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox to Calgary and overnight at the airport. We fly to Belize City the following day. We return from Belize City to Calgary on Monday, February 15. We fly home from Calgary on Tuesday, February 16.
- Departure from Victoria:** For passengers in the Greater Victoria Area, transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure and back when we return. Home pickup may be offered in the Greater Victoria Area depending on the number of people booked and coach size. The decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.
- Departure from Up-Island:** Transportation to/from Nanaimo or Comox Airport is not provided. Please request departure from Nanaimo or Comox at the time of booking.
- L Lower Mainland:** We depart on Wednesday, February 3, flying from Vancouver or Abbotsford to Calgary and overnight at the airport. We fly to Belize City the following day. We return from Belize City to Calgary on Monday, February 15. We fly home from Calgary on Tuesday, February 16.
- Departure from Vancouver:** Home pickup for clients in the Greater Vancouver Area may be arranged at the time of booking.
- Departure from Langley, Abbotsford, or Chilliwack:** Transportation to/from Abbotsford Airport is not provided. Please request departure from Abbotsford at the time of booking.
- Please note: While we always prioritize convenient connections for our clients, sometimes it is not possible given the airline schedule and availability. You will be contacted regarding your schedule after final payment.*

## FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
<b>I</b>	<b>BC Interior</b>	<b>\$9,995</b> double/twin <b>\$12,225</b> single	
<b>V</b>	<b>Vancouver Island</b>	<b>\$10,145</b> double/twin <b>\$12,375</b> single	• Please add 0.3% GST.
<b>L</b>	<b>Lower Mainland</b>	<b>\$10,045</b> double/twin <b>\$12,275</b> single	

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

## ▶ Meals

- **29 total:** 11 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 12 dinners

## ▶ Transportation

- Transfers between the BC Interior, Greater Vancouver, or Greater Victoria Areas & the Kelowna, Vancouver, or Victoria Airports
- Flight to Belize City with stopover in Calgary
- Current air taxes, fees & fuel surcharges
- 1 checked bag per person
- Coach transportation in Belize for 6 days
- Transfer from Belize Airport to hotel
- Transfer from hotel to Caye Caulker ferry
- Ferry from Belize City to Caye Caulker & return
- Hand-cranked ferry crossing of Mopan River
- Transfer from Belize hotel to airport
- Flight from Belize City to Kelowna, Victoria or Vancouver with stopover in Calgary

## ▶ Accommodation

- 13 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Luggage handling at most hotels

## ▶ Key Highlights

- Altun Ha Maya Ceremonial Centre
- Baboon Sanctuary
- Sightseeing flight over the Great Blue Hole
- Belize Museum & House of Culture
- Butterfly Farm tour
- Xunantunich archaeological site
- Green Iguana Conservation Project
- Ajaw Chocolate Cooperative tour & workshop
- Maya Cultural Immersion with culinary demonstration
- Guided tour of Belize City highlights

*Attractions are subject to change. Please see Tour Policies for more information.*

## ▶ Guides & Gratuities

- Expert local guides and naturalists
- Gratuities to local guides, drivers and naturalists

## ▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director



### Activity Level 2

**Moderate Activity:** As a traveller you like a variety of activities and walking up to 2 km with breaks such as a guided walking tour is very doable for you without

assistance. You can stand for prolonged periods, negotiate a variety of terrain from cobblestone streets to moderate hills comfortably, and can climb two flights of stairs without assistance. This tour has lots of walking due to the historic nature of some cities, archaeological sites, and other attractions, and when you are looking for birds and animals. Climbing a Maya pyramid is optional. At airports, you must handle your own luggage and often walk long distances. You may need to handle your own luggage at hotels if luggage service is not available.

This tour is not appropriate for people who require the use of a walker. Walking poles are recommended. The coaches cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.



### Tour Size 25

This tour is limited to 25 participants, making it a more intimate travel experience.

# ITINERARY

## Wednesday, February 3

We fly to Calgary and stay overnight at the Marriott Hotel which is conveniently located in the terminal. A get-acquainted dinner is planned.

**Meals included:** Dinner

**Accommodation:** Marriott Hotel YYC

## Thursday, February 4

Our flight continues to **Belize City**, arriving in the afternoon. Belize is one hour ahead of Pacific Time. **Welcome to Belize!** Our driver and naturalist guide meet us and we drive to our hotel for a two-night stay.

**Meals included:** Dinner

**Accommodation:** Best Western Biltmore Plaza

## Friday, February 5

At the Maya ceremonial centre of **Altun Ha**, we visit the Temple of the Masonry Altars which yielded the famous jade head buried with a ruler around 600 A.D. Our guide explains the archaeological site while we stroll through two main plazas and past 13 structures. We also stop at the **Baboon Sanctuary** which protects some 2,000 monkeys on privately owned land. Called "baboon" in the local Creole dialect, the black howler monkey thrives throughout the sanctuary, as do nearly 200 bird species, including colourful parrots, hummingbirds, limpkins, manakins, and even toucans.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Best Western Biltmore Plaza

## Saturday, February 6

We leave Belize City by ferry for the one-hour crossing to **Caye Caulker**. In Belize, islands are called Cayes (pronounced "keys"). Caye Caulker is a small limestone coral island off Belize's coast, known for its relaxed atmosphere and stunning Caribbean setting. Just 8 km long, it is divided by The Split, a popular swimming and social spot. Settled in the mid-1800s by Mestizo refugees, the island grew from fishing and coconut farming into a favourite tourism hub. Visitors enjoy

snorkelling, exploring vibrant reefs, and savouring fresh seafood in the village. Its shallow lagoons, rich marine life, and easygoing charm make it an ideal stop on any Belize adventure. We stay four nights at The Caye Hotel, located in the town centre, a few minutes walk to the oceanfront. The hotel has an indoor pool and several restaurants are nearby.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** The Caye Hotel, Caye Caulker

## Sunday, February 7

This is a free day to enjoy Caye Caulker.

**Option:** Take a snorkelling excursion to Hol Chan Marine Reserve off the south end of Ambergris Caye. It was established in 1987 and protects 18 sq km of coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests. Over 160 species of fish have been recorded in the reserve, along with 40 types of coral, 5 species of sponge, 2 sea grasses, 3 species of sea turtle, and marine mammals such as dolphins and West Indian manatees. Spotted eagle rays and southern stingrays are common at the bottom of the channel. Lobsters, moray eels and sea anemones live among the rocky outcrops, and some of the many corals include brain coral, elkhorn coral, and finger coral. The mangrove forests act as nurseries for many fish species, and the seagrass beds have parrotfish, hogfish, and occasional turtles. Includes boat to/from the Reserve and snorkelling equipment. Cost is \$210 per person. Please book this option no later than final payment.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** The Caye Hotel, Caye Caulker

## Monday, February 8

This morning, we take a thrilling flight over the **Great Blue Hole**, a giant submarine sinkhole off the coast of Caye Caulker in Lighthouse Reef. The hole is circular in shape, over 300 metres across, and 108 metres deep. The site gained fame when Jacques Cousteau maneuvered his ship, *Calypso*, through the narrow coral channels in 1971. We also get an aerial view of the shipwrecked British cargo ship *M/V Transfer* which ran aground on the reef in 2005.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** The Caye Hotel, Caye Caulker

## Tuesday, February 9

A free day.

**Option:** Take a fishing and snorkelling excursion to Belize Barrier Reef. Includes boat to/from the Reef, fishing and snorkelling equipment, and a barbecue lunch on the beach. Cost is \$185 per person. Please book this option no later than final payment.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** The Caye Hotel, Caye Caulker

## Wednesday, February 10

We ride the ferry from Caye Caulker back to Belize City. At the **Belize Museum** and House of Culture, we learn more about Belize through exhibits that include jade artifacts from local Maya temples, Belizean stamps and coins, and history of early mahogany trade including tools and equipment used. Afterwards, we leave Belize City, headed for San Ignacio, about a two-hour drive west. At the Belize Butterfly Farm, watch flocks of colourful butterflies flutter and feed in a beautifully landscaped, tropical environment and learn about the amazing lifecycle. We stay four nights at the **San Ignacio Resort**, an intimate hotel of only 26 rooms with a 10-minute walk to the bustling public market. It is nestled on a tropical hillside above the Macal River. This family-owned hotel even hosted Queen Elizabeth in 1994.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** San Ignacio Resort

## Thursday, February 11

In the morning, we explore incredible **Xunantunich** (Maiden of the Rock). We ride across the Mopan River on a hand-cranked ferry to reach this stunning archaeological site. It consists of six plazas surrounded by 26 temples. El Castillo rises 40 metres above the main plaza floor and features intricate, handcrafted friezes and stelae. Xunantunich may have been settled by Mayas as early as 1000 BC and was abandoned by 750 AD. Hidden by the jungle, it was rediscovered by a British explorer in the 1890s. Excavations are continuing and a burial chamber was discovered in 2016. In the afternoon, you may wish to browse through the San Ignacio local market.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** San Ignacio Resort

## Friday, February 12

We visit the **Green Iguana Conservation Project**, spearheaded by our hotel which has been at the forefront of conservation for the threatened Green Iguana. An interpretive and educational exhibit has been designed to create a closer look at this amazing reptile, and to learn how vital they are to the ecological balance of the river habitat. Next, we go to the **Ajaw Chocolate Cooperative**. The scent of chocolate fills the air while you learn about the chocolate-making process, then roast and grind cacao beans to create your own chocolate drinks and candies. This workshop emphasizes traditional chocolate-making using minimal ingredients – pure cacao, honey, sugar, spices, but no milk to preserve the chocolate's true flavour.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** San Ignacio Resort

## Saturday, February 13

Transportation is provided to the San Ignacio Saturday Market (or you can walk 10 mins down the hill from the hotel). This afternoon, we experience the **Maya Cultural Immersion** with an introduction to their daily life through dance, music, and a culinary demonstration.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** San Ignacio Resort

## Sunday, February 14

We drive back to Belize City. Our local guide conducts a tour, pointing out the impressive colonial architecture. The highlights include Baron Bliss Lighthouse, Memorial Park, former Belize City Prison, the 1812 St. John's Cathedral, the waterfront promenade, and National Handicraft Centre. A farewell dinner is planned at the hotel.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Best Western Biltmore Plaza

## Monday, February 15

Our flight leaves Belize City for Calgary in mid-afternoon.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Marriott Hotel YYC

## Tuesday, February 16

We fly home from Calgary.



Wells Gray Group at Altun Ha

## BELIZE

Belize, formerly British Honduras, is a small country on the Caribbean coast of Central America, bordered by Mexico and Guatemala. Its mainland is only 290 km long and 110 km wide. Belize's abundance of terrestrial and marine species and its diversity of ecosystems gives it a key place in the globally significant Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. Belize has a diverse society, composed of many cultures and languages that reflect its rich history. English is the official language of Belize, with Belizean Kriol being the unofficial language. Belize belongs to the British Commonwealth with King Charles III as its monarch and head of state. This tour has lots of fascinating history including the archaeological sites of Xunantunich and Altun Ha. The Maya civilization spread across what is now Belize around 1500 BC and flourished there until about 900 AD. The British settled in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and Belize became an independent nation in 1981.

Belize contains lowland plains beside the Caribbean, the Maya Mountains which rise to 1,100 metres, the world's second longest barrier reef, and about 450 cayes (islands) offshore. Belize has an incredible variety of wildlife because of its unique geographical position and a range of climates and habitats. It is home to about 5,000 species of plants and hundreds of animal species, and sanctuaries protect baboons and jaguars. Belize has seven World Heritage Sites, including the Barrier Reef and Maya Temples.

# TOUR NOTES

**Documentation:** A passport is required, valid for six months after return date. A visa is not required. You must complete a free Travel Declaration form online more than 72 hours before your outbound flight and another form prior to your return flight. The website will be provided in your Important Tour Information documents at final payment.

**Currency & Expenses:** The currency in Belize is the Belize dollar which is officially tied to the US dollar at a rate of 1 US\$ = 2 BZD. As of May 2026, the exchange rate is about \$1 Canadian equals \$1.45 BZD. However, US dollars are widely accepted, and you probably don't need to buy or bring any BZD. You cannot use Canadian dollars in Belize. Gratuities have been included for all group meals and for local guides, naturalists, and drivers. As this tour has been planned and priced eight months before departure, it is possible that exchange fluctuations could affect the fare, in which case you will be notified of the increase or decrease. Most meals are included in Belize.

**Flight seating:** We are unable to take requests for window or aisle seating on the planes, no matter what class you are booked in. The airline will not accept them, as group seating is assigned as a block. If this is important to you, we suggest you take the "No Flights" option with a fare reduction of \$1,300 and book your own flights which allow seat selection. The group's flight only operates three days a week, so it is important to book your flight early to get on the same plane as the group, otherwise you are responsible for any ground transportation to connect with the group. Please see our [Terms & Conditions](#) for more information on the "No Flight" option.

**Flight upgrades:** Please enquire about current prices for upgrades on the flights from Calgary to Belize City and return. Premium economy may be available.

**Flight delays or cancellations:** In the event flights are delayed or cancelled by airlines due to weather or other reasons, there may be additional costs to you. Wells Gray Tours will not pay for hotel rooms and meals during the delay. Most travel insurance policies cover expenses incurred for weather delays.

**Health Clinic:** Visit a travel health clinic two months before departure to discuss possible inoculations for this tour. Bring this itinerary. There are currently no required inoculations, but you may want to discuss Hepatitis A/B and tetanus.

**Food Allergies:** You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. This tour goes to some remote places where restaurants probably cannot satisfy all food allergies. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

**Triples** are not available on this tour.

# TOUR POLICIES

**Payments:** A deposit of \$700 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due October 28, 2026. By paying the deposit, you agree to the [Terms & Conditions](#), Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (3% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard.

**Early Booking Bonus:** Receive a \$250 discount on the first 8 seats and \$125 on the next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after October 28, 2026.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to September 28, 2026, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From September 29 to October 28, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From October 29 to November 27, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From November 28 to December 29, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After December 29, there is no refund.

**Itinerary and Fare Changes:** Our many suppliers may notify us about changes to the itinerary prior to departure and sometimes during the tour. We do our best to substitute a similar service if something cancels, but occasionally the only alternative is to provide a refund for the missed activity. Please note that if we are forced to cancel a tour component due to an issue beyond our control, the current penalties still apply if you choose to cancel the entire tour. Fuel surcharges and changes to taxes, currency exchange rates, or other tour costs can occur at any time, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to departure.

**Travel Insurance:** A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Medical questionnaire is not needed. Please contact us for details. If you have your own travel insurance, please read the policy carefully to be sure that you are adequately covered for medical, cancellation, interruption, and luggage. Please do not travel to Belize without medical insurance as a minimum.

**Photo Credits:** Adobe Stock (Belizean Beach, Great Blue Hole) and tour director Pat (Wells Gray Group at Altun Ha).

**Experience Points or E-points:** This tour earns 183 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn e-points that are added to your account after the tour returns. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your earned points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until October 28, 2026.

**Consumer Protection BC Licences:** Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842

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**WE PLAN. YOU PACK. NO WORRIES!**

[www.wellsgraytours.com](http://www.wellsgraytours.com)

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