

Lights, Camera, Adventure

Belize & Tikal with Coppola Resorts

2012 Season



- 10 night / 11 day adventure
- Enjoy barefoot luxury at 3 award winning Coppola resorts
- Discover the best of the region's nature and archaeology
- Enjoy 'insider experiences' with our expert local guides

The 13.3 million acre Maya Forest that spans Belize, northern Petén in Guatemala and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula is the second largest rainforest in the western hemisphere. Belize has over 550 species of birds and the protected areas of the Maya Mountain Massif provide critical habitat for many rare and endangered species including Jaguar and Scarlet Macaw. During the course of the expedition you'll meet our conservation officer who coordinates a range of fascinating biodiversity research projects. Deep within the Maya Forest are ancient remnants of the Maya civilization. We'll explore the spacious plazas, towering temple pyramids and ball courts of Caracol, Yaxhá and Tikal. Last but not least we'll head to the coast to explore rivers, mangroves, cayes and the southern reaches of Belize's 186-mile section of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef, the longest in the Western Hemisphere.

Itinerary - 10 nights/11 days

Day 01 – Blancaneaux Lodge

On arrival into Belize International Airport you'll be met by one of our expert guides and driven to Blancaneaux Lodge. You will spend 4 nights at Blancaneaux Lodge in a luxurious cabaña. Tonight you'll enjoy a welcome dinner and there will be ample time to discuss the expedition with our staff.

Overnight Blancaneaux Lodge (D)

Day 02 – Caracol, Rio Frio Cave, Rio On Pools & Waterfalls

Optional early morning birding prior to breakfast then a full day tour to the Rio Frio Cave, Maya site of Caracol in the Chiquibul National Park and the Rio On Pools & Waterfalls. Caracol is the largest Maya site in Belize yet remains well off the tourist track due to its remote location.

Overnight Blancaneaux Lodge (B,L,D)

Day 03 – Relaxing at Blancaneaux Lodge

Today is a free day to relax or take optional tours or activities. Enjoy the infinity swimming pool, the Waterfall Spa and Hot Pool, walk the Organic Garden, take a jungle trek, go horseback riding, visit Green Hills butterfly farm and botanical garden, explore Xunantunich or Cahal Pech Maya sites, paddle into the Maya underworld at Barton Creek Cave or go mountain biking along the miles of old logging roads.

Overnight Blancaneaux Lodge (B,L,D)

Day 04 – Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve

Optional early morning birding prior to breakfast then a full day tour of the 300-square mile Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve. We'll visit 1000 Ft Falls habitat of the Orange-breasted Falcon and King Vulture then drive high up to the Cooma Cairn forestry tower, a favourite observation point for raptors. During the course of the day we'll observe the reserve's many orchid species, spot jaguar tracks and search for the rare Stygian Owl.

Overnight Blancaneaux Lodge (B,L,D)

Day 05 – Yaxhá & Lake Petén Itzá

Optional early morning birding with the morning at leisure. After lunch we'll drive out of the Mountain Pine Ridge and head west into Petén, Guatemala. On route to La Lancha we'll explore the Maya site of Yaxhá situated approximately half way between Blancaneaux Lodge and Lake Petén Itzá/La Lancha. Photographing birds and wildlife, especially the lazy Howler monkeys and acrobatic Spider monkeys is a highlight at Yaxhá. We'll linger at the site for a spectacular sunset accompanied by wine and snacks atop Temple 216. We'll arrive at La Lancha in time for dinner.

Overnight La Lancha (B,L,D)

Day 06 – Tikal National Park

Today we'll visit the incomparable Tikal located in the 576-square mile Tikal National Park the ruins are a UNESCO World Heritage site. Our expert local guide will guide you through the main areas of the site interpreting both the archaeology and the stunning natural history. On our return trip to La Lancha there are shopping opportunities for local artisan crafts such as hand carved masks, huipiles, textiles and pottery.

Overnight La Lancha (B,L,D)

Day 07 – Placencia

After an early breakfast we'll take a short drive to Flores International Airport and fly to Belize. After a short 1-hour flight we'll arrive at Belize International Airport and connect by air to Placencia. There's time to settle into your luxurious cottage before lunch. The rest of the day is free to relax and enjoy the beach, 2 infinity swimming pools, or the Sunset Spa.

Overnight Turtle Inn (B,L,D)

Day 08 – The Belize Barrier Reef

Today we'll explore the underwater wonders of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef. Offshore from Placencia the inner-reef is a patchwork of coral cayes and shallow reefs. Our boat will make its way through the turquoise waters and past Laughing Bird Caye National Park to the barrier reef where we'll snorkel and enjoy lunch. In the afternoon we'll enjoy more snorkelling adventures along the barrier reef before returning to Turtle Inn.

Overnight Turtle Inn (B,L,D)

Day 09 – Relaxing at Turtle Inn, Placencia

Today is a free day to relax or take optional tours. Enjoy a Thai massage in your own room, cycle into Placencia village, explore the world's only jaguar preserve or take a manatee safari in the lagoon. Alternatively head south into Toldeo District and visit the Maya site of Nim Li Punit followed by a Maya cultural experience at Indian Creek. Dinner tonight is left open for you to explore the numerous restaurants in Placencia village.

Overnight Turtle Inn (B,L)

Day 10 – Monkey River

After breakfast we'll slowly head south by boat carefully winding our way through the patchwork of mangrove cayes that hug the coast. Today we'll encounter squadrons of low flying Brown Pelicans, Ospreys, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Boat-billed herons, American crocodiles, river turtles and Howler Monkeys.

Overnight Turtle Inn (B,L,D)

Day 11 – Belize International Airport / Departure

Today you'll fly from Placencia to Belize International Airport for your onward connections. (B)

Enquiries

For questions on this adventure or for a more detailed itinerary please contact our central reservations office. Call 501-824-4912; or e-mail info@blancaneaux.com

Expedition dates:

Starts any day, year-round

Room Types: Blancaneaux Lodge – Riverfront Cabana; La Lancha – Lakeview Casita; Turtle Inn – Pool-side Sea View Cottage. Rates are based on double share.

Group Size:

Minimum group sign up 2 persons.

Private land transfers

Private tours from Blancaneaux Lodge and La Lancha are not guaranteed and may be shared with other guests staying at the properties (maximum 6 persons per vehicle). All boat tours at Turtle Inn will be on a shared basis with other guests aboard our new 46 foot dive boat 'Miss Ellie'.

Expedition Costs:

For couples or 2 persons travelling together

Departures – January 06, 2012 to 31 May, 2012 (excluding Easter)

Per person double share: \$4080 US + \$679 tax/service charge

Please enquire for pricing for small groups such as families.

Departures 01 June, 2012 – 19 December, 2012 (excluding Thanksgiving)

Per person double share: \$3916 US + \$646 US tax/service charge

For 2 couples or 4 persons travelling together

Departures – January 06, 2013 to 31 May, 2013 (excluding Easter)

Per person double share: \$3943 + \$660 tax/service charge

Please enquire for pricing for small groups such as families.

Departures 01 June, 2013 – 19 December, 2013 (excluding Thanks giving)

Per person double share: \$3526 + \$570 tax/service charge

Terms & Conditions:

Please ensure that you have read our booking terms and agree to our liability waiver prior to making a reservation.