



# Expedition Maya

19-26 June 2010

Take part in the Maya site of Pacbitun's summer field school and tour the Maya sites of the Belize River Valley with guest lecturer Dr. Terry Powis.



Hosted by Blancaneaux Lodge

## Blancaneaux Lodge 'In the Field' Expedition Series 2010



### **Expedition Maya**

An introduction to the Maya sites of the Belize River Valley including the unique opportunity to participate in the summer archaeological field school at the Maya site of Pacbitun under the supervision of Terry Powis, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Department of Geography and Anthropology at Kennesaw State University.

**Expedition Date:** 19-26 June 2010

**Cost based on Double Share:** \$1845 US per person + \$157 US tax + \$122 Service Charge

**Group Size:** Minimum Group Size: 10, Maximum Group Size: 20

### **7 Nights / 8 Days based at the award winning Blancaneaux Lodge**

Participants will attend workshop sessions at the Pacbitun field school under the supervision of Dr. Terry Powis. By mid-June the season's excavations at Pacbitun will be in full swing allowing trip participants to see the exciting finds that the season's dig has revealed. The expedition will also include a series of evening seminars and day trips to the nearby Maya sites of Caracol, Cahal Pech, El Pilar and Xunantunich in the company of Dr. Powis.

**Saturday Day 1:** Arrive into Belize International Airport. Clear customs and met by your driver/guide from Blancaneaux Lodge. It's a two and a half hour overland transfer to Blancaneaux Lodge from the airport. On arrival there is time to settle in and enjoy the wonderfully relaxing atmosphere. The group will gather for pre-dinner drinks at the Jaguar Bar and after an early dinner Dr. Powis will brief participants on his extensive background relating to the excavating of Belizean Maya sites as well as giving a general overview of expedition topics and timings.

**Sunday Day 2:** Leisurely breakfast.

For those that wish there will be early morning birding before breakfast.

Morning Activity: The morning is free to relax by the pool, take a massage or explore the Blancaneaux Lodge property. Early Lunch.

Afternoon Activity: After an early lunch we will take a 20-minute drive to the Maya site of Pacbitun located close to the modern Maya village of San Antonio. Dr. Powis will lead an orientation of the site and explain how the group will participate in the field school. All around you the excavation of Pacbitun will continue and there is plenty of time to observe the students and local staff at work. We'll return to Blancaneaux Lodge in the late afternoon. There's time to take a swim or relax prior to dinner.

**Monday Day 3:**

For early risers breakfast will be preceded by an optional early morning birding walk with our resident guides.

Morning Activity: This morning we will visit the Maya site of Cahal Pech located on a hill-top overlooking the town of San Ignacio. Dr. Powis worked with Dr. Jaime Awe (Director of Belize's Institute of Archaeology) at Cahal Pech between 1988 and 1994 and will share his unique knowledge of the site with you.

Afternoon Activity: After visiting Cahal Pech we'll drive a few miles west and take a hand cranked ferry across the Mopan River to the impressive Maya site of Xunantunich. Once at the site we'll enjoy a picnic lunch. Dr. Powis will describe the history of the site and archaeological excavations conducted by both Drs. Richard Leventhal and Jaime Awe.

Evening activity: Dr. Powis will join us for dinner and will lead an informal post-dinner discussion on the Maya of the Belize River valley.

**Tuesday Day 4:** Breakfast.

Full-day Activity: After breakfast we'll drive down to Pacbitun to take part in a full day of activities at the site. Expedition members will have an opportunity to observe the on-going excavations, take guided lectures around the site and to join the other field school participants in tasks assigned by Dr. Powis. After a full day at the site we'll return to Blancaneaux Lodge in the late afternoon with time to relax before dinner. Dinner at Blancaneaux Lodge.

**Wednesday Day 5:** Breakfast

Field Trip: Today we'll enjoy a full day field trip to the Caracol Archaeological Reserve located deep in the Chiquibul National Park. The drive takes almost an hour through stunning jungle scenery. On arrival at the Caracol Archaeological Reserve the National Park rangers will describe the unique challenges they face in protecting and conserving this important Maya site. Caracol is a haven for birdwatchers and it is possible to observe a wide range of wildlife as we explore the ruins. Dr. Powis will provide an in depth insight in to the work of Drs. Arlene and Diane Chase, as well as excavations supervised

by Dr. Jaime Awe. On our way back to Blancaneaux Lodge we'll stop at the Rio Frio Cave and the Rio On Falls.

Dinner at Blancaneaux Lodge.

Evening activity: Dr. Powis will join us for dinner and give an informal seminar on the role of Caracol and its relationship with the sites of the Belize River Valley as well as its much publicised conflict with rival Tikal.

**Thursday Day 6:** Breakfast

The morning is free to relax or take optional activities.

Lunch

Afternoon Field Trip: After lunch we will return to Pacbitun to participate in the on going field school. There will be an opportunity to see how pottery shards and other artefacts are identified, sorted and processed. We'll return to Blancaneaux Lodge in the late afternoon. Dinner

**Friday Day 7:** Early breakfast

Full Day Field Trip: We'll depart early for a full day trip to El Pilar, the largest Maya site in the Belize River region. The site straddles the Belize-Guatemala border and has more than 25 plazas covering over 100-acres. There are a dozen large temple pyramids with most construction at the site occurring between the Middle Pre-Classic (500 BC) and the Terminal Classic (1000 AD). Archaeologist Dr. Anabel Ford has created a living museum with a focus on preserving the natural habitat to illustrate how the Maya lived in harmony with the forest. We'll walk the educational jungle trails with local Maya guides learning about the complex interrelationship between the Maya and their environment. Lunch will be taken at the site and we'll return to Blancaneaux Lodge in the late afternoon.

Tonight we'll enjoy a farewell dinner hosted by Dr. Powis.

**Saturday Day 8:** Breakfast.

Mid-morning transfer to Belize International Airport for international flight departures.

**Extend your stay:**

Take a pre or post-trip extension to Blancaneaux Lodge's sister properties Turtle Inn and La Lancha. Explore the Maya sites of Yaxha, Tikal, Uaxactun, Seibal and others from La Lancha. Alternatively snorkel or dive the Belize barrier reef and visit the southern Maya sites of Nim Li Punit and Lubaantun. Please enquire for details.

**What is included:**

The Blancaneaux Lodge special 'conservation room and activity' rate.  
All meals from dinner on Day 01 to breakfast on Day 8.  
All lectures and activities as outlined in the itinerary above.  
Round trip collective group transfers from Belize International Airport to Blancaneaux Lodge.  
Accommodations on double share basis (we encourage single sign up's and will do our best to accommodate them for no additional charge)  
Local taxes on meals and activities and lodge service charge.  
Wifi internet access at the main lodge with own laptop

**What is not included:**

Spa treatments, Horseback riding  
Tours and activities not listed in the itinerary or Private transfers  
Alcoholic, soft drinks, laundry services, international departure tax

**Enquiries and reservations:** [info@blancaneaux.com](mailto:info@blancaneaux.com) 1-800-746-3743,  
501-824-4912. [www.coppolaresorts.com](http://www.coppolaresorts.com)