

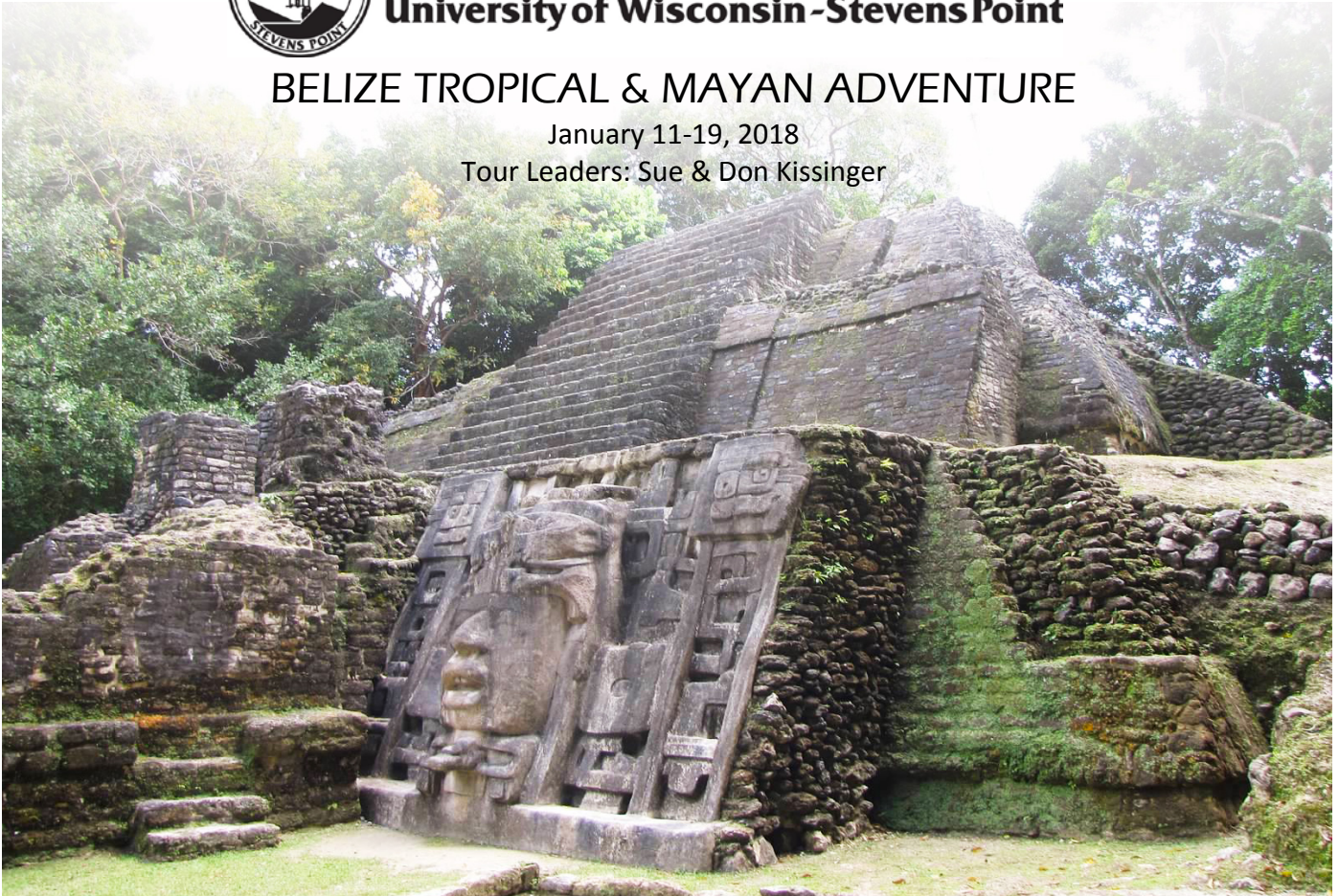


## Adventure Tours University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

### BELIZE TROPICAL & MAYAN ADVENTURE

January 11-19, 2018

Tour Leaders: Sue & Don Kissinger



*Mayan Ruins at Lamanai (photo by Sue Kissinger)*

### Overview

Explore Belize, Central America in all of its natural beauty while embarking on incredible tropical adventures. Over nine days, this tour will explore beautiful rainforests, Mayan ruins and archeology, and islands of this tropical paradise. Some highlights include an amazing tour of the Actun Tunichil Muknal (ATM) cave, snorkeling the second largest barrier reef in the world at South Water Caye, cave tubing the Jaguar Paw Caves, an expedition to the Caracol Mayan Ruins, and a boat trip through the jungle to the remote Mayan village of Lamanai. Throughout this tour, we will have the expertise of Luis Godoy from Belize Nature Travel, a native Mayan and one of Belize's premier licensed guides, to guide us on some amazing excursions and share in Belize's heritage. We'll also stay at locally-owned hotels and resorts and dine at local restaurants so we can truly experience the warm and welcoming culture of Belize. UWSP Adventure Tours leaders Sue & Don Kissinger are ready to return to Belize to share the many experiences and adventures they've had in this beautiful country over the years. If you ask Sue if this is the perfect adventure travel opportunity for you she'll say, "If you have an adventurous spirit, YOU BETTER BELIZE IT!"



## Tour Itinerary

### **Jan. 11 (Thursday) – Arrive in Paradise!**

Your adventure begins when you arrive at the Belize International Airport in Belize City where our guides will greet us and transfer the group to the [Hotel De La Fuente](#), in Orange Walk Towne (35 miles from the airport or 1 hour drive). After we check in, we'll enjoy a wonderful dinner and embark on a fun night tour on the New River. Our local guide will show us amazing creatures of the night including crocodiles, bats, and birds. Overnight at [Hotel De La Fuente](#)

### **Jan. 12 – Boat Tour and Lamanai Mayan Ruins**

After a traditional breakfast, we will join our local guides Luis & Carlos for a 20 mile boat tour on the New River to the remote Lamanai Mayan Ruins, which means “submerged crocodile”. This majestic Mayan city was settled sometime around 1600 BC, became a prominent center in the Pre-Classic Period, and was abandoned in the Post-Classic Period around 1800 AD. A tour throughout this Mesoamerican archeological site highlights the flora, fauna, and numerous excavated structures. Lunch will be the locally favorite stewed chicken with rice and beans. After lunch, there will be time for a museum visit and shopping for local handcrafts. We'll then take the boat ride back to Orange Walk Towne for a free evening. Dinner provided at a local restaurant. Overnight at [Hotel De La Fuente](#).



*The High Temple of Lamanai (Sue Kissinger)*



*Cave Tubing (photo by Corey Fehrmann)*

### **Jan. 13 - Belize Zoo and Cave Tubing!**

Depart Orange Walk Towne for a day tour of the Belize Zoo (a quirky and fun experience and home to about 125 animals and 48 native species), followed by tubing through the majestic caves and caverns at Jaguar Paw Caves. After another traditional lunch, we will hike through the rainforest and float back for a unique look inside of a limestone cave system. The group will then transfer to the western border of Belize to lodge at the [Crystal Paradise Resort](#) near San Ignacio, Cayo.

### **Jan. 14 – Caracol Mayan Ruins & Mountain Pine Ridge Tour**

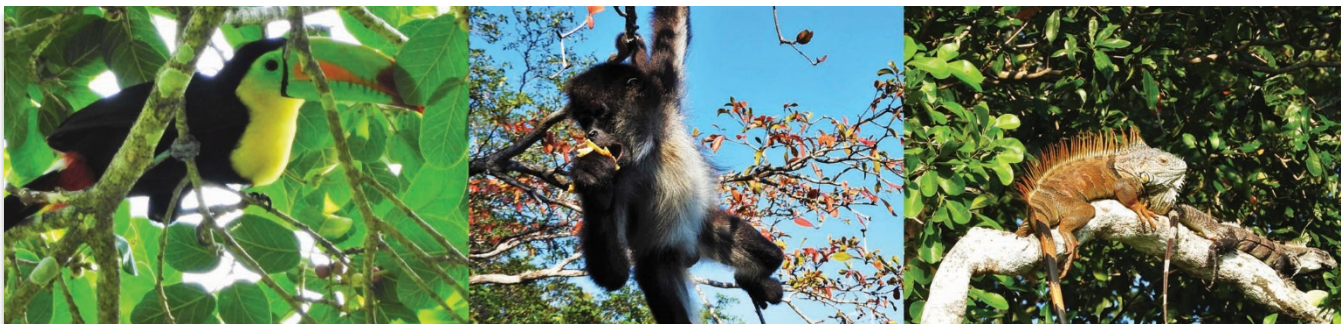
The adventure continues as we journey to Caracol in the foothills of the Maya Mts. We'll tour this ancient Maya archeologic site, which was once an important political midpoint of the Maya Lowlands in the Classic Period. Then, the group will tour the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve (est. in 1944). After a full but amazing day, we will return to relish some well-deserved sleep! Overnight at the [Crystal Paradise Resort](#)

### **Jan. 15 – ATM Caving Adventure**

On this day's guided expedition, we will trek through the jungle while birding and viewing many native flora and fauna, cross three rivers and swim into the entrance of Actun Tunichil Muknal Cave (ATM Cave). Once inside, we will spend several hours scrambling over rocks and exploring beautiful geological formations until we reach the



*Sue at the Zoo (photo by Meryl Lee Nelson)*



*Keel-billed Toucan (photo by Kelly Shevy) Cntl Amer Spider monkey (Kelly Zopfi) Green & Spiny Tailed Iguanas (Kelly Shevy)*

back of the cave where we'll encounter Mayan pottery and Mayan skeletal remains from human sacrifices. An alternative canoe trip will be available for those not physically able to explore ATM. These participants can canoe into the Barton Creek Cave system and also view Mayan pottery and skeletal remains. Overnight at the [Crystal Paradise Resort](#)



*Garifuna drummers and dancers (Sue Kissinger)*

**Jan. 16 – Garifuna Dancing and Hot Sauce!**

Saying good bye to our hosts at Crystal Paradise, we'll head to the East coast. In the Caribbean town of Dangriga, we will visit the Marie Sharp's Hot Sauce Factory and have the opportunity to sample and purchase some of her famous products! In town, we will enjoy a traditional Garifuna meal complete with drumming and dancing. Locals will give us a taste of punta and paranda music while dancing the chumba or hunguhungu. We will then board a boat for a 30 minute ride to South Water Caye with a stop at Bird Island to view the nesting Frigate Birds.

Overnight at the tropical paradise [Pelican Beach Resort](#)

**Jan. 17 – South Water Caye**

South Water Caye is the ultimate tropical paradise in Belize. Here, we will have opportunities for snorkeling from the shore, kayaking around the island plus a ½ day snorkeling trip to Tobacco Caye or Research Marine Biology Center. Overnight at [Pelican Beach Resort](#)

**Jan. 18 – Snorkeling, Kayaking, & More...**

It's easy to fall in love with this island and this place! Staying here for another day, you can choose night snorkeling and fishing for barracuda (extra cost) or a ½ day snorkel trip. Optional trips (extra costs) for SCUBA diving, fishing, and night snorkeling available. Enjoy free time to explore, swim, or just relax. Overnight at [Pelican Beach Resort](#)

**Jan. 19 (Friday) – Time to head home**

Depart South Water Caye early in the morning and transfer to Dangriga. The bus will be waiting to transport us back to the Belize International Airport so we can depart for home.



*South Water Caye (photo by Sue Kissinger)*



**COST:** \$3,578.00 pp (USD)

**MY OWN ROOM:** \$600 (additional USD)

**INCLUDED:** The cost includes all accommodations (comfortable lodging), all meals in-country, activities listed in itinerary, all transfers in-country, and 1-2 UWSP Adventure Tours tour leaders (depending on group size).

**NOT INCLUDED:** Roundtrip airfare to/from Belize, extra activities, extra purchases (such as souvenirs, alcoholic beverages, taxi, and lodging sundries), local drivers' and guides' tips, snorkeling gear rental, laundry services, fishing gear rental, and travel insurance.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The cost includes land only rate, per person, with double occupancy accommodations. Single rooms ("my own room") may be limited. Depending on weather and other variables, some activities or accommodations may change prior to or during the tour. This tour will accommodate most fitness/health levels, however it is suggested that all participants have at least a moderate/fair level of fitness and health. Our goal is to ensure a fun and safe wellness adventure for everyone aboard.

**TOUR LEADERS:** Sue & Don Kissinger



Sue and Don have travelled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Central America and Europe. They met 33 years ago as students on an international trip and just celebrated their 31<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary. Sue has worked at UW – Stevens Point (UWSP) for over 23 years and is currently a Career Specialist in the Career Services Office. She has lead six UWSP student international courses, five Becoming an Outdoors Woman International trips, and one Belize Adventure through UWSP Adventure Tours (totaling six programs to Belize). Don works as an Urban Forestry Coordinator for the WI Department of Natural Resources in northern and western Wisconsin. He has accompanied Sue on programs to Costa Rica, Belize, and Europe. They look forward to returning to share the sights, sounds, tastes, and rich history of this tiny but amazing tropical country.

**GROUP SIZE:** 12-18 participants

**CONTACT:** Trevor Roark, 715-340-8186, [adventure.tours@uwsp.edu](mailto:adventure.tours@uwsp.edu)

**REGISTRATION:** register online with a check or via credit card QR print registration, complete, & mail along with \$300 (pp) nonrefundable deposit

**WEBSITE:** [www.uwspadventuretours.com](http://www.uwspadventuretours.com)