



CLASSIC



Photo by Sue Kissinger

# Belize Rainforests, Ruins & Reefs

Dates: 10-18 January 2020

Tour Leaders: Sue and Don Kissinger



Adventure Tours  
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

## Overview

Explore Belize in 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 (“Cave of the Crystal Maiden”), also known as ATM cave; snorkeling the second largest barrier reef in the world, the critically endangered Mesoamerican Barrier Reef, at the tropical paradise of South Water Caye; touring Xunantunich Mayan ruin (“Sculpture of Lady”); and enjoying a boat ride on the New River to the remote Mayan village of Lamanai. Throughout this tour, we’ll have the expertise of Luis Godoy from Belize Nature Travel, a native Mayan and one of Belize’s premier licensed guides, to lead 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 and 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 Leaders



*Sue and Don at Lamanai*

### Sue and Don Kissinger

Sue and Don have travelled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Central America, Africa and Europe. They met 36 years ago as UW-Stevens Point students on an international trip and just celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary. Sue has worked at UWSP for more than 26 years and is currently a career specialist in the Academic and Career Advising Center. She has led 17 UWSP international trips, including 7 to Belize – her favorite sunny place to visit! Don works as an urban forestry coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in northern and western Wisconsin. He has co-led trips with Sue to Belize, Iceland, Poland and Germany. They look forward to returning to share the sights, sounds, tastes and rich history of this tiny but amazing tropical country.

## Itinerary

### Day 1 (Friday, 10 January 2020) – Arrive in Tropical Paradise!

Your adventure begins when you arrive at the Belize International Airport (BZE) in Belize City where our guides will greet us and transfer the group to the Hotel De La Fuente, in Orange Walk Town (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](#).

## Day 2 – Boat Tour and Lamanai Mayan Ruins

After a traditional breakfast, we will join our local guides Luis and Carlos for a 20-mile boat tour on the New River to the remote Mayan Ruins of Lamanai, which means “submerged crocodile.” Throughout this Mesoamerican archeological site we’ll highlight the flora, fauna and numerous excavated structures. Lunch will be the local favorite stewed chicken with rice and beans. After lunch, there will be time for a museum visit and shopping for local handcrafts.

Visit a Steam-Powered Post Classic Sugar Mill as we take the boat ride back to Orange Walk Town for a free evening. Group dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight at [Hotel De La Fuente](#).



*Adventure Tours travelers at Lamanai*

## Day 3 – Belize Zoo and Orange Gallery in Route to San Ignacio



*Crystal Paradise Resort*

Depart Orange Walk Town for a day tour of the Belize Zoo, a quirky and fun experience and home to about 125 animals and 48 native species. We’ll dine at the zoo’s new restaurant before heading towards the western border of Belize. An optional stop for zip-lining (extra) if the group is interested and shopping for local handicrafts at the Orange Gallery before settling into the cozy thatched roof cabanas at the [Crystal Paradise Resort](#) near San Ignacio, Cayo.

## Day 4 – Xunantunich Mayan Ruins and San Ignacio Tour - Horseback Riding or Canoeing

Continue our quest by crossing the river by hand-pulled ferry to tour Xunantunich Maya archaeological site. A series of 6 plazas surrounded by 26-plus palaces and temples with the El Castillo pyramid, it was an important site of the Preclassic period. After a traditional lunch at Benny’s, the group can choose to either canoe the Macal River or go horseback riding to Big Rock Falls. Shop and explore San Ignacio and then return to gain some well-deserved sleep after an active day! Overnight at the [Crystal Paradise Resort](#).



*Xunantunich*

## Day 5 – ATM Caving Adventure or Barton Creek Canoeing and Rio on Pools

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 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 that choose not to explore ATM. These travelers will canoe into the Barton Creek Cave system and view Mayan pottery and beautiful cave formations followed by a picnic and tour of the Mountain Pine Ridge area and Rio on Pools (an aquatic oasis). Overnight at the [Crystal Paradise Resort](#).

## Day 6 – Chocolate, Hot Sauce and the Belizean Cayes



*South Water Caye*

Saying goodbye to our hosts at Crystal Paradise, we'll head to the East Coast. Cross the Mayan Mountains and stop for a chocolate making presentation and tasting to learn of the ancient ways the Maya used chocolate. 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! Enjoy a

30-minute boat 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](#).

## Day 7 – South Water Caye (Kayaking, Snorkeling and the Research Marine Biology Center)



*SCUBA (photo by Adventure Tours traveler)*

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 half-day snorkeling trip to Tobacco Caye or Caribo Island (Research Marine Biology Center) to learn more about the critically endangered Mesoamerican Barrier Reef. Optional SCUBA diving available at additional cost. Evening Garifuna drummer and dancer performance. Overnight at [Pelican Beach Resort](#).

## Day 8 – Snorkeling, Kayaking and Relaxation

It's easy to fall in love with this island and this place! Staying at this tropical paradise for another day, visit another part of the reef for a half-day snorkel trip and enjoy a free afternoon to explore, swim or just relax in a hammock. Optional line fishing or night snorkeling at additional cost. Farewell dinner. Overnight at [Pelican Beach Resort](#).

## Day 9 (Saturday, 18 January 2020) – Time to Head Home

Depart South Water Caye early in the morning and boat transfer to Dangriga. The bus will be waiting to transport us back to the Belize International Airport (BZE) so we can depart for home. For late afternoon departures, the guides will take us on a few side trips in route to the airport. Say goodbye to new friends, beautiful places, delicious foods, and good fun, but keep these new and incredible memories forever.



*From left to right: Garifuna Drummers and Dancers, Belize Zoo, Barton Creek canoeing*

\*Unless noted, all photos by tour leader Sue Kissinger

## Cost and Details

**COST:** \$3,794 pp (USD)    **MY OWN ROOM:** \$600 (additional USD)

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

**NOT INCLUDED:** Roundtrip airfare to/from Belize, extra activities, snorkeling gear rental, laundry services, zip-lining (additional \$45), fishing gear rental, SCUBA diving tour and equipment (additional \$180), dive insurance, extra purchases (such as souvenirs, alcoholic beverages, taxi, int'l calls and lodging sundries), local drivers' and guides' tips, travel insurance.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The cost includes land/water 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.

**GROUP SIZE:** 12-20 travelers

**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 OR print registration, complete and mail with \$300 (pp) nonrefundable deposit.

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

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