

Belize

Shark Ray Alley by Day, a Crystal Cave by Torchlight

A 6-day trip through Belize — a water-taxi crossing to laid-back Caye Caulker, a snorkel with nurse sharks and stingrays at Shark Ray Alley, a jungle transfer inland to the Cayo District, a torchlit wade through the ATM cave's crystallized Maya chamber, and a climb up a Mayan temple at Xunantunich — with real water taxis, real lodges, and 2026 prices for every stop.

DURATION

6 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

Late November to April

the dry season, with the calmest seas for reef days and the driest trails for cave and ruins days

FROM

\$1,380 USD / person

for 2 people sharing water taxis, lodges, a rental car & guided tours; excludes international flights

Day 1

Belize City to Caye Caulker

Land in Belize City and hop straight onto a water taxi for the ride out to Caye Caulker's sandy, car-free streets.

Arrival: Philip S. W. Goldson International Airport

Belize City (BZE)

Most international flights land at Belize City's airport, a short taxi ride from the Belize City water taxi terminal downtown.

San Pedro Belize Express — Water Taxi to Caye Caulker

~45 minutes · ~\$34 USD / adult one-way

A fast passenger ferry departs the Marine Terminal in Belize City for the open-water run out to Caye Caulker, skipping between the mainland and the reef.

San Pedro Belize Express · <https://belizewatertaxi.com>

Check-In: Iguana Reef Inn

From \$175 USD / night, for 2 people

A beachfront inn on Caye Caulker's quieter west side, with hammocks strung between palms and a dock for watching the sunset over the lagoon.

Iguana Reef Inn · <https://www.iguanareefinn.com>

Golf Cart Ride to The Split

~1 hour · golf cart rental from ~\$25 USD / half-day

Caye Caulker has no cars to speak of — golf carts and bikes are the only traffic — and a short ride north leads to The Split, a channel cut by a 1961 hurricane that's now the island's swimming hole and sunset gathering spot.

Day 2

Snorkeling Shark Ray Alley & Hol Chan

A full morning on the reef, swimming with nurse sharks and southern stingrays before an afternoon to explore the island on foot.

Snorkel Tour: Hol Chan Marine Reserve & Shark Ray Alley

~4 hours · ~\$45–\$60 USD / person including gear

A boat trip out to Belize's oldest marine reserve, where a natural channel through the barrier reef concentrates parrotfish and green moray eels, before a stop at Shark Ray Alley to snorkel alongside resting nurse sharks and southern stingrays.

Belize Water Taxi Tours & local dive shops · <https://belizewatertaxi.com>

Lunch: The Lazy Lizard

~1 hour · lunch ~\$12–\$20 USD / person

A palapa-roofed bar right on The Split, serving ceviche and fried fish plates to a mostly barefoot, just-out-of-the-water crowd.

Free Afternoon on Caye Caulker

~3 hours · free · self-guided

The island's single sandy Front Street is easy to walk end to end, past souvenir stalls, a small chocolate shop and rum bars, with no real traffic to watch for the whole way.

Day 3

Back to the Mainland — Into the Cayo District

A water taxi back to Belize City, then a drive inland to the jungle-and-river country of the Cayo District, with a wildlife stop along the way.

San Pedro Belize Express — Water Taxi to Belize City

~45 minutes · ~\$34 USD / adult one-way

The return crossing retraces the outbound route back to the Marine Terminal, where a rental car or private transfer waits for the drive inland.

San Pedro Belize Express · <https://belizewatertaxi.com>

The Belize Zoo

~1.5 hours · \$20 USD / adult

A well-regarded rescue-and-rehabilitation zoo on the way inland, home to jaguars, tapirs and harpy eagles native to Belize, most of them rescued rather than captured.

The Belize Zoo · <https://www.belizezoo.org>

Self-Drive: Belize Zoo to San Ignacio

~1.5 hours, 55 miles via the George Price Highway

The highway continues west through farmland and small villages toward the Cayo District, with the Maya Mountains rising on the horizon as San Ignacio approaches.

Check-In: Black Rock Lodge

From \$190 USD / night, for 2 people

A riverside jungle lodge tucked into the Macal River valley outside San Ignacio, solar-powered and reachable by a final stretch of dirt road, with howler monkeys audible most mornings.

Black Rock Lodge · <https://www.blackrocklodge.com>

Day 4

The ATM Cave

A full day dedicated to Belize's signature adventure: a wade, swim and climb into a sacred Maya cave chamber.

ATM Cave Tour (Actun Tunichil Muknal)

~7–9 hours · ~\$110–\$150 USD / person including guide, gear & lunch

A licensed guide leads a 45-minute jungle hike and three river crossings to the cave mouth, then a wade and swim deep into a limestone cavern to a chamber of calcite-crystallized Maya pottery and skeletal remains left over 1,000 years ago — no cameras allowed inside.

Maya Walk Tours · <https://www.mayawalk.com>

Dinner: Hode's Place

~1.5 hours · dinner ~\$10–\$18 USD / person

A San Ignacio institution with an open-air garden seating area, serving Belizean staples like rice and beans with stewed chicken alongside burgers and pupusas.

Day 5

Xunantunich & the Macal River

A hand-cranked ferry crossing to a hilltop Maya temple, then an afternoon on the river before a last night in the Cayo District.

Xunantunich Archaeological Reserve

~2.5 hours · \$10 USD / adult (plus a free hand-cranked ferry crossing)

A hand-cranked cable ferry ropes cars and visitors across the Mopan River to this hilltop Maya site, where El Castillo rises 130 feet with stucco friezes still visible near its summit and a view reaching into Guatemala.

Canoeing on the Macal River

~2 hours · ~\$35 USD / person including canoe rental

A calm stretch of the Macal River below Black Rock Lodge is ideal for a self-paced canoe paddle past iguanas sunning on the banks and the odd kingfisher working the shallows.

Dinner: Black Rock Lodge Dining Room

~1.5 hours · set dinner ~\$25 USD / person

A family-style dinner served on the lodge's open-air deck above the river, with produce from its own garden and a soundtrack of cicadas as the jungle goes dark.

Black Rock Lodge · <https://www.blackrocklodge.com>

Day 6

Back to Belize City & Departure

A last jungle morning before the drive back to the airport for the flight home.

Morning Nature Walk at Black Rock Lodge

~1 hour · free for guests

A network of short trails around the lodge's grounds is easy to walk before breakfast, with a fair chance of spotting toucans or a troop of howler monkeys in the canopy overhead.

Self-Drive: San Ignacio to Belize City Airport

~2 hours, 75 miles via the George Price Highway

The drive retraces the George Price Highway east back toward the coast, timed to reach the international airport with room for check-in before an afternoon or evening flight home.