



Belize & Guatemala: A Maya Ecological Adventure

January 10 – 19, 2018

Join Robert and Doreen Stelton, reigniting old trails they have traveled, amongst the many jungle clad ruins of Belize and Guatemala. More have been excavated and monuments have been deciphered. Local guides have the latest news. Small boats will deliver us to rustic lodges and other fun activities will be available. Bring ear plugs to mask the bird and monkey calls in the morning. \$2,142.00 PP. Single supplement, \$450.00

Day 1: Tues Jan 9 or Wed Jan 10: Meet in **Belize City** at the appointed time (Chicagoans overnight Miami and arrive 12:50 pm) to travel on the Western Highway to San Ignacio to the small friendly **Rolson Hotel**, for our overnight, with outside dining and a **pool**. We will stop at the Belize Zoo, if time allows. The hotel will assist setting up set up our activities. **(D)**

Day 2: Thu Jan 11: After a hearty Belizean breakfast of your choice, we will depart for a tour of **Cahal Pech**. Ceramic pieces from as early as 1200 BC have been uncovered here. So far, 34 structures have been excavated, including a ball court and an elite house. We will stop for a cool drink at the **San Ignacio Market** for lunch there



Cahal Pech

or in town. The afternoon is free for shopping, the Iguana conservatory, chocolate making or to opt for a tour of **Xunantunich** by ferry across a small body of water to the site with unique curvy decorations a bit of ancient graffiti and a very high pyramid. You might prefer to do Xunantunich tomorrow. Have dinner at your hotel or in town. Overnight Rolson Hotel. **(B, L)**



El Pilar

Day 3: Fri Jan 12: Today is a free day to explore **San Ignacio** or you may wish to visit **El Pilar**, a very large site that is interesting because it still being uncovered. The 4x4 ride into the site is over rough terrain and adds costs, depending on the number of riders. You might opt to visit a sustainable farm with stables and ruins on the property. Or you could visit a butterfly farm, a contemporary Garcia Sisters Maya Art Museum, or botanical gardens. Or do **Xunantunich** this day. All are available by short taxi rides (\$2 each) and guides (share \$30 cost) are available at the sites. Rolson Hotel. **(B)**

Day 4: Sat Jan 13: Today is the day to opt for the tour to fascinating **Caracol** if this is what you came to Belize to see. A main high pyramid houses a palace and 3 temples. Continuous investigations have revealed a dramatic history of dynasties and the so-called “star wars” with Tikal and Naranjo. Together with Calakmul, they defeated and ruled over Tikal for 100 years. The tour involves scheduled entries and return visiting with your vehicle joining a caravan. It may be pricy (\$50), but depends on the number of persons and negotiations. Entry, lunch and a dip in a pool, near a waterfall are included. There are other options after Caracol in **Benque Viejo Del Carmen** about 10 miles from San Ignacio, such as a pontoon trip, an Art Park in a jungle and a small museum. Overnight Rolson Hotel. **(B)**

Day 5: Sun Jan 13: Pack your bag, **keeping your passport handy**, because today we head for the **Guatemala border** and depart for **Tikal** and a tour that includes lunch on the site. Passing through small towns on our way to the turn off for **El Sombrero Eco lodge**, our lodging for the next 3 nights, on Lake Yaxha where we will meet Gabriella, an Italian woman who loved this place, and stayed to become owner and chef. We will dine and enjoy the sunset over the lake. **(B, L, D)**.



Day 6: Mon Jan 15: After a hearty breakfast, we will cross the lake to Mayan **Topoxte** where work is ongoing. You can google it. We return to our lodge for lunch. If you are feeling energetic you can visit another site across the lake (it is optional), **Yaxha**. This is a large rugged site. The deck of the lodge usually provokes interesting discussions after a satisfying dinner. **(B, L, D)**.

Day 7: Tue Jan 16: Today there are a couple of possibilities; the sites of Nakum and Naranjo may be accessible. If you did not do **Yaxha**, you could do it today. Or you may enjoy a jungle walk, observe crocodiles, or a free day to soak in the sounds and beauty of nature. **(B, L, D)**.

Day 8: Wed Jan 17: Wed: On the road again! Today we are on the road again, heading back across the border and on to the Western Highway to the **Lamanai Outpost Lodge** on the Lamanai River, after an hour speedboat ride **(B, L, D)**.



Day 9: Thu Jan 18: This morning we will tour the museum and site of **Lamanai**. In the afternoon you may decide which of the 3 remaining optionals you will choose. There is a sunset or a morning sunrise cruise, a

jungle medicine walk, or a canoe adventure or perhaps more choices. Plan something for this afternoon. At our last night dinner we will take group pictures, raise a glass to the Maya, and exchange addresses. Overnight Lamanai Outpost Lodge. **(B, L, D)**.

Day 10: Fri Jan 19. We will depart for the Belize City airport and our afternoon flight home, unless we wish to have an extension to Ambergris Caye. (Ramon’s Village Hotel. **(B)**).



Enrollment:

\$ 500.00 deposit; Send checks to MexiMayan Academic Travel, 12s675 Knoebel Dr. Lemont IL 60439. (PayPal may be available) or call Deb at 630 972 9090.

Name(s), as on passports:

Passport Number(s) and expiration:

Date(s) of Birth:

Email:

Home Address:

Contact at Home:

Special diet or physical condition:

Travel Insurance is recommended with Travel Guard 1 800 826 4919 (mention MexiMayan 002320)

To book air call: Emma Sutton, 970 372 6293 9am to 5pm PST.

Tour Prices (Per Person)

Belize and Guatemala: A Maya Ecological Adventure

Double Occupancy PP.....	\$2,142.00
Single Supplement.....	\$450.00

Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required (limited availability)

TERMS, CONDITIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Final Payment due: November 22

RATES INCLUDE:

- Leadership of your hosts, also leadership of Dr. Fred Finney at some archaeological sites, tours as included at sites, local guides with local transportation.
- Optional sites with local guides. Some lunches included with tours. Tips to local guides not included.
- Group arrival and departure airport transfers for those taking the suggested flights (schedule to be provided)
- Van transportation from and to the Belize City airport and between destinations (San Ignacio to El Sombrero, Guatemala, and Guatemala to Lamanai Outpost Lodge). With space for one standard size luggage and carry-ons.
- All accommodations as indicated in the itinerary
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- Entrance fees, transportation and lunch on included tours.
- Border charges may or may not be included.

RATES DO NOT INCLUDE: Any airfare; passport and visa fees; all airport fees, departure taxes; excess baggage charges; personal travel insurance; any activities not specified in the itinerary; all items of a personal nature such as laundry, medical expenses, beverages when not included, tips to maids, luggage-carrying (if it exists) and room service.

PASSENGER CANCELLATION FEES: All cancellations must be received in writing by MexiMayan Academic Travel. Cancellations that are not covered by insurance may be lost. MexiMayan will refund whatever is refundable based on participants remaining cost and supplier's needs for recovery. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. THE ONE YEAR 'TRAVEL RITE' plan by Travel Guard is recommended (about \$270). Prices, itineraries and leaders are subject to change due to circumstances or lack of participants (under 10). Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate.

PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$500 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour and is payable by personal check made payable to MexiMayan Academic Travel. Final payment is due November 22 and must be by personal check.

Suggestions:

Pack light using a standard rolling suitcase. There are ATMs at the airport. (Know your pin)
Wear a lightweight rainproof jacket to the airport. It may be handy, as well as an umbrella, in Belize.

Plan on wearing lightweight long pants and long sleeves (that you can roll down) at sites with pockets for insect repellent and a small flashlight. Consider a cane or a cane seat.

It can be chilly in the jungle at night. And noisy in the morning (bird calls and monkeys). It will probably be hot in the middle of the day.

Sun hats or wide brim caps and sun tan lotion are must haves. Protein bars or trail mix are healthy snacks. Fresh fruit is available in the market.

Some lodges operate on generators with time schedules. Carry extra batteries.

You need a money pouch for carrying under your clothes.

Remember: You can use U.S. dollars in Belize. Two Belize dollars = 1 U.S. dollar.

The language of Belize is English.

A copy of your passport and credit cards and a copy of your medicine list (and your medicines) should be in your carry-on.

MexiMayan and its suppliers are not responsible for late arrivals, baggage or personal loss or accidents due to acts of God or Nature.