

Belize and 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

January 10, Wednesday. Meet in Belize City at the appointed time (Chicago persons arrive 1:19pm on AA via Miami) to travel on the Western Highway to San Ignacio to the small friendly **Rolson Hotel**, with top food reviews, that will set up our tours and/or activities. **D**

January 12, Thursday. 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 in historic San Ignacio and return to our hotel for lunch on your own. The afternoon is free for any other optional activity or an optional tour of **Xunantunich** across a small body of water to the site with unique curvy decorations a bit of ancient graffiti and a very high pyramid. Or you may wish to visit **El Peru**, now called **El Pilar**, a site in the news a lot. The two may be combined. You may want to walk to San Ignacio, use the pool or have a massage. You can chose from the reasonable priced menu at dinner. **B.**

January 13, Friday. 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 but depends on the number of persons going and negotiations. Entry and lunch is usually included. Other options: shopping, i.e. cave tubing, cycling, the spa or pool. **B.**

January 14, Saturday. Pack your bag, **leaving your passport handy**, because today we head for the **Guatemala border**. There will be fees (TBA) and a luggage inspection. Passing small towns, we reach the turn off to **El Sombrero Eco lodge** on Lake Yaxha. We will meet Gabriella, an Italian woman who fell in love with this place and the owner, and stayed to become the sole owner and chef. We will have dinner and enjoy the sunset over the cool lake. **D**

January 15, Sunday. 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.**

January 16, Monday. If you have never been to **Tikal**, or wish to return there again, today is the day to choose it. There are other sites but they may not be accessible (Nakum and Naranjo). Lunch on the tour could be included, but It is always available onsite. **B, D.**

January 17, Tuesday. You are on the road again, heading back across the border and the Western Highway to the **Outpost Lodge Lamanai** on the Lamanai River, after an hour speedboat ride. **B, D.**

January 18, Wednesday. 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. **B, L, D.**

January 19. Thursday. We will depart for the Belize City airport, 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.

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