

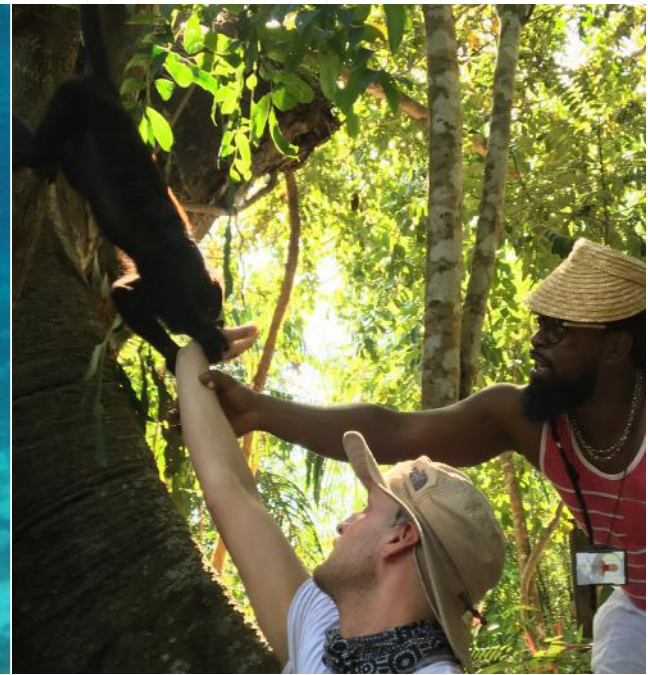


**Discover Corps**

VACATIONS WITH PURPOSE



## **BELIZE:** Research & Conservation Experience



### MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- **Volunteer with conservation efforts to protect manatees, dolphins & other marine life**
- **Board a boat and explore remote villages off the coast of Belize**
- **Experience a tortilla making class and lunch with a local family**
- **Explore pristine beaches and waterfalls, and visit a baboon sanctuary**
- **Dive deep into Creole culture and learn the ancient art of Creole drumming**

*Track, Collect, and Record Data on the Manatee Population with Marine Biologists on this Volunteer Vacation*

# TRIP AT A GLANCE

8 Days / 7 Nights

## PHYSICAL DEMAND

Moderate

## GROUP SIZE

Average 6, Maximum 8

## LODGING

Standard Nights 1-2, 5-7, Rustic Nights 3-4

## VOLUNTEER TIME

12 hours (3 half-days)

## HOPKINS

**DAY 1** - Arrive in Belize City and drive to Hopkins, stopping at a baboon sanctuary along the way

## PUNTA GORDA

**DAY 2** - Enjoy beach time in the gorgeous town of Hopkins before hitting the road South to Punta Gorda for a Creole drum lesson by night

## PAYNE'S CREEK

**DAY 3** - Tour the town of Punta Gorda before meeting the conservationists monitoring manatees in Payne's Creek National Park

**DAY 4** - Help to monitor manatee populations, visit the small town of Punta Negra for a coconut oil making class, and experience a night lagoon ride

## PUNTA GORDA

**DAY 5** - Snorkel and visit West Snake Caye beach, free afternoon

**DAY 6** - Early morning kayak before a free day or the optional zip-lining.

## BELIZE CITY

**DAY 7** - Explore the natural beauty of Rio Blanco National Park

**DAY 8** - Travel back to Belize City for your flight home, or continue on to the extension

## TIKAL RUINS (OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION)

4 Days / 3 Nights

## CAYE CAULKER (OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION)

4 Days / 3 Nights



NATURE & WILDLIFE  
ADVENTURES



# BELIZE: RESEARCH & CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE

## OUR PURPOSE

The West Indian manatee population is under threat due to habitat loss, boat strikes, and other effects of human impact in the waters off Belize. Set out on the lagoons to volunteer with a conservation group to collect critical data on these creatures including size of populations, number of juveniles, and overall health. This data is used to help the nonprofit we partner with expand no-wake zones and lobby against oil development.

For this particular trip, this data is only able to be collected because of Discover Corps travelers. You are directly contributing to an important project that would not otherwise exist. Pick up where the last group left off as you record this data and learn more deeply how it is used in the fight for conservation of Payne's Creek National park.

In our free time, we'll explore the natural and cultural wonders of Belize. Venture by boat to a remote island to snorkel (weather permitting) and relax on the white sandy beaches. Experiencing a traditional Creole drum lesson before getting to know the people of Belize with a tortilla and cocoa making class with a local Mayan family, a coconut oil making class on the remote coastal village of Punta Negra, and more.





# HIGHLIGHTS



## MANATEE CONSERVATION

The manatee, also known as the sea cow, is instantly recognizable: a gentle giant which roams the shallow seabed grazing on water plants. The manatee's unusual appearance and curious disposition has seen it occupy a unique place in folklore and mythology. It might be hard to picture it when you see them, but some theories even attribute the legend of the mermaid to the manatee. You'll spend several days lending a hand to the marine biologists in the area monitoring populations of these docile creatures and collecting and recording data.



## PAYNE'S CREEK NATIONAL PARK

This protected nature reserve comprises 30,000 acres of wetlands, rivers and forests, home to a rich variety of wildlife. The songs of parrots can often be heard in the air; other inhabitants here include armadillos, crocodiles and the elusive jaguars. Our focus during our time here will be on manatee monitoring, but we'll get the chance to spot a myriad other creatures as we navigate the swamps, rivers and lagoons by boat, soaking up the area's rich natural beauty and getting to know the Ranger's who call the station home.



## VISIT A LOCAL BABOON SANCTUARY

Get up close and personal with wild howler monkeys (and if you're lucky, they'll even accept a banana from you!). Meet the man who has been living amongst the monkeys and gaining their trust throughout his life, and learn about their importance to the culture of Belize. Enjoy fresh coconut juice before heading to the gorgeous beaches of Hopkins.



## PUNTA GORDA

The coastal town of Punta Gorda has a convivial Caribbean atmosphere and combines beautiful natural landscapes with traditional Toledo culture. The town is a jumping-off point for exploration of the Southern Cayes, and we'll explore two of them as we monitor manatees in Frenchman's Caye and go snorkeling (weather permitting) at West Snake Caye. There are various traditional Maya villages in the area surrounding the town, and a quaint downtown to explore in your free time.

# ITINERARY

## DAY 1: Arrive in Belize and Visit a Unique Baboon Sanctuary

Arriving at the airport in Belize City, you'll be greeted by your Discover Corps guide before we hit the road for the sandy beaches of Hopkins. Along the way, stop at a baboon sanctuary where howler monkeys live in their natural environment. Over the years, the monkeys have developed a trust with the owners of the sanctuary, so you may get to see them up close!

Upon arrival, enjoy an authentic local dinner together and discuss the adventures ahead.

## DAY 2: Enjoy a Beach Day and Experience a Creole Drumming Lesson

This morning, relax on the white sandy beaches of Hopkins and meander through the streets of this small town before lunch at the home of a local family. Here we'll savor traditional foods, learn traditional dances, and learn how to make tortillas and cacao chocolate before continuing to the seaside town of Punta Gorda. Feel the rhythms of the Caribbean with a traditional Creole drum lesson by night.

## DAY 3: Meet the Conservationists Protecting Belize's Manatees

Explore Punta Gorda in the morning on a guided tour (be ready for some chocolate!) before your research begins. Today marks our first visit to the organization that we'll volunteer with over the coming week. We'll learn about the conservation issues facing all of Belize before boarding a boat to Payne's Creek National Park, where we'll be based over the next few days. Complete your first manatee survey of the week this afternoon, and enjoy a traditional dish by private cooks at the Payne's Creek Ranger Station for dinner.

## DAY 4: Begin Our Work with the Manatees

Rise early for our first manatee monitoring session in a nearby lagoon. We'll keep an eye open for manatees, measuring population size as well as the environmental and water conditions. In the coastal village of Punta Negra, we'll enjoy a workshop learning how coconut oil is produced and relax by the cool blue waters before returning to our lodging to input the day's data and experience a night tour of the lagoon.

## DAY 5: Continue Volunteering with the Manatees and Snorkel West Snake Caye

After a morning of manatee monitoring along the beautiful Frenchman's Caye, we'll head out to snorkel at West Snake Caye, a coral-fringed island known for its white sand beaches. If weather permits, enjoy a snorkel. Later, we'll return to Punta Gorda by boat for an evening to relax.







## **DAY 6:** Beach Time or Optional Adventures

For the early risers, enjoy the optional early-morning kayak through the mangroves out to the ocean. Explore this quaint fishing town at your own pace for a free day, or opt for the zip-lining and river tubing adventure supplement.

## **DAY 7:** Take in the Natural Beauty of Rio Blanco National Park

This morning we'll explore Rio Blanco National Park, relaxing by its natural pools and waterfalls. We'll then continue north toward Belize City to Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary to learn more about the wildlife conservation efforts in Belize. After a farewell dinner we'll experience a night tour at the Belize Zoo, a fantastic way to round off the trip.

## **DAY 8:** Return Home

Wake up early for an optional tour of the Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. After enjoying breakfast together, we'll say our goodbyes and transfer back to Belize City for your flight home.



## **Standard Lodging Nights 1-2, 5-7 Rustic Lodging Nights 3-4**

In the picturesque seaside town of Hopkins, start your journey with one night in a coastal hotel before splitting your time between two of Belize's unique ecosystems. Stay first at a rustic ranger station tucked into the Payne's Creek Nature Reserve, with a wonderland of natural beauty at your doorstep.

Move on to a hotel in the laid back coastal town of Punta Gorda complete with all the amenities for a comfortable stay (including air conditioning, something lacking in Payne's Creek!). This is the prime jumping off point for exploring the caves, waterfalls, and jungles of southern Belize.

End your night in a bungalow on a nature preserve closer to Belize City with hammocks for all.

## OPTIONAL EXTENSION: Tikal

### DAY 8: Depart Belize for the Mayan Citadel of Tikal, Guatemala

Departing Belize City, we'll fly to Flores in Guatemala, gateway to the Mayan ruins of Tikal. Here we'll wind our way through the forest to our lakefront luxury hotel, before a relaxing dinner and free evening. *(L,D)*

### DAY 9: Explore the Ancient Mayan Ruins of Tikal

We'll spend today touring the ruins of Tikal (the City of Voices), one of the largest cities of the Mayan civilization. Some have called this world-famous collection of pre-Columbian monuments, temples and palaces, that rise dramatically above the dense jungle canopy, the New York City of the Mayan world. The surrounding Maya Biosphere Reserve includes the largest remaining natural forest block in Mesoamerica. *(B,L,D)*

### DAY 10: Skywalk or Zip-Line Through the Rainforest of Ixpanpajul Nature Park

This morning we visit nearby Ixpanpajul Nature Park, a wild reserve home to hundreds of tree, bird and mammal species. You'll watch for them on skywalks that meander through the canopy on a series of suspension bridges; for adrenaline seekers, there's also the chance to whiz through the treetops on a zip-line that will see you swinging alongside the monkeys! *(B,L,D)*

### DAY 11: Return Home

Today sees the end of your Mayan adventure, and we'll say our goodbyes before you fly back to Belize for your onward connection. *(B)*

### Extension Lodging

Bolontiku Hotel is a beautiful boutique lodge that is gracefully nestled within the natural environment of the rainforest. Enjoy comfort and simple elegance while basking in views of the jungle and the mystical Lake of the Itzá.





## OPTIONAL EXTENSION: Caye Caulker



### DAY 8: Hop on a Ferry to Caye Caulker and Get a Feel for Island Life

Drive back up to Belize City and head for the water terminal and catch a fort-five minute ferry boat to the Island, marveling at the gorgeous views along the way. Meet your new Caye Caulker guide at the docks and hop in a golf cart to transfer to your hotel. After settling in, explore the island on a guided tour before enjoying dinner at a local restaurant. (L,D)

### DAY 9: Snorkel the Belize Barrier Reef

After breakfast, catch your boat for a half-day snorkel tour where you will spot sea turtles, nurse sharks, and much more. Belize is home to the world's largest living barrier reef, making this one of the best and most famous places for snorkelers and divers across the globe. Enjoy the rest of your day and evening relaxing on the beach or at your hotel's pool and sampling the local cuisine. (B)

### DAY 10: Return Home

Meet your guide for breakfast and enjoy a leisurely morning. Depart for the local airport on Caye Caulker for a quick flight back to Belize City (expect a hopper plane with no more than 15 people!) for your International flights home. (B)

### Extension Lodging

Our portfolio of hotels are all on the water and have a pool for the ultimate relaxing getaway. Right in the center of town, Weezie's and Iguana Reef Inn both encapsulate the idyllic, island life of Caye Caulker with all the comforts of home.



# BELIZE: Research & Conservation Experience

## 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS

DATE	ADULT	CHILD
Jun 27-Jul 4, 2021	<b>\$3,295</b>	<b>\$2,995</b>
Jul 4-11, 2021	<b>\$3,295</b>	<b>\$2,995</b>
Aug 8-15, 2021	<b>\$3,295</b>	<b>\$2,995</b>
Nov 21-28, 2021	<b>\$3,295</b>	<b>\$2,995</b>
Dec 26-Jan 2, 2022	<b>\$3,295</b>	<b>\$2,995</b>
Mar 27-April 3, 2022	<b>\$3,295</b>	<b>\$2,995</b>
Jun 26-Jul 3, 2022	<b>\$3,295</b>	<b>\$2,995</b>
Jul 3-10, 2022	<b>\$3,295</b>	<b>\$2,995</b>

<b>TIKAL EXTENSION</b>	<b>\$1,295</b>	<b>\$995</b>
<b>CAYE CAULKER EXTENSION</b>	<b>\$1,145</b>	<b>\$1,095</b>

*The above prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplements (SRS) are \$295 per person for the core itinerary and \$150 per person for the Caye Caulker post-trip extension and \$595 for the Tikal Ruins post-trip extension. You are required to pay the SRS if we are unable to find you a suitable roommate.*

*Child prices apply to those 16 years younger sharing a room with an adult.*

*Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60 day notice from Discover Corps*

**All children traveling from Belize must have proper documentation from parents. Please refer to our pre-departure online document for details, or email us at [info@discovercorps.com](mailto:info@discovercorps.com)**

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 5 nights lodging in standard-level hotels
- 2 nights lodging in rustic accommodations
- All meals throughout the trip
- English-speaking local guides that are there to support, guide, and inform you throughout the trip
- Admissions and entrance fees to national parks, historic sites and other scheduled events throughout the trip
- All land and water transportation with experienced drivers
- \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Turnkey customer support from preparing for your trip to arrival back home, with a 24-hour Discover Corps emergency hotline

## RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 8 travelers and do fill. Reserving a trip with Discover Corps is easy. Simply visit our website and fill out the online registration form and pay a \$365 deposit and \$30 non-refundable booking fee per person. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Travel Specialist, call/text us at (619) 758-3030 or e-mail us at [info@discovercorps.com](mailto:info@discovercorps.com)

## RETURNING ALUMNI?

We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a \$250 discount off your trip if you are a returning Discover Corps traveler.

## CUSTOM GROUPS?

Have a group of 6 or more? We can operate a trip for your group. Whether it's a family reunion, corporate group, alumni association or a professional or student organization, we'll make it easy and turnkey for your group to have an incredible experience.

## MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

Discover Corps offers monthly payment plan options for all of our trips. Contact us anytime, before or after booking, to sign up for a monthly payment plan or with any questions:

Call/Text: 619-758-3030  
Email: [info@discovercorps.com](mailto:info@discovercorps.com)

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
- All alcoholic beverages
- \$160/person adventure supplement (zip-lining and river tubing)
- Tips for Discover Corps guide and driver
- Laundry, phone, and Internet services
- Optional Post-Trip Extension to Caye Caulker: \$100 one-way domestic flight supplement

***Dates don't work? Contact us about adding a new date for the trip.***





# Our Mission

The mission of Discover Corps is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities through immersive and sustainable travel experiences.

## OUR DESTINATIONS

AUSTRALIA	KENYA
ALASKA	MEXICO
BELIZE	PERU
COSTA RICA	SOUTH AFRICA
CHINA	TANZANIA
CUBA	THAILAND
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	UGANDA
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS	UTAH
HAWAII	WYOMING & MONTANA
JAPAN	



FAMILY FRIENDLY • PURPOSEFUL ITINERARIES • ACCESS & AUTHENTICITY • SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL • TURNKEY SERVICE



**Discover Corps**  
VACATIONS WITH PURPOSE

Visit [discovercorps.com/register](https://discovercorps.com/register) to place a \$395 deposit down to hold your space, or reach out to us at the contact information below with questions.

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