

Belize City

SCENIC ROUTE



A TALE OF TWO CITIES: ALTUN HA & BELIZE CITY (Code: BLZ01)



Explore both the modern metropolis of Belize City and the ancient Maya settlement of Altun Ha during this approximately four-hour excursion. During the tour, your guide will explain how Altun Ha was once a thriving trading post and Belize's development in the following 1,000 years or so.

Excursion details

This approximately four-hour excursion allows guests to compare modern-day Belize City, the country's commercial capital, with the ancient Maya settlement known as Altun Ha. Meet your guide at the Fort Street Tourism Village pier and board your coach. Over the next two hours or so, enjoy the drive through Belize City, passing landmarks, colonial buildings and contemporary architecture.

The drive ends at Altun Ha, about 56 kilometres north. You'll then embark on a guided tour of approximately one hour to discover more about this unique archaeological site. Learn all about its history as a ceremonial and trading centre during the Post-Classic and Classic periods as you wander its two large plazas and surrounding temples.

Look out for the biggest of these pyramid-shaped buildings, the 16-metre-high Temple of the Masonry Altars. It was inside here that archaeologists in Toronto famously found the Jade Head of sun god KinichAhau, the largest jade Maya artifact ever discovered.

A bus transfer of around one hour then returns to the port, concluding the excursion.

Important Information: Guests will be required to walk approximately 0.5 miles at the ruins. Walking is done on flat terrain. The climbing of the Temples is optional, however no climbing will be permitted if there is rain and the temples are wet. The minimum age to participate is 3 years old.

Minimum number of participants required: 24
 undefined (English)

CULTURE AND HISTORY



LAMANAI & THE NEW RIVER SAFARI (Code: BLZ02)



Excursion details

Whether you're a history fan hoping to see ancient temples and pyramids, or a lover of the outdoors looking to delve into unspoiled wilderness, you'll enjoy this approximately six-hour excursion to an eco-park and archaeological site.

Board your bus at Belize City Port for a journey lasting around 70 minutes. After arriving at AyinHa Eco Park, you'll transfer to a riverboat for a ride up the New River Lagoon, Belize's largest lake. As you glide through the water on a trip lasting approximately 40 minutes, take in the rainforest scenery around you and keep an eye (and ear) out for some of the wildlife that inhabits the region, although sightings cannot be guaranteed. You'll end the boat trip at Lamanai, a large Maya ceremonial site dating back to around 1500 BC. The Maya people inhabited Belize for centuries before the arrival of Spanish colonisers in the 16th century. Learn all about their culture and way of life during an approximately one-and-a-half-hour guided tour of temple ruins, including the Mask Temple, famous for its four-metre-high stone masks thought to depict a Maya king. Afterwards, you'll make the return journey by riverboat, lasting approximately 30 minutes and ending back at AyinHa Eco Park. Then there's around one hour and 20 minutes to enjoy a Belizean-style lunch and spend some free time using the park's facilities, perhaps including souvenir shopping. There's also the option to purchase drinks (including local beer and rums) during this time, at guests' own expense.

Finally, board your bus again for a return drive to the port, lasting approximately 50 minutes.

Important Information: Sightings of wildlife are not guaranteed. This tour is not recommended for guests with limited mobility, trouble walking or for guests using wheelchairs, scooters or strollers as the trails are bumpy and cannot accommodate them. The climbing of the Temples is optional; however, no climbing will be permitted if there is rain and the temples are wet. Guests will walk approximately 1.25 miles at the ruins on uneven terrain.

Minimum number of participants required: 24
 undefined (English)



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

CULTURE AND HISTORY



ALTUN HA & THE OLDE BELIZE RIVER (Code: BLZ04)

Duration
6h



Excursion details

A ceremonial centre and trading hub occupied by the Maya people for many centuries until around 1000 AD, Altun Ha was once home to as many as 10,000 people. The striking ruins of this ancient city are the first stop on an excursion lasting around six hours, which also takes in another important part of Maya history: the Belize River.

The day starts with a transfer of about 90 minutes to the Altun Ha archaeological site, which stretches across eight square kilometres and features two main plazas and around a dozen temples and other structures. The most striking of these is the 16-metre-tall Temple of the Masonry Altars, where, in 1968, archaeologists found what is considered the crown jewel of Belize - a large carved jade head of sun god Kinich Ahau (which now sits in the Central Bank of Belize and is therefore not on display at Altun Ha). The tour of the site lasts about one hour.

Next, it's a trip of about 45 minutes to Burrell Boom village, located on the banks of the Belize River, which was once an important trade artery for the Maya people. On route, keep a lookout for local wildlife, although sightings cannot be guaranteed.

In Burrell Boom you'll be able to enjoy some traditional cuisine at the waterside Iguana Stop restaurant during a lunch of about 45 minutes, before a transfer of approximately two hours takes you back to the ship.

Important Information: Sightings of wildlife are not guaranteed. The order of the tour may be inverted. The climbing of the Temples is optional, however no climbing will be permitted if there is rain and the temples are wet. The transfer to and from Altun Ha takes approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes each way. Guests will walk approximately 0.5 miles at the ruins on uneven terrain.

Minimum number of participants required: 24
undefined (English)

CULTURE AND HISTORY



XUNANTUNICH & MARIMBA LUNCH (Code: BLZ05)

Duration
6.5h



Excursion details

On this excursion of around seven hours you'll get to explore Xunantunich, a Maya site that includes a 40-metre-high pyramid. Reach this archaeological hilltop settlement via a hand-cranked ferry ride and refuel after your exploration with a Belizean-style lunch.

Begin with a transfer drive of approximately two hours from the port to Xunantunich in the Cayo District, in western Belize, not far from the Guatemalan border. Before arriving at the entrance to this ancient city, you'll be ferried across the Mopan River on a hand-cranked vessel, taking around 30 minutes.

Then it's time for your approximately one-hour tour of Xunantunich, which sits on a ridge above the river. This Maya city of stone pyramids, palaces and temples was abandoned by around AD 1000 before British explorers began investigating it in the 1890s.

Its most prominent structure is El Castillo - 'The Castle' - a pyramid standing 40 metres high, which was the site's largest temple. A climb to the top rewards you with views of the surrounding rainforest and the towns that sit on the border between Belize and Guatemala.

Afterwards, it's a roughly 15-minute ferry transfer back across the river, followed by a bus journey of 15 minutes or so to Hode's Place, an outdoor restaurant in San Ignacio. You'll have around one hour to enjoy a traditional Belizean-style lunch accompanied by marimba music before the transfer drive back to the port, lasting around two hours.

Important Information: This tour is not recommended for guests with limited mobility, trouble walking or for guests using wheelchairs, scooters or strollers as the trails are bumpy and cannot accommodate them. The climbing of the Temples is optional, however no climbing will be permitted if there is rain and the temples are wet. The transfer to and from Xunantunich takes approximately 2 hours each way. Guests will walk approximately 0.5 miles at the ruins on uneven terrain.

Minimum number of participants required: 24
undefined (English)



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE



ADVENTURE OF THE LOST CRYSTAL CAVES & ZIP LINE (Code: BLZ06)

Duration 6.5h



Excursion details

Start by boarding a bus at Belize City Cruise Port and begin the approximately 90-minute journey to Jaguar Paw, an adventure hub in the foothills of the Maya Mountains. During the ride, your tour guide will highlight points of interest and tell you all about the history, people and culture of Belize.

Upon arrival, you'll take a quick shuttle to the welcome area before spending around 15 minutes receiving a tour and safety briefing, as well as being fitted with a harness. Then it's time to head to the first zip-line, an approximately 15-minute walk away.

You'll then enjoy around one hour of zip-line fun, so prepare to start gliding through the jungle. The first zip-line - measuring 152 metres - hurtles past the opening to an ancient Maya ceremonial cave. The next zip-line (measuring around 213 metres) offers a bird's-eye view of the forest.

At the end of the zip-lining trail, there's a brief break to swap your harness for a life jacket, before a short walk to the entrance of a crystal-cave system. Belize's caves played significant roles in the rituals of the Maya people, who inhabited the area as early as 1500 BC. This is where your cave tubing experience of approximately one hour begins. Head inside and float on an inner tube along an underground river, surrounded by crystal stalactites. Along the way, you'll leave your tube to venture inside a 'crystal chamber', where you can see Maya relics, such as pottery once used in sacrificial ceremonies.

The tour culminates with a refreshing swim, once emerged from the caves, followed by a short walk back to base camp, where there's around 30 minutes for a change of clothes and enjoying a typical Belizean lunch. Finally, board your bus for the return journey to the pier, lasting about 90 minutes.

Important information: Pregnant women, guests with neck, back, shoulder and knee injury, heat trouble, seizure disorders, asthmatic as well as guests with disabilities such as blindness and balance disorder are not allowed to participate on this tour. What to bring: Swim suits, dry clothing, towel, repellent, cash/credit card and sunscreen. Water shoes and lockers are available for rent. Minimum age to participate on tour is 6 years and minimum height 40 inches tall. Guests will be required to sign a waiver which may only be available in English. The transfer to and from Jaguar Paw Jungle Camp takes approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes each way.

Minimum number of participants required: 24
undefined (English)

CITY TOUR



CALYPSO TRAIN TOUR (Code: BLZ07)

Duration 1.25h



Excursion details

Enjoy around one hour of sightseeing in Belize's largest city from aboard the Calypso Train, an open-sided trolley. After a short briefing you'll board the train and begin your trip. One of the first landmarks you'll pass is the tomb of Portuguese-born Baron Bliss, known as Belize's most important benefactor, even though he never set foot on the mainland. There's a short pause here, where you can also see the lighthouse that stands next to his tomb.

Next, your journey takes you over the bustling Swing Bridge that spans Haulover Creek. This iron bridge was made in Liverpool, England, and installed here in 1923.

There's then a short pause at one of the most striking sights on the route, the two-storey colonial mansion, Government House, which once served as the residence of Britain's superintendents and governors in Belize. This brief pause also allows you to see St John's Cathedral, constructed between 1812 and 1820 out of bricks brought as ballast from Europe in British ships. It has since survived multiple hurricanes to become the oldest building in Belize.

After this you'll travel through the historic downtown area, where narrow streets are lined with small shops, hotels and colonial architecture. Next, you'll return over the Swing Bridge and travel on Princess Margaret Drive (Princess Margaret visited Belize in 1958) before riding along the coast, enjoying views of the Caribbean Sea and then passing the Central Bank of Belize. Your tour ends when the Calypso Train returns to the port, and you can then shop for souvenirs - time permitting - before returning to the ship.

Important information: Should indement weather be forecast be sure to bring a rain poncho or other rain gear. Guests are recommended to bring their camera.

Minimum number of participants required: 10
undefined (English)



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

NATURAL WONDERS



HOWLER MONKEY SANCTUARY & CREOLE HERITAGE TOUR (Code: BLZ08)

Duration
4.5h



Excursion details

Journey into rural Belize to spend time with black howler monkeys - one of the loudest land animals on Earth - and discover how the intervention of a local community has helped boost their survival. During this excursion, lasting around four and a half hours, you'll also learn about Creole traditions and enjoy a typical Belizean lunch along the historic Belize River Iguana Stop. The excursion starts with a transfer of about one hour to the Community Baboon Sanctuary. Created in 1985 with the help of 12 landowners, the venue has evolved to protect not just black howler monkeys (known as 'baboons' in the local Creole dialect), but also many other creatures and plant life. After a short welcome there's a tour of the venue's sanctuary museum, lasting approximately one hour. During this time, you'll learn about Creole history and culture as you see how fly brushes are made and watch a demonstration of traditional rice-beating, before a tasting of local cashew wine, which lasts about 15 minutes. Then it's time for lunch after a short transfer to The Iguana Stop restaurant, which sits on the Belize River. For the next 30 minutes or so, enjoy a selection of traditional local dishes. Afterwards you'll embark on a tour of Belize City lasting approximately one hour, which covers must-see landmarks including Yarborough Cemetery, St John's Cathedral and the House of Culture, with photo opportunities along the way. Finally, a transfer of around 25 minutes takes you back to the port.

Important Information: The minimum age to participate in this tour is 5 years old. This tour involves a considerable amount of standing and walking. Guests will be required to sign a waiver which may only be available in English. Pregnant women are prohibited from participating in this tour. Guests with prior or current neck injuries, or who have difficulty with or limited mobility, and any guest with disabilities such as blindness or balance disorder are prohibited from participating in this tour. The spotting of wildlife is not guaranteed.

Minimum number of participants required: 24
undefined (English)

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE



AIRBOAT SAFARI RIDE (Code: BLZ10)

Duration
2.5h



Blend history and excitement on this excursion of approximately two and a half hours, which features live Garifuna drumming and singing, an airboat ride across a lagoon and a short, guided bus tour. During the airboat ride, you'll be able to enjoy views of Belizean nature and perhaps some local wildlife.

Excursion details

Take a safari by airboat and enjoy live Garifuna drumming and singing on this excursion lasting around 3 hours. The trip begins with a transfer of approximately 30 minutes, which also acts as a guided tour. Your onboard guide will tell you about Belize City's history, including information about the area's origins.

Immerse yourself in the vibrant culture of the Garifuna, known for their unique tradition of singing, percussion and dancing. Drummers and Junkanoo dancers merge in a single performance, where each step carries precise meaning. In 2001, UNESCO recognized the Garifuna culture as a "Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity."

Combined with an Airboat Ride, explore the rich mangrove forest on an approximately 45-minute airboat ride gliding over lily pods and marshes in Almond Hill Lagoon, keep an eye out for native birds and other wildlife that call this area home.

After the airboat ride, back at the outpost, sample the flavors of Belize with a tasting session. If you're interested, you can even purchase a special memento from the souvenir shop, choosing from over twenty brands of rum. A 45-minute transfer then returns to the port.

Important Information: Wildlife sightings, while common, are not guaranteed. Guests will be required to sign a waiver which may only be available in English. The minimum age to participate in this tour is 5 years old. Pregnant women are prohibited from participating in this tour. Guests with prior or current neck injuries, or who have difficulty with or limited mobility, and any guest with disabilities such as blindness or balance disorder are prohibited from participating in this tour. Guests should wear insect repellent. The order of events may vary.

Minimum number of participants required: 15
undefined (English)



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

SEA & SUN



SHARKS, RAYS SNORKELING & ISLAND GETAWAY (Code: BLZ16)

Duration
5h



Embark on an aquatic adventure exploring a vast barrier reef during this excursion of about five and a half hours. The island of Caye Caulker will be your base, and you'll get to view the wonders below the water in a snorkelling session before a guided experience with sharks and rays. The trip ends with some time to relax on the island.

Excursion details

Stretching more than 1,000 kilometres from the northern tip of the Yucatán Peninsula down through the Honduran Bay Islands, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef is the largest in the Western Hemisphere. This excursion of about five and a half hours turns this natural wonder into your playground, with time for snorkelling and a visit to the coral island of Caye Caulker.

The excursion starts with a boat ride of around one hour to Caye Caulker, which sits on the edge of the Belize Barrier Reef and forms part of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System. After a safety briefing and transfer lasting about 30 minutes, you'll find yourself at Coral Gardens, a snorkelling spot with an array of multicoloured coral.

Once you've explored this underwater world for about 45 minutes, you'll move on to an area known as Shark Ray Alley, where you can swim alongside rays and nurse sharks for approximately 45 minutes, under the watchful eye of a guide.

The return voyage to Caye Caulker takes about 15 minutes, after which you'll have approximately 60 minutes to explore the island. There's a restaurant to purchase drinks and lunch (at guests' own expense), or you could do some souvenir shopping, stroll around the island or simply relax. Afterwards, enjoy a complimentary rum punch and water on the scenic boat ride back to the port, which takes around one hour.

Important Information: Guests will be required to wash their hands before and after the animal interaction. Life vests will be worn at all times while in the water. Guests with heart conditions and/or breathing problems should seek medical advice first before taking this tour. Pregnant women are not allowed to take this tour. Guests must also advise guides if there are any pre-existing medical or health conditions prior to taking the tour. Tour is not wheelchair accessible. The minimum age to participate is 5 years old.

Minimum number of participants required: 25

undefined (English)

MSC PROTECTOURS



PROTECTOURS: RENDEZVOUS CAYE SNORKEL AND BEACH BREAK (Code: BLZ19)

Duration
4h



Excursion details

Sail away to Rendezvous Caye and forget any worries for the day as you enjoy snorkelling and relaxing in a scenic setting during this excursion of around four and a half hours. Begin with a boat ride of around 45 minutes that takes you from the port directly to Rendezvous Caye, a tiny island set within the Belize Barrier Reef, the largest barrier reef in the northern hemisphere and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Then begins approximately three hours of time to enjoy island life to the full. You'll be provided with snorkel equipment to help you get a closer look at the Belize Barrier Reef and perhaps spot any marine wildlife that may be visible (although sightings cannot be guaranteed).

After you've had your fill of snorkelling, feel free to head out of the Caribbean Sea and relax on the white sands, enjoying the sunshine or taking shade under a palm. You'll be able to enjoy a complimentary rum punch or orange juice, and further drinks and food are available to purchase (at guests' own expense).

Following the free time, a boat transfer of around 45 minutes returns to the port.

Important Information: Guests must be at least 8 years old to participate. It is recommended that guests bring a bathing suit, towel, and sunscreen. Alcohol will only be served after the snorkelling portion of the tour. The spotting of wildlife is not guaranteed.

Minimum number of participants required: 20

undefined (English)



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE



JEEP ADVENTURE TO ALTUN HA MAYAN CITY (Code: BLZ22)

Duration 4.5h



Excursion details

Stretching across eight square kilometres and featuring multiple excavated plazas alongside two main temples, the ruins of Altun Ha offer a glimpse into ancient Maya culture. On this excursion of about four and a half hours, the adventure starts even before you get to the archaeological site, thanks to your mode of transport: a sturdy Jeep Wrangler, which will be driven by one of your party (each Jeep holds four people). The day begins with a drive of around 75 minutes to Altun Ha, before receiving a safety briefing of 15 minutes or so. This is followed by an approximately 45-minute tour of the sprawling historical site, once home to as many as 10,000 Maya people until around 1000 AD.

A highlight of the area is the 16-metre-tall Temple of the Masonry Altars, also known as the Temple of the Sun God. Here, in 1968, archaeologists found one of Belize's greatest treasures: a remarkable carved jade head of sun god Kinich Ahau.

Next, you'll drive for about 25 minutes to the Nukche Kau'Kau Adventure Park, where you'll sit down for a traditional-style Belizean lunch lasting approximately 30 minutes. Afterwards, there's about 15 minutes for some shopping before a return journey of around one hour takes you back to the port.

Important Information: Tour is priced per person, not per vehicle. Each vehicle carries four guests, one of whom will be the designated driver. However, if your party is smaller than 4, you may be required to share the vehicle with other guests. If you wish to have your own vehicle, you will be required to pay for its full capacity of 4 guests. Please inquire with the shore excursions desk onboard should this be the case so that the remaining spaces can be charged to your onboard stateroom account. The minimum age to participate in this tour is 6 years old. The minimum age to drive is 18 years old. The maximum weight per person is 250 lbs. It is mandatory for all drivers to show a valid physical driver's license. For safety reasons, pregnant woman, guests with neck or back conditions, or heart conditions may not participate in this excursion. It is recommended to bring sunglasses, sunscreen, a hat, and cash for additional purchases. No alcohol will be provided to the driver before, during, or after the drive. All jeeps are automatic transmission.

Minimum number of participants required: 4
undefined (English)

Key to symbols



Best rated



Lunch or dinner included



Shooting videos and/or taking pictures is not allowed or subject to fee



DIFFICULTY LEVEL

Easy
May involve a limited quantity of steps, uneven surfaces and/or periods of standing.



Best seller



Drink included



Wheelchair and disabled friendly tour



Moderate

May involve inclines, steps, uneven surfaces and/or extended periods of standing.



Shopping



Snack included

Wheelchair guests must be accompanied by their own helper to get on/off the coach. Wheelchairs must be foldable as coaches do not have ramps or lifts. Once on board, please contact the MSC Excursions desk staff promptly so they can help make arrangements.



Multilanguage tour



Limited seats



Strenuous

Active excursions recommended only for guests in good physical health.



Possibility of swimming



English Only Tour



Tasting included



No guide available

Please check your ticket for meeting time and location. There will be no announcements to remind you of departure times or meeting points.

OUR EXCURSION CATEGORIES

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE

Thrill seekers can find adventures for sports and fun. Trekking, snorkeling kayak tours and 4x4 vehicles.

CITY TOUR

The easiest way to explore the city center and local scenery. A guided tour with a comfortable coach ride.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

Learn the destinations history and culture with visits to must-see locations and guided tours.



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

NATURAL WONDERS	Immerse yourself in spectacular scenery and discover the fascinating flora and fauna of your destination.
SCENIC ROUTE	Take in the destinations best views and main points of interest in total comfort, with a scenic coach tour.
SEA & SUN	Treat yourself to pure relaxation, on a beautiful beach or enjoying the stunning views on a scenic boat ride.
SOMETHING SPECIAL	Unique experiences from gastronomic tours and guided shopping trips to religious visits. Explore your passion.
FAMILY FUN	Take your children on a journey of discovery designed for families and kids.
PROTECTOURS	Experience the world in a sustainable way to preserve its beauty for generations to come.
MSC BIKE ADVENTURES	Explore from the unique vantage point of an MSC Bicycle. A truly immersive guided tour of the destination.

Some excursions are very popular and therefore availability cannot always be guaranteed. We recommend booking in advance the tours you are interested in.

The availability of language guides (ENG-ITA-GER-FRE-SPA-POR) varies depending on the destination. At the time of booking, you will be able to select your preferred language from the available options. The language in which each excursion will be conducted will be confirmed on board during the cruise.