BELIZE TO TIKAL: REEFS, RIVERS & RUINS OF THE MAYA WORLD

9 Days | Nat Geo Quest | 100 Guests | Expeditions in: Feb/Mar | $5,760 to $9,270

Board the new, 100-guest National Geographic Quest to explore some of the 65 species of stony coral and 500 species of fish on the Belize Barrier Reef. Snorkel or dive on colorful reefs, and kayak or paddleboard over turquoise lagoons. Then venture to the ancient Maya ruins of Tikal. See temples overgrown with tropical rain forest and explore the stories and archaeological sites of these stone ruins swathed in forest and teeming with wildlife.

DAY 1: U.S./Guatemala City, Guatemala/Puerto Barrios
Arrive in Guatemala City and connect with our charter flight to Puerto Barrios. Upon arrival, transfer to Puerto Santo Tomás, where we'll embark the National Geographic Quest. (D)

DAY 2-3: Belize Barrier Reef/Manatee or Sittee River
This morning, we begin our exploration of the Belize barrier reef, second only to Australia’s Great Barrier Reef in terms of biodiversity. Take to the warm waters by snorkel, kayak, or stand-up paddleboard. For certified scuba divers, incredible dive opportunities abound (at additional cost). Sail along the coast to the mouth of a river and board Zodiacs to cruise inland through the Belizean jungle in search of toucans, green iguanas, and myriad bird species. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary
Today, explore the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, the world’s first jaguar reserve. Join our naturalists for a hike along one of the reserve’s many nature trails to photograph tropical plants, scan the treetops for winged wonders, and spot the tracks of tapirs and jungle cats. Visit a Maya handicraft center and marvel at the work of traditional artisans. Tonight, an internationally acclaimed drumming group, The Garifuna Collective, joins us on board for a festive music performance. (B,L,D)
DAY 5: Belize Barrier Reef
Sail to the reef’s southern cayes, dotted with hundreds of coral patches that harbor parrotfish, butterflyfish, octopus, and other marine species. The day’s activities are dictated by the rhythms of wind and wave, as we set out snorkeling, paddleboarding, diving, or kayaking among colorful corals and idyllic isles. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: Puerto Santo Tomás, Guatemala/Flores
Disembark in Puerto Santo Tomás and catch our charter flight to Flores, gateway to Tikal—one of the largest cities in the Classic Maya world. Enjoy lunch on the shores of picturesque Lake Petén Itzá before transferring to the Hotel Camino Real Tikal. Later, set out on an optional birding walk with our naturalists, or take a sunset boat cruise on the lake. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: Tikal
Spend a full day exploring Tikal, where ancient pyramids tower more than 200 feet, and thousands of temples, shrines, and plazas are scattered beneath the rain forest canopy. Discover the site’s archaeological treasures, including the Temple of the Great Jaguar and the North and South Acropolis. Encounter ancient Maya art and hieroglyphs, and examine carved stone inscriptions that illuminate the history and spiritual significance of Tikal. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: Yaxhá
Explore Yaxhá, a former Maya ceremonial center situated on a ridge overlooking Yaxhá Lake. The world’s third largest known Maya site, Yaxhá spreads across nine plazas and contains multiple pyramids, ball courts, and stelae. Examine its features with your local guides and, if you wish, climb a temple for panoramic views. Later, enjoy lunch at a traditional Guatemalan restaurant, followed by an evening at leisure. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: Flores/Guatemala City/U.S.
Transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

2020 Departure Dates:
13 Feb, 18 Feb, 23 Feb, 28 Feb

Important Flight Information
We will gladly assist in making your air arrangements. Please call for airfares from your departure city.

Some departures may travel in reverse.

Advance Payment:
$750

Sample Airfares:
Economy: from $700
Business: from $1,000
Charter (Flores/Guatemala City):
from $250

Airfares are subject to change

Cost Includes:
Accommodations aboard ship; meals as indicated; excursions; services of expedition leader, naturalist staff and expert guides; use of kayaks; entrance fees; all port charges and service taxes; airport transfers to and from the ship.

Cost Not Included:
Air transportation; voyage DVD; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, emails, etc.; discretionary tips for ship’s crew.

Special Offers

FREE ROUND-TRIP AIRFARE OR UPGRADE TO BUSINESS CLASS

Book by Dec. 31, 2019 and receive FREE ROUND-TRIP economy group airfare between Miami/Guatemala City. Or, upgrade to Business Class for just $550, subject to availability. Complimentary air is based on economy group flights and must be ticketed by Lindblad Expeditions. In the case that Lindblad’s group flight is not available at time of booking, we reserve the right to issue a credit. Baggage fees may be additional. New bookings only and not combinable with other offers or pre- or post-extensions. Call for details.

BUSINESS CLASS UPGRADE OFFER

Book by Dec. 31, 2019 and Upgrade to Business Class for just $550. Tickets will be issued by Lindblad Expeditions. In the case that Lindblad’s group flights are no longer available at time of booking, we reserve the right to issue a credit for $350. All offers are valid for new bookings only, subject to availability at the time of booking, and may not be combined with other offers or pre and post-extensions. Call for details.
We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or lost of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. and Canadian residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date, Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased.

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