

MARINE MARVEL

BELIZE

WHY GO?

Neighbouring Mexico gets more airtime than more bashful Belize, but Central America's youngest nation has plenty to boast about: caves beloved by the ancient Maya, the glittering Barrier Reef and its eye-boggling Blue Hole.

THE TOP FIVE



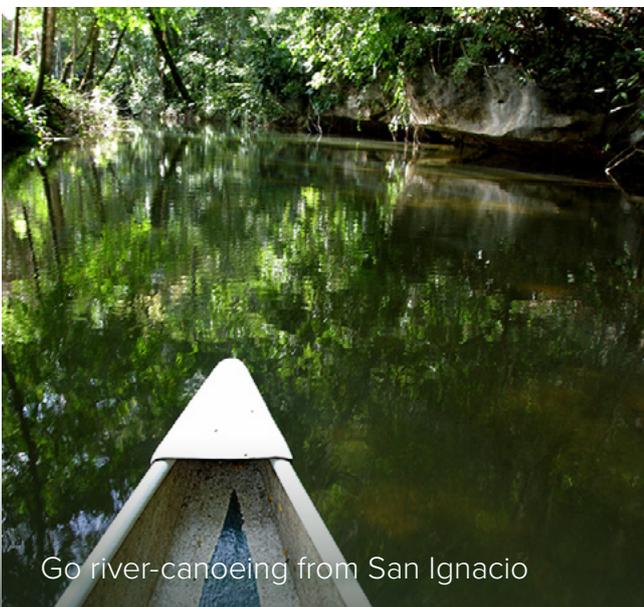
Explore the limestone caves



Search for jaguars in Cockscomb Basin



Dive the Blue Hole National Monument



Go river-canoeing from San Ignacio



Climb Xunantunich, an ancient Maya site

WHERE TO STAY

Unleash your inner bohemian at **Matachica Resort's** thatched-roofed casitas (try and leave your hammock to explore the reef, though). Alternatively, stake out your own private island at **Cayo Espanto**. Dive deep into to the jungle: bathe in waterfall pools at **Blancaneaux Lodge** or wake up in the wild at **Gaia Riverlodge's** treetop bungalows. Slow down at **Turtle Inn**.

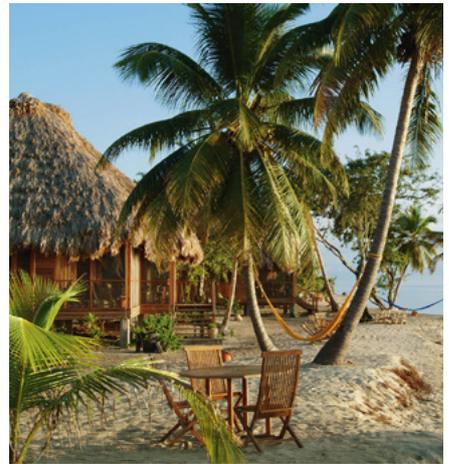
Island dreaming



Matachica Resort & Spa
Colour-pop palapas
Don't miss the fresh-fruit facials



Cayo Espanto
Peace, privacy and brilliant butlers
Don't miss a hammock snooze



Turtle Inn
Balinese-inspired indulgence
Don't miss their own-label wine

Where the wild things are



Blancaneaux Lodge
Coppola's riverside cabanas
Don't miss a ride on the horses



Gaia Riverlodge
Waterfall-watching suites
Don't miss the hidden 'beach'



SOMETHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT

Ambergris Caye is the island Madonna sang 'All of nature wild and free / This is where I long to be' about, and *La Isla Bonita's* tropical beauty is unmissable. Make a stop in easy-living San Pedro if you fancy a fishing trip or a wowing dive.

WHEN TO GO

Belize is best between late November and mid April, when temperatures are warm and dry. From April until May, humidity strikes; from June until mid November, you can expect to get sporadically rained on.

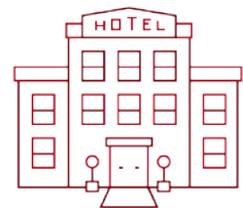
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