

Belize Ecology: Educational Expeditions



Hike/Bike/Paddle Edu. – Sample Itinerary

Experience a Belizean watershed from its birthplace in rainforest-clad mountains, along streams through caves, to wide rivers, through magnificent mangrove forests, to the Caribbean Sea. Do it hiking, biking, and paddling for five (or seven) days, then launch a two to four day sailing trip out to, and through, Belize's Barrier Reef.

Support the rural peoples that ultimately decide the fate of our common heritage.

Day 1: Arrive Belize Int'l Airport and transfer two hours west to St. Margaret Village. Overnight at a Belizean home, get to know the folks, and prepare for takeoff the following morning.

Days 2-3: Depart St Margaret on foot on a two (to four) day hike through Five Blues National Park to the Sibun River. Sleep in tents, at farmhouses en route, and finally on the bank of the Sibun River. Learn about the jungle and its connections to the rivers and the reef.

Days 4-6: Paddle the Sibun. Sleep in tents pitched on sand bars, or where convenient near riverside farmhouses. Get to know the freshwater fishes of Belize, and the riparian wildlife and vegetation. Get to know the culture of people who live without roads.

Days 7-8: Bike the dusty dirt roads through Belize's Savannah to the coastal village of Gales Point Manatee.

Days 9-10: Rest in the unique culture of a Creole village that lives from the sea. Visit the Manatee, explore the surrounding mangrove forests, and learn to love the incessant Sambai Drumming passed down from Africa.

Days 11-13: Depart Gales Point in a 32-foot sailboat on a three-day island-hopping spree. Sail 3 - 5 hours a day, snorkel mornings and evenings as the opportunities arise, and camp out nights on deserted and inhabited cayes.

Day 14: Return to Belize city on a one hour speed boat ride to Belize City, and to the Belize Int'l Airport for departure.