GEEO ITINERARY

Belize and Tikal 12/26/2026

Day 1: Belize City Arrive at any time.

Arrive at any time. There are no planned activities until the Welcome Meeting in the evening. This tour begins in Belize City, and the nearest airport is **Philip SW Goldson International Airport (BZE)**.

Consider arriving 1-2 days early to explore the city, adjust to the time zone, and buffer against flight delays. We can request extra hotel nights for you before the program begins.

Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting
Hotel check-in is normally between 2–3 p.m. Check with reception for the exact time and location of the group welcome meeting, typically between 6–7 p.m. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you're running late, send a message in the group WhatsApp or call the emergency number on your trip voucher so that your tour leader can let you know where and when to meet the group.

After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another.

> **Joining Instructions**
> The Philip S.W. Goldson International Airport is about 30 minutes from Belize City.
> Taxi: Approximately $25-30 USD to your hotel. Taxis are available outside the terminal.
> Pre-booked Transfer: If you've arranged an airport transfer, look for your G Adventures representative at the airport. If you can't locate your ride, call the emergency number on your voucher or take a taxi to the hotel (save your receipt).

Day 2: Belize City/Flores Cross the border into Guatemala and continue on to Flores.

Enter Guatemala at the northeast jungle Petén region. The descendants of the Maya of Chichén Itzá migrated to the Petén area several centuries after the collapse of the great Mayan cities in the Yucatán. Notice the difference in culture from Belize, with Guatemala's heavy Mayan influence and Spanish language.

Approximate travel time: 5-8 hrs via local bus and private vehicle

- 3-4 hrs by local bus (Belize City – Benque Viejo del Carmen)
- 30 min-1.5 hrs (border crossing)
- 1.5-2.5 hrs by private vehicle (Melchor de Mencos – Flores)

Day 3: Flores Enjoy a guided tour of the Tikal archaeological site. Return to Flores and opt to relax and go for a swim in Lake Petén Itzá.

Put on your walking shoes and prepare for a tiring but memorable day walking through history at the impressive site of Tikal. The Mayan site is set in the heart of the jungle in Tikal National Park, now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Led by our bilingual guide, see some of the temples, plazas, carved stone monuments, and public squares, more than 3,000 buildings in all, dating from as far back as 600 BC. Climb to the top of Temple IV, catch your breath, take photos, and then sit and contemplate the magnificence of the site and the tropical rainforest beyond. Look for monkeys, anteaters, armadillos, and deer, as well as macaws and eagles, snakes, and spiders.

Later, spend the afternoon relaxing, exploring on your own, or going for a swim in Lake Petén Itzá.

Approximate travel time: 1-1.5hrs by private vehicle

Day 4: Flores/San Ignacio Cross back into Belize and the town of San Ignacio, and opt to visit the Mayan ruins of Xunantunich.

Make your way back to Belize this morning by private vehicle. Spend the afternoon touring the Xunantunich Mayan ruins, horseback riding, or relaxing.

Hike to the top of Xunantunich, an impressive 9th-century Maya center set high on a natural limestone ridge, and admire the view of the Mopan River, Cayo District, and neighboring Guatemalan countryside. The tallest temple, El Castillo, is partially excavated and explored, and there's a unique stucco frieze on the east side of the structure. Discover why Xunantunich is Belize's most visited site with intricately carved stelae, 25 temples, and well-preserved palaces.

Another option for the afternoon is to go horseback riding ($40-65 per person). Choose from one of the 45 horses at our partner's stables and ride over farm trails and forested paths, all the way along the river to the Mayan site of Xunantunich. Enjoy a short guided tour of the site before taking a different trail back to the stables. Watch for native birds, including toucans and parrots, listen for howler monkeys, admire orchids and fruit trees, and breathe in the fresh air of the Belize countryside.

Approximate travel time: 3-5 hrs via private vehicle (includes 30-90 min for border crossing)

Day 5: San Ignacio Enjoy a free day to visit the sacred Mayan caves of Actun Tunichil Muknal, or opt to check out Barton Creek Cave, Mountain Pine Ridge, and Caracol.

There's plenty to see and do in San Ignacio, and we want to make sure that you have time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like cave exploring, visiting Mayan ruins, and horseback riding. Your tour leader has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

Day 6: San Ignacio/Caye Caulker Travel by bus and boat to beautiful Caye Caulker, where "go slow" is the island's motto. Later, explore the island on the G Adventures-supported Bike with Purpose tour.

Travel from San Ignacio to Caye Caulker via local bus and water taxi, then spend the rest of the day exploring Caye Caulker. There are plenty of optional activities that will keep you busy here for days!

This afternoon, take a leisurely bike tour around Caye Caulker with a guide from the Bike with Purpose project. See the island through the eyes of a local on this two-hour tour, and live the island's motto of 'Go Slow.' Feel the island breeze in your hair while knowing you're supporting a program that helps youth from Caye Caulker build skills for tourism jobs upon graduation from high school.

Approximate travel time: 4-5 hrs via local bus (3-4 hrs) and water taxi (1 hr)

Day 7: Caye Caulker During free time, opt to snorkel in the Hol Chan Marine Reserve, or just chill out, Belizean style.

Free day in Caye Caulker. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like snorkeling, sea kayaking, and sailing. Your tour leader has more ideas if you need them.

Day 8: Caye Caulker Continue to explore Caye Caulker and its water or land-based activities during free time.

Continue to explore Caye Caulker and its water- or land-based activities during free time.

Day 9: Caye Caulker Depart Caye Caulker at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Caye Caulker at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in Caye Caulker, consider requesting post-trip accommodation with us.

Tropic Air and Maya Island Air operate flights from **Caye Caulker Airport (CUK)** to Belize City, but most travelers return to Belize City by water taxi, followed by a transfer to **Philip S.W. Goldson International Airport (BZE)**. Participants staying at the Hotel Tropical Paradise can easily walk to the water taxi terminal, which is only about 2 minutes away.

The ferry ride from Caye Caulker to Belize City takes approximately 45–60 minutes, and the drive from the ferry terminal to the airport is usually another 30–45 minutes, depending on traffic. Frequent ferry departures operate throughout the day, generally beginning around 7:00–7:30 a.m. and continuing until late afternoon. Several ferry operators, including San Pedro Belize Express, offer optional airport shuttle transfers between the Belize City ferry terminal and BZE airport, which can be arranged in advance or purchased at the terminal. Taxis are also readily available upon arrival in Belize City.

If flying out of Belize on the final day of the program, we recommend booking departure flights no earlier than 11:30 a.m. to allow adequate time for the ferry transfer, transportation to the airport, check-in, and security procedures.

Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk.

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Where you'll stay

The hotels listed below reflect the properties expected to be used for this program. Final accommodations are subject to change based on group size, availability, or seasonality. The confirmed start and end hotels are listed on your trip voucher:

Day 1 Belize City (Dec 26): Golden Bay Hotel

Day 2 Flores (Dec 27): Hotel Petén

Day 3 Flores (Dec 28): Hotel Petén

Day 4 San Ignacio (Dec 29): Venus Hotel

Day 5 San Ignacio (Dec 30): Venus Hotel

Day 6 Caye Caulker (Dec 31): Hotel Tropical Paradise

Day 7 Caye Caulker (Jan 1): Hotel Tropical Paradise

Day 8 Caye Caulker (Jan 2): Hotel Tropical Paradise

__Itinerary Disclaimer__: While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*