

PARADISE ISLANDS



Local island lodges and lesser traveled cayes – a lodge based island to island sea kayaking and snorkeling journey along the Southern Barrier Reef

Duration:	6 nights	2018/19 Departures:
Starts:	Belize City	Nov 17, 24
Finishes:	Dangriga	Dec 1, 8, 15, 22
Guides:	1-2 leaders	Jan 5, 12, 19, 26
Price:	\$1714 US + \$265 Taxes & Fees	Feb 9, 23
	\$1849 CDN + \$320 Taxes & Fees	Mar 16, 23, 30
Habitats:	Barrier Reef & Tropical Savannah	Apr 13, 20
Activity level:	3 - No experience required	

Web Address: www.paradiseislands.travel

Activities: Sea Kayaking (Paddling and Sailing), Stand Up Paddleboarding, Snorkeling, Fishing, Birding, Photography, Natural History Interpretation. (Optional: cost not included in trip price - Nocturnal Zoo Tour & Scuba Diving.)

Accommodations: Tropical Education Center, Tobacco Caye Lodge & Southwater Caye Lodge.

Paradise Islands is a classic kayaking and snorkeling journey between island lodges on Belize's renowned Barrier Reef. Discover this pristine, protected area as you paddle, snorkel, kayak sail and Stand-Up Paddleboard through the turquoise waters and sheltered lagoons of Southwater Caye Marine Reserve. After dusk, your time will be spent in small, family style island lodges. You will have the opportunity to enjoy fresh Belizean fare, a comfortable bed and shower, and breathtaking sunsets from the hammock on your deck. This itinerary also includes an inland overnight adventure to the Tropical Education Center and an optional specially-arranged night tour of the Belize Zoo. This night tour is offered on a donation basis and is a great introduction to native wildlife and Belizean ecology.

Typical Daily Itinerary:

Day 1: You arrive at the Belize International Airport where an Island Expeditions' representative will meet you and welcome you to the country. You will be taken to the Tropical Education Centre which is adjacent to the Belize Zoo. The accommodations are forest cabanas situated in the midst of idyllic tropical pine forest. There is a network of interpretative trails and wildlife viewing platforms at your doorstep. The Tropical Education Centre has an Interpretive Center where you can explore the diverse ecology of Belize, and is the ideal starting point for the adventure that awaits you. After checking into your accommodations you will enjoy a 'Welcome to Belize Dinner' with your fellow travelers and our Belizean guide team. As the evening unfolds, you can participate in the optional nocturnal tour of the Belize Zoo. This is a great introduction to the jaguars, ocelots, tapirs, and other animals native to Belize.

Accommodation: Forest Cabana **Meals:** Dinner

Day 2: Waking up to the sounds of the tropics is a pure delight with the chatter of parrots and parakeets flying overhead. The fresh morning air scented with tropical blossoms adds to the expectation of an exciting adventure filled day. After breakfast we travel the Hummingbird Route through the Maya Mountains to meet with a boat charter waiting to take you to your first island, Tobacco Caye, on the Southern Barrier Reef. We'll introduce you to safety in a tropical marine environment and begin teaching the fundamentals of sea kayaking. Safety procedures, group and self-rescues, and touring techniques will be reviewed. You can enjoy a swim or explore the island shoreline. After a tasty Belizean lunch you will paddle over submerged coral reefs, turtle grass beds, and through narrow mangrove channels.

Accommodation: Tobacco Caye **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3: Situated on the Barrier Reef in the heart of the *Southwater Caye Marine Reserve* you will be ideally positioned to explore the surrounding reefs and cayes. Starting with a steaming mug of coffee and fresh tropical fruits you can enjoy an early morning swim or paddle before breakfast. The focus for the morning will be snorkeling and kayaking. Your first snorkeling session begins with a thorough demonstration as well as beginner to advanced instruction on the Tobacco Caye cut and at the outer reef walls. While we are based at Tobacco Caye you also have the option to use Stand Up Paddle Boards (SUPS) instead of kayaks. In the afternoon you'll paddle to nearby cayes to explore the sheltered lagoons and mangrove channels. After an exciting day of exploration and learning, you'll return for an evening on Tobacco Caye.

Accommodation: Tobacco Caye **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4: Start your morning quietly kayaking or Stand Up Paddleboarding. Gazing south (following the line of breaking waves along the Barrier Reef crest), you will be able to see the next island you'll be traveling to today – Southwater Caye. After packing the kayaks with your personal gear bag and wishing fond farewells to your hosts you'll start your day on the water with an introduction to kayak sailing. You'll paddle and sail your kayaks along one of the most beautiful sections of the Belizean reef system. The waters are shallow and clear and you'll see a tremendous variety of marine life, including southern stingrays, eagle rays, grouper, nurse sharks, and more. As you make your way to Southwater Caye, and its swaying coconut palms, this is a day you'll wish would never end. You'll land your kayaks on the beach, check into your accommodations, enjoy an ice cold drink, and explore the island before a delicious dinner. Later, you can maybe try a little bone fishing on a fly rod or even a night time snorkel session on Southwater cut.

Accommodation: Lodge at Southwater Caye **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5: You'll have plenty of time to kayak, snorkel, fish, and enjoy the scenery and marine life of Belize. You'll explore different regions of the Barrier reef including the inner and outer walls, patch and fringing reefs, mangrove ranges, and protected lagoons. For certified diving enthusiasts we can arrange diving sessions with advance notice. As you explore by kayak, it is not uncommon for the routes to cross those of the fishermen who make their living from the sea. These candid interactions with the locals can be fun and provide us with extraordinary insight into a way of life very different from our own.

Accommodation: Lodge at Southwater Caye **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Typical Daily Itinerary Con't:

Day 6: Your last day on the cayes will be spent paddling to Billy Hawk Caye (in the Blue Ground Range). This is a Garifuna fishing camp where you will have lunch and enjoy an afternoon of snorkeling.

Accommodation: Lodge at Southwater Caye **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7: After an early breakfast your water taxi will carry you back to the mainland town of Dangriga where the trip finishes. Any extra luggage that you have stored at our Operations Base will be returned to you. Taxis can be arranged to the Dangriga airport for your connecting flight to the Belize International Airport, or to local bus stations to continue exploring Belize on your own.

Accommodation: N/A **Meals:** Breakfast only

Travel note: For travelers who will be leaving Belize on Day 7, international connections out of the country require a departure **after** 11:30am. To connect with Friday afternoon departures from Belize a short domestic flight is required. This flight is from Dangriga to the Belize International Airport. Please call for details - our office can confirm pricing and book your domestic flight.

Please note all itineraries are subject to change depending on weather or safety considerations. Flexibility as our guest and as an international traveler is the key to an awesome experience.

Please visit www.paradiseislands.travel for further trip details and images