



# Belize District

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## Best Places to Stay

- » Crooked Tree Lodge, Crooked Tree (p72)
- » Orchid Garden Eco-Village, Hatterville (p74)
- » Black Orchid Resort, Burrell Boom (p67)
- » Belize Zoo Jungle Lodge, Belize Zoo (p75)

## Best Places to Eat

- » Bird's Isle Restaurant, Belize City (p61)
- » Dit's Restaurant, Belize City (p60)
- » Amigos, Monkey Bay (p77)

## Why Go?

What a contrast is the district that shares its country's name! Belize District comprises 1600 sq miles at the heart of the country, and includes its largest population center and some of its most pristine tropical bush.

Belize City gets a bad rap for its impoverished areas, some of which are plagued by crime and violence. But the seaside city also embodies the country's amazing cultural diversity, its neighborhoods packed with people, restaurants and shops that represent every ethnicity.

A few miles out of the city center, the gritty Caribbean urbanism crumbles, revealing a landscape of vast savannah that stretches to the north, dense tropical forest to the west, and lush marshland to the south. There is plenty to see and do in Belize District – so much that a week-long visitor could spend their entire vacation here, sampling the country's Maya heritage, Creole culture and luxuriant wildlife, all within an hour's drive of the city.

## When to Go

Belize District offers a few notable cultural events that might lure visitors outside of the normal tourist season, between January and April. In May, the village of Crooked Tree goes nuts for a weekend during the annual Cashew Festival. In September, Belize City engages in two weeks of festivities starting on National Day (September 10), including a huge carnival parade, bands, parties, music and dancing.



## Belize District Highlights

- 1 Getting a first-hand introduction to all of the native species at the **Belize Zoo** (p75)
- 2 Spending a night surrounded by the roar of howler monkeys at the **Community Baboon Sanctuary** (p67)
- 3 Cruising the lagoon and marveling at the birdlife at **Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary** (p71)
- 4 Spying on West Indian manatees and hawksbill turtles at **Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary** (p78)
- 5 Soaking up Belize's fascinating history at the **Museum of Belize** (p53)
- 6 Indulging in an afternoon of luxurious pampering in the jungle at the **Maruba Resort Jungle Spa** (p70)
- 7 Admiring the jungle view from atop the Temple of the Masonry Altars at **Altun Ha** (p69)