



Southern Belize

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Best Places to Stay

- » Machaca Hill Lodge, Punta Gorda (p227)
- » Thatch Caye Resort, Thatch Caye (p195)
- » Cotton Tree Lodge, San Felipe (p227)

Best Places to Eat

- » Rumpfish, Placencia (p209)
- » Earth Runnins, Punta Gorda (p218)
- » Omar's Creole Grub, Placencia (p209)

Why Go?

Cultural, social and ecological diversity are the hallmarks of Southern Belize. It's here in the south that open savannah and citrus-filled farmland give way to forested hills dotted with Maya villages and ruins, while towns like Hopkins and Placencia offer sun, sand and a bit of local culture.

Adventurers will find no shortage of opportunities to get off the beaten path in Toledo's jungles, while trekkers who wish to splurge can choose from a number of five-star jungle lodges tucked away in remote corners. Those of more modest means will be able to have a great time on the cheap in the small villages and communities of the Deep South.

The south also has cayes all of its own boasting stunning coral reefs, where snorkeling, boating and diving enthusiasts can experience Belize's nautical wonders while avoiding the crowds (and significantly higher price tags) of the northern cayes.

When to Go

The high season is from December to April, when heavy rainfall ends and the weather is at its mildest. If you go between May and July, you'll enjoy lower occupancy rates and prices (and you can eat lobster starting June 15). August and September are the dog days of summer, with hot weather, occasional showers and bargains galore.



Southern Belize Highlights

- 1 Eating, drinking and slacking out in **Placencia** (p203)
- 2 Jungle hiking in **Mayflower Bocawina National Park** (p196)
- 3 Living like a posh castaway on **Thatch Caye** (p195)
- 4 Trekking through Maya Villages in the **Deep South** (p220)
- 5 Garifuna drumming under the full moon in **Hopkins** (p195)