



Northern Belize

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Cerros Beach Resort, Copper Bank (p143)
- ➔ Nahil Mayab, Orange Walk Town (p130)
- ➔ Patty's Bistro, Corozal Town (p139)
- ➔ Street food outside the Central Market, Orange Walk (p129)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Backpackers Paradise, Sarteneja (p145)
- ➔ Serenity Sands, Corozal Town (p138)
- ➔ Cerros Beach Resort, Copper Bank (p143)
- ➔ Almond Tree Resort, Corozal Town (p138)
- ➔ Chan Chich Lodge, Orange Walk District (p135)

Why Go?

Many travelers save a chunk of change by flying into Cancun and busing or driving down to their final destination. Passing through the flat farmland and provincial towns of Northern Belize, they may not be inspired to linger.

But what are they missing? This is a chilled-out stretch of Belize that is entirely void of crowds, with unbeaten paths, abundant wildlife and prices a fraction of those in the rest of Belize.

Northern Belize comprises two districts: Corozal and Orange Walk, both traversed by the straight, flat Northern Hwy. Off the main road, adventurous travelers will find pretty fishing villages, pristine jungles, ancient Maya cities and anachronistic Mennonite communities.

Then there's the food. Exhibiting influences from Mexico, Northern Belizean cuisine is more diverse and more daring than its southern counterpart. If you're ready to trade rice and beans for seafood *ceviche*, you've come to the right place.

When to Go

Weather conditions in the northern districts reflect those of the country overall. The best time to visit is during the dry season (January to April), or during the light months of the rainy season (November, December, May and June). But even the rainy season is not as rainy as it is down south. The local culture is on display during the Fiesta de Carnaval, the pre-Lenten throw-down that takes place in February or March.



Northern Belize Highlights

- ① Taking a riverboat tour along the New River to the magnificent Maya ruins of **Lamanai** (p130)
- ② Spotting crocs and other lagoon inhabitants at the **Shipstern Nature Reserve** (p144)
- ③ Getting a firsthand introduction to the traditional

Mennonite community at **Little Belize** (p146)

- ④ Chilling in the laid-back fishing town of **Sarteneja** (p144)

- ⑤ Enjoying panoramic ocean views from the waterfront Maya temple at **Cerro Maya** (p143)

- ⑥ Discovering the unexcavated ruins and undisturbed wildlife at the **Rio Bravo Conservation & Management Area** (p133)
- ⑦ Soaking up the saltwater breezes and Spanish colonial charm of **Corozal Town** (p136)