



Southern Belize

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Rumfish (p215)
- ➔ Jungle Farm Restaurant (p227)
- ➔ Mojo Lounge & Bartique (p215)
- ➔ Loggerheads Pub & Grill (p204)
- ➔ Chef Rob's (p204)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Belcampo Belize (p226)
- ➔ Thatch Caye Resort (p197)
- ➔ Maya Beach Hotel (p213)
- ➔ Coconut Row (p201)
- ➔ Tobacco Caye Paradise (p196)

Why Go?

Southern Belize is the country's most absorbing cultural melting pot, with a strong Garifuna influence around Dangriga and Hopkins, and Belize's largest Maya population down in Toledo. Nature is rich here too, where open savannah and citrus-filled farmland give way to forested hills dotted with Maya villages and ruins.

Adventurers will find no shortage of opportunities to get off the beaten path in Toledo's jungles. Trekkers with deep pockets can choose from a number of five-star jungle lodges tucked away in remote corners, or you could stay at local guesthouses in the small villages and communities of the Deep South.

Then there's the beaches of villagey Hopkins and chilled-out Placencia, with opportunities for diving, fishing and slacking. The south also has an alluring string of offshore cays all boasting stunning coral reefs, where snorkeling, boating and diving enthusiasts can experience Belize's nautical wonders while avoiding the crowds (and the significantly higher price tags) of the Northern Cayes.

When to Go

- ➔ **Dec–Apr** Rainfall ends and weather is at its mildest.
- ➔ **May–Jul** Shoulder season sees fewer tourists and you can eat lobster starting June 15.
- ➔ **Aug–Sep** Dog days of summer, with hot weather, occasional showers and bargains galore.



Southern Belize Highlights

1 Placencia (p208)

Eating, drinking, slacking and snorkeling at the mainland 'cay you can drive to'.

2 Mayflower Bocawina National Park (p195)

Hiking, zip-lining and waterfall rappelling in the jungle.

3 Thatch Caye (p197)

Living like a posh castaway on

this idyllic eco island resort.

4 Deep South (p217)

Immersing yourself in the Maya culture and chocolate-making in remote Toledo District.

5 Hopkins (p199)

Listening to Garifuna drumming under the full moon in this laid-back beach village.

6 Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary (p206)

Mountain-biking or jaguar-spotting on the trails with a Maya guide.

7 Glover's Reef Atoll (p198)

Kayaking and diving at this wonderfully remote atoll.