Central America: Off the Beaten Track

**SANTA CLARA & DZILAM DE BRAVO**
Time seems to stand still on the breezy beaches of Santa Clara and Dzilam de Bravo, east of Mérida. These sands of solitude are a welcome sight in a region where tourist centers abound.

**SARTENEJA**
Stroll the shoreline to admire the wooden sailboats still constructed here and explore the nearby Shipstern Nature Reserve, a hub of birding, fishing and wildlife-watching.

**TOLEDO DISTRICT**
The deep south of Belize is home to remote Maya villages, crumbling ruins and little-visited national parks and reserves.

**LAGUNITA CREEK**
Kayak and swim your way through the turquoise waterways surrounding this remote ecotourism project located on the Río Sarstun, northwest of Livingston.

**PERÚN**
Cool mountain air, rugged hiking trails and real war stories await those who make the effort to reach this former guerrilla stronghold near the border in El Salvador.

**PARQUE NACIONAL COIBA**
With extraordinary marine wildlife, Panama’s newest Unesco World Heritage Site was once its most infamous island prison. Untrampled and pristine, it offers excellent diving and wildlife-watching.

**TRUJILLO**
The best slice of Honduras’ Caribbean coastline is a gorgeous place, with lots of history, a delightful end-of-the-road feel, and some of the mainland’s best beaches nearby.

**PEARL KEYS**
Lush and mostly uninhabited, these coconut islands offer snorkeling in crystalline waters. It's a boat ride away from Bluefields and well worth the splurge.

**CAÑO NEGRO**
Not many travelers make it to the far reaches of Costa Rica's northern lowlands. This network of languid lagoons is a birding wonderland, home to some 365 species of birds.

**SAMBU**
This jungle hub makes a good base for Darién adventures. Guides take visitors up the Río Sambú and its tributaries to Emberá and Wounaan villages, or in search of harpy eagles and petroglyphs.