



Northern Belize

Includes ➔

Orange Walk Town . . .	129
Lamanai	135
Río Bravo Conservation & Management Area . . .	139
Corozal Town	141
Cerro Maya & Copper Bank	147
Sarteneja	149

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Maracas Bar & Restaurant (p133)
- ➔ Nahil Mayab (p134)
- ➔ Patty's Bistro (p145)
- ➔ Cocina Sabo (p134)
- ➔ Venky's Kabab Corner (p145)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Cerros Beach Resort (p148)
- ➔ Serenity Sands (p143)
- ➔ Chan Chich Lodge (p133)
- ➔ Almond Tree Resort (p145)
- ➔ Backpackers Paradise (p150)

Why Go?

Many travelers save a chunk of change by flying into Cancún and bussing 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 Philip Goldson 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

- ➔ **Jan–Apr** The dry season opens up top trekking opportunities throughout the region.
- ➔ **Mar–Jun** Spot flocks of water birds while cruising in a canoe on stunning Shipstern Lagoon.
- ➔ **Sep** Residents from all over Belize come to party at Orange Walk's famous Carnival.



Northern Belize Highlights

- 1 **Lamanai** (p136) Taking a riverboat tour along the New River to these magnificent Maya ruins.
- 2 **Shipstern Nature Reserve** (p149) Spotting crocs and other lagoon inhabitants.
- 3 **Orange Walk Town** (p129) Chowing down on Belize's best tacos.
- 4 **Sarteneja** (p149) Chilling in this laid-back fishing town.
- 5 **Cerro Maya** (p147) Enjoying panoramic ocean views from this waterfront Maya temple.
- 6 **Rio Bravo Conservation & Management Area** (p139) Discovering unexcavated ruins and undisturbed wildlife.
- 7 **Corozal Town** (p141) Soaking up the saltwater breezes while sipping cocktails.