



Belize Unbound!

Land of Color and Contrast
with ETV Endowment of South Carolina

Maya Ruins

Join the ETV Endowment along with our expert guide Austin Jenkins and our indomitable tour leader, Alasdair Clayre of The Grand Tour, as we discover the heart of Belize— the stories, rituals and spirit of a people whose nature and heritage are celebrated in every breath.



Belize’s destiny has been shaped by the clash of empires and the rewriting of history by the victors. Yet beneath its turbulent past endures an ancient civilization that flourishes amid a remarkable blend of lush tropical rainforests, sweeping savannas, winding rivers, robust mangrove forests and the magnificent Belize Barrier Reef. Each realm hosts a diverse array of flora and fauna, creating a dynamic interplay between land and sea that is both rare and captivating.

We’ll explore Belize’s crystalline coastal waters and dive even deeper into singular experiences beyond the beaches and resorts. We’ll venture inland to discover a country where history is not simply preserved behind glass or stone—it is spoken, lived and joyfully shared by its people. In Belize, natural wonders are as abundant as the rich mosaic of cultures and traditions, all waiting to be revealed and celebrated. Here, every ecosystem is not merely a scenic backdrop but a living, breathing part of the nation’s identity.

With Dr. Jenkins leading the way, and expert local guides illuminating the rich and complex history of the places we visit, Belize Unbound is sure to be a uniquely fascinating experience for all to enjoy.

Please join us!

May 30 – June 7, 2026



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- \$1,200 tax-deductible contribution to the ETV Endowment
- In-depth interpretation and commentary of Belize flora and fauna with Dr. Austin Jenkins including opportunities for immersive hikes through lush tropical forests and wildlife sanctuaries
- Guided tours of some of Belize’s ancient Maya ruins with Austin and local experts
- Snorkeling the vibrant Belize Mesoamerican Barrier Reef, the second largest in the world
- Cruising crystal-clear Caribbean waters to nearby islands
- Hands-on cultural experiences with local and indigenous communities
- Eight nights at deluxe Belize resort hotels
- Private air-conditioned transportation throughout the tour
- Daily breakfast, six lunches, two dinners, and a welcome reception

Jaguar Reef



LIMITED TO
25 PARTICIPANTS



Mayan cooking class
far left: Blue Morpho butterfly



Green Turtle

Saturday, May 30 Beautiful Belize

Arrivals at Belize International and transport by private coach to The Rainforest Lodge at Sleeping Giant and The Banks in the beautiful and densely lush Cayo District of Belize, stopping en route at the small but well curated Belize Zoo. Once at the resort, check into your rooms and relax on the grounds, then gather for a **Welcome Reception**, followed by a **Welcome Dinner**.

Sunday, May 31 Ancient Cultures

Today we travel by private coach to the Maya site of Xunantunich (shoo-nan-too-nitch), among the most impressive in Belize for the size, number and beauty of its ruins. We cross a river by hand-cranked ferry and then enjoy the exploration of these venerable temples with expert guides. **Lunch** in the area after our visit.

Monday, June 1 Maya Cuisine and the Jungle by Night

Our day starts in the “kitchen”—in this case a glade in the jungle with local Mayan friends who will teach us the techniques for making an



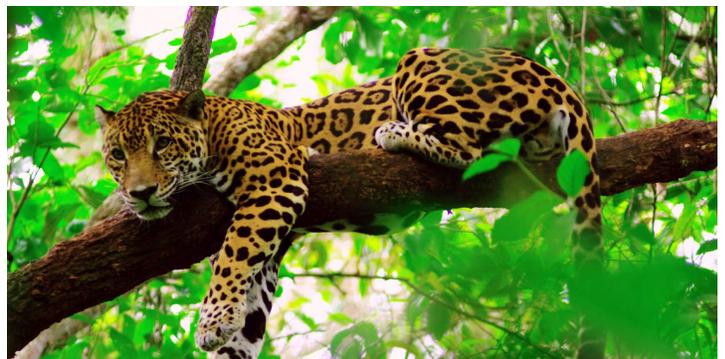
Garifuna drumming

ancient Maya dish. Enjoy your meal over a refreshing glass of horchata, a popular Maya drink made with rice and cinnamon. After **lunch**, prepared in part by your own hands, you have free time to go on a walk with Austin, explore, relax, kayak in the river or enjoy time poolside.

We come together at sunset for a foray into the jungle with Austin and some local bushmen as guides, and may be lucky enough to glimpse howler monkeys, or even wild boars or big cats, which feed under the cover of darkness.

Tuesday, June 2 Seaside

We say goodbye to the Cayo District and travel by private coach to Jaguar Reef, visiting Belize’s largest butterfly farm and stopping for **lunch** along the way. Check into your beautiful seaside lodgings at The Lodge at Jaguar Reef and enjoy the rest of the afternoon and evening free. You might even want to explore the surrounding area with Austin.



Jaguar

Wednesday, June 3 The Barrier Reef

Belize’s magnificent Barrier Reef, the second largest in the world, is our destination today. We travel by boat to the islands of South Water Caye and Tobacco Caye, at each of which you will have time to explore on foot and to swim and snorkel along the colorful reef. Picnic **lunch** on the island and a stop at the nesting grounds of Bird Island (Man-O-War Caye), home to the frigate birds and brown footed boobies, round out the day.

Thursday, June 4 Cacao and Cats

Enjoy the morning free to swim, snorkel, kayak or visit the nearby Garifuna town of Hopkins. After **lunch**, we depart for a local chocolate farm tour. Mayan cacao growers will take you through the entire process of traditional chocolate making and invite you to taste organic chocolate, handmade by you, straight from the source.

Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, the only Jaguar Preserve in the world, home to all five of Belize’s wild cats as well as the endangered tapir and more than 290 species of birds, awaits us in the early evening for our second nocturnal excursion into the tropical forest. A nature lover’s paradise!

Friday, June 5

Land and Sea

Today we begin our day with a chance to see some of Belize's avian inhabitants such as the Scarlet Macaw or Belize's national bird, the Keel-billed Toucan. The adventurous can even stroll along the river and take a dip before **lunch**. In the early evening, we'll cruise on the Sittee River as we search for wildlife along the banks.

Saturday, June 6

Enjoy a free day to relax at Jaguar Reef or take advantage of any of the excursions offered by the resort. Of course, you might want to join Austin on a walk around the property as well. Come together in the evening to celebrate our time in Belize with traditional Garifuna drumming and dancing and a festive **Farewell Dinner** on the beach.

Sunday, June 7

The tour ends after breakfast with flights back to the US.

Itinerary subject to change.

Meals in **bold** included in the price of the tour.



Tour Guides

Austin Jenkins is a native of Camden, SC.

He received his undergraduate degree studying biology and education at The Citadel and graduate degrees from Clemson University studying various organisms. He is an instructor for the popular SC Master Naturalist Program through Clemson Extension and the SC Wildlife Federation, where he is a former chair and emeritus board member. Austin teaches at USC Sumter, where his courses include Environmental Biology and Natural History of South Carolina. He served as the naturalist on previous ETV Endowment trips to the Canadian Rockies, Hawaii and Nova Scotia.



Alasdair Clayre comes from a long line of explorers. His mother's father and uncles were ships' captains from Shetland, and his grandparents met on a voyage from South

America. He was born in Borneo where he grew up in a tribe. Back in Britain his mother took him to cathedrals and castles and archaeological digs in Spain, visiting the Bedouin in Arabia, and he climbed the Canadian Rockies where his father was building hospitals. Alasdair attended Winchester College and took several degrees at Cambridge, culminating in an MPhil in Social Anthropology. He enjoys not just the logistical challenges of leading groups, but the opportunity to help others understand and access different cultures and perspectives. This will be Alasdair's 17th trip with the Endowment.



Tour Registration

Keel-billed toucan

Tour cost: \$7,799 per person, ground only, based on double occupancy. \$1,200 tax-deductible contribution to the ETV Endowment

Single supplement: \$950

Deposit: \$1,200 per person, due upon registration, first come, first served.

Balance deadline Friday, March 27, 2026

After that date, call for availability. Tour limited to 25 participants.

To reserve your place, send registration form with check or credit card information for the deposit amount to: ETV Endowment Belize Unbound Tour, 401 E. Kennedy Street, Suite B-1, Spartanburg, SC 29302.

Please note: There is moderate to active walking on the tour, sometimes over varied, uneven or slippery terrain and up and down ancient ruins. You should feel comfortable participating in full days of activities.

QUESTIONS? Contact Amy Raffo at ETV Endowment at 864-591-0046 or araffo@etvendowment.org.

The Belize Unbound tour is an exclusive presentation by ETV Endowment of South Carolina and is organized by The Grand Tour Travel Company, Peterborough, New Hampshire.



Tobacco Caye cottages