



CENTRAL COAST: CITY, SEA + WILDERNESS

A perfect blend of experiences, the Central Coast is ideal for travelers who enjoy a dose of culture with their adventure. This region encompasses the Belize District and part of the Cayo District and offers everything from unique architecture and fine dining to jungle trips and Maya mysteries to spelunking.

Top stops:

Belize City

The country's central business district is a patchwork of different cultural attractions. Expect to find colonial architecture, great shopping and an array of dining experiences. The Museum of Belize, built in a former jail and featuring artifacts and curiosities, is an interesting stop. Water taxis provide quick access to snorkeling and diving attractions.

Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center

The zoo encompasses 29 acres of exhibits featuring mammals, birds and reptiles native to the region and is located about a half-hour outside the Belize City center.

Altun Ha

A major ceremonial center for the Maya, the site was a trading hub and the place where the famous Jade Head, the largest Maya carved jade object ever discovered, was unearthed.

Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary

Home to the jabiru stork and resident crocodiles, iguana and turtles, this sanctuary is ideal for birding and canoeing.

Belmopan

The capital city is easily explored on foot. Don't miss Market Square, where local farmers and vendors bring their products each day. Dining options are plentiful.

Community Baboon Sanctuary

The decibels and fun quotient reach new heights at this habitat, which is home to thousands of black howler monkeys on its 20 acres.

Nohoch Che'en Caves Branch Archaeological Reserve

Float trips along the Caves Branch River provide a unique vantage point to experience the sacred caves of the Maya.

Guanacaste National Park

The giant Guanacaste trees and bird varieties, including the smoky brown woodpecker and red-lored parrot, attract travelers to this small but showy park.