



HIKING

With so much natural beauty to discover, Belize is best seen on foot. And whether your clients are looking for extreme or serene trekking, they'll find it in one of Belize's national parks and reserves, where local fauna and wildlife thrive. Most hiking trails are designed in loops for easy tracking. Some are ideal for self-guided walks and others require an experienced guide. Here's a sampling of favorite hiking spots.

Guanacaste National Park

At 50 acres, Guanacaste is the smallest of the national parks and great for novice trekkers as it offers easy-to-traverse trails and clearly marked trees and plants.

- » LOCATION: Just outside the capital of Belmopan near the village of Roaring Creek

Paynes Creek National Park

Paynes Creek is a great place for bird-watching, including endangered species like the yellow-headed parrot, jabiru stork, Muscovy duck and aplomado falcon, as well as other wildlife, including howler monkeys, armadillos and crocodiles.

- » LOCATION: The 30,000-acre park is in the Toledo District

Shipstern Wildlife Nature Reserve

Encompassing 32 square miles of forest, savanna and wetlands, this popular spot features a rare Kula Palm forest, butterfly aviary, botanical trail and other trails.

- » LOCATION: In the northeast corner of the Corozal District on the Caribbean Sea

Rio Bravo Conservation Area

Jaguar, puma, howler monkeys and deer can be seen in this tropical rainforest that is home to 200 species of trees and 12 endangered animal species.

- » LOCATION: A short ride from the Mennonite community of Blue Creek in the Orange Walk District

Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary

A true jungle experience, this sanctuary's 128,000 acres offer miles of tropical trails, waterfalls and the large concentration of wild cats, including the jaguar.

- » LOCATION: Southwest of Dangriga in the Stann Creek District

St. Herman's Blue Hole National Park

The blue hole is a 25-foot-deep cenote near the entrance that beckons to swimmers, but hikers will also find enchantment in the 575 acres of forest trails.

- » LOCATION: On the Hummingbird Highway near Belmopan in the Cayo District