



NORTHERN BELIZE: MAYA MARVELS

With a blend of Mayan, Spanish and Mennonite influences, all complementing the breathtaking terrain, Northern Belize is ideal for travelers in search of history and natural beauty. It encompasses the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts. The region's New River once transported the Maya and today takes modern-day visitors past ancient temples, sugarcane fields and farms—an unforgettable way to experience Belize.

Top stops:

Orange Walk

Featuring quaint bed-and-breakfasts and cafés, Orange Walk is a hub in this agricultural area and offers a look into the everyday lives of Belizeans. At the town's Banquitas House of Culture, visitors can learn about the town's history through traveling exhibits.

Lamanai Maya Site

Occupied continuously for more than 3,000 years, these Maya temples are a sight to behold—particularly when arriving via the New River. The jungle setting, complete with Morelet's crocodiles or iguanas sunning themselves on the riverbed, gives way to the impressive temples sitting on a bluff overlooking the river.

Rio Bravo Conservation Area

This tropical rainforest is the place to see Belizean cats, including jaguar and puma, as well as the national bird, the keel-billed toucan.

Corozal

Just seven miles from the Mexican border, Corozal is a charming beachfront town that now is a haven for American retirees. The town's Gabriel Hoare Market is a nice spot to chat with the locals and sample fresh fruits and vegetables. The Corozal Cultural Center, housed in a lighthouse, is also an interesting stop.

Shipstern Wildlife Nature Refuge

A 32-acre protected habitat of forests, savanna and wetlands, the refuge offers travelers hiking trails and a butterfly aviary.