



## Adventure Alumni Belize 2025/6

This two-part adventure starts in the remote jungle region of Toledo, Belize. Your two trip leaders will collect you in 15-seater vans, load up and head south down the Hummingbird Highway to the southernmost district of Toledo. After three hours on the road and a lunch break, we switch gears and leave the paved road. Bumping along gravel roads for another two hours you'll start to see the real Belize - away from the tourist areas and surrounded by rainforest, small Mayan villages practicing subsistence farming and true wilderness.

We arrive at the small village of Crique Sarco. This is a farming village that rarely sees foreign visitors. Jono, our expedition leader, has worked with this village previously, providing medical training for its health workers. We'll receive a warm welcome. Here you'll acclimatize and get to sample Mayan village life. There are no supermarkets here - if you end up eating chicken it was probably running around the yard minutes before.

Our first night will be spent in a community hut, thatched with palm leaves. You'll string your hammock up and relax to the sounds of village life. Exploring the jungle is all about being prepared. Local guides will join us to show the team what plants and animals we don't want to touch and what wood we can and can't burn. The aptly named "poison wood" will give you a painful rash if you burn it, which can be deadly. We'll practice making campfires and setting up a jungle campsite, so we know the jobs that need to be completed when we get moving. Each camper will be issued with a machete (this is yours to keep) and instructed how to safely use it and maintain it.

Once trained, we start our three-day jungle hike, sleeping in hammocks, washing in jungle rivers and cooking our own food on an open fire. The days are sure to be challenging - it is the rainforest after all, so expect to rotate between soaked in sweat and soaked by rain. However, it's hard to explain the true magic of moving through a jungle environment. We're sure to see some amazing wildlife and the dawn chorus of the howler monkeys is one you'll never forget. Jungle river crossings and steep muddy slopes continue until the light starts to fade and we strike camp and set up our hammocks. Each member of the team will have a job to do which might be cooking dinner, digging a latrine pit or collecting firewood. It's a true community we're creating at each campsite. Before long it's pitch-black with only the sounds of the jungle pulsing throughout the night. Watch some jungle TV (staring at the fire) and then go to bed.

After three days hiking, we'll arrive at Temash Lagoon for a welcome swim and to pick up traditional dugout canoes, some are decades old, passed down from father to son - pieces of art rather than a tool for the river. This begs to be one of the most memorable New Year's Eve celebrations of your life.

After breaking camp, we start our two-day paddle to the ocean. The silence and tranquility of the river is only broken by the occasional fisherman netting a catch for his family. If we're lucky we might be able to buy some fish along the way or even net our own. Keep an eye out



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for a mix of wildlife that only river travel can guarantee; monkeys, agouti, and amazing birdlife such as parrots, macaws and my favorite - the toucan. In the evening, we camp on the riverbank, hopefully eating our day's catch or maybe just freeze-dried meals, either way it'll be one of the best meals you've eaten.

Our final day is going to be long or short depending on how we did the day before, but either way it's our last on the river. The water will slowly get salty and start to change color as we approach the estuary that marks the entrance to the Bay of Honduras. A short paddle to the village of Barranco and our journey is over. Swim in the ocean, reflect on your amazing achievement and then load up the boats for a short drive to Punta Gorda. Tonight, we'll stay in a small hotel and head out to the big(little) city(town) and eat a plethora of seafood and indulge in a cool beverage. You'll have plenty of mosquito bites to remind you of your epic adventure, but they will disappear soon enough unlike the most amazing memory you've just created. In the morning, we catch a private bus back to Belize city and before you know it all you have is the memory as you board the flight back home.

## Requirements

- All participants must have a good level of fitness. The mileage we plan to hike isn't high, but the temperature and rough terrain can be uncomfortable. You should be comfortable carrying a 40lb pack for around 6 hours a day during our trekking phase.
- Please be sure to disclose any medical conditions you have to your trip leader. If you have any concerns prior to the trip, you can contact Jono directly (contact details below)
- You must provide proof of international health insurance. We recommend World Nomads - an excellent provider with different levels of insurance available including trip protection and lost luggage.

## What's Included?

- All meals
- Loan of Hennessy Jungle Hammock
- Machete and sheath (for you to keep)
- Accommodation
- Ground transportation in Belize

## What's not included?

- Flight to Belize
- Travel insurance
- Alcoholic drinks
- Tips

Please contact me directly with any question: [jono.bryant1@gmail.com](mailto:jono.bryant1@gmail.com) 603-733-6636