



Belize

Villa Verano & Ka'ana Resort

**8 Days November 6-13,
2020 \$3883***

- Beach & jungle wildly civilized • Hopkins Village
- Caribbean beach side Villa Verano • Opportunity to visit Smithsonian's Carrie Bow Cay Field Station • Activities & excursion options: sea, culture and beach • Head inland to San Ignacio
- Ka'ana Resort • Mayan Ruins
- Nature and adventure options including Tikal, Guatemala • All meals included

BELIZE is among the least densely populated countries in the world. Belize is a member of the British Commonwealth—a monarchy with the Queen as its head of state. Formerly known as British Honduras, English

Free time to do whatever you would like.

speaking Belize became fully independent in 1981. With a coral barrier reef offshore and jungles inland, nature is a key attraction. But the people steal the show. They love to share their country, which they call the Jewel.

Red-throated Ant-Tanager in San Ignacio





Above: "In order to snorkel, you must know how to lay down and breathe."— Chocolate, snorkel guide;
at right: Sunrise on the Hopkins beach



about the research they do. We return to the resort for lunch then the rest of the afternoon is free with a choice of several optional excursions, or opt to relax at the resort and sink your toes in the sand and sea. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Monday: Hopkins

The day is free to relax on the beach or explore the tiny town of Hopkins. Choose, if you wish, another tour or activity from the list we will provide. You'll find such activities as snorkeling, fishing, a jaguar preserve, chocolate farm-to-table tour and many more. (B, L, D)

Itinerary

Day 1 Friday: Central Illinois-Chicago

WILL's John Steinbacher welcomes us aboard our private motor coach as we head to Chicago. We overnight in preparation for our early flight tomorrow morning.

Day 2 Saturday: Chicago/O'Hare-Flight-Belize City-Hopkins Village

We are taken to the O'Hare airport and board our morning flight to Belize City. On arrival we clear customs and board our private motor coach to Hopkins Village. We will travel on all three of the country's main roads: the Northern, Western and Hummingbird Highways. We stop for an included lunch at Cheers and then peruse unique craft items at the Art Box. We arrive at our villa in Hopkins on the Caribbean Sea. (L,D)

Day 3 Sunday: Hopkins

Today we include a special WILL only excursion to the Smithsonian Carrie Bow Cay Research Field Station which studies the coral reef ecosystems.. The University of Illinois scientists (including trip co-host Dr. Katy Heath) have done research here. We take a short private boat ride to the field station for a tour where we hear

Both photos at right:
Carrie Bow Cay Research Field Station

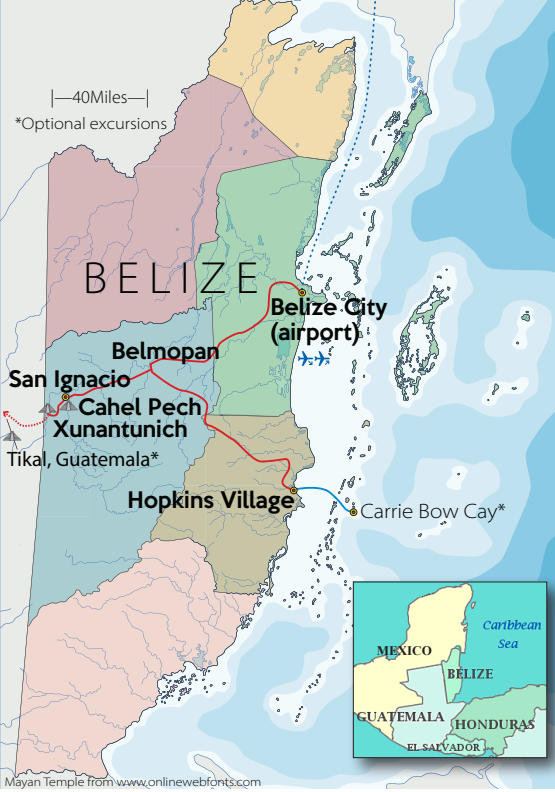


Hopkins Village is a friendly, Garifuna village which welcomes you to visit its restaurants, shops, bars and beaches. In 2010, Hopkins was voted "the friendliest village in Belize". As you walk or ride through the village you will have the opportunity to meet people (did you know that half of all Belizeans are under the age of 14) and see for yourself the traditions and lifestyle of the community.



Your tour host John Steinbacher is Illinois Public Media's membership director. His wife, Dr. Katy Heath, did research in Belize and will co-host the trip .

Weather The temperature range is likely to be between 73-82°.



Day 5 Tuesday: Hopkins-Belmopan-San Ignacio

After a wonderful breakfast we say farewell to Hopkins and the staff of Villa Verano. We travel along the Hummingbird Highway, the most scenic in Belize. We'll make two stops en route to our next resort; first at Corkers in the country's small capital of Belmopan for lunch then at the Orange Gallery. Ka'ana Resort is outside the town of San Ignacio, "in a valley nestled among the Maya Mountains, surrounded by lush tropical gardens. They have a nice infinity pool, and a great restaurant."—*wiki-travel*. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Wednesday: San Ignacio

Today's sightseeing includes two Mayan ruins: Cahel Pech and Xunantunich; the market in San Ignacio; Green Iguana Conservation Project and the medicine trail—plants that you can use for healing. Return to the resort for a dip in the pool and delightful meals. (B, L, D)

Day 7 Thursday: San Ignacio

Today is free for relaxing at the resort and exploring San Ignacio. Or take an optional tour (cost applies) to the Butterfly House; Crystal Cave; Bird Watching; Cave Tubing & Zip Line; or a full day trip to Tikal in Guatemala, the most extensive of the Mayan cities. (B, L, D)



Day 8 Friday: San Ignacio-Belize City-Chicago-Central Illinois

The time has come to bid a fond farewell to Belize. We travel back to the airport for our flight home and take with us memories of warm Belizean hospitality. On arrival at O'Hare, our private motor coach returns us to Central Illinois. (B)

Included meals are noted each day with the initials for Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

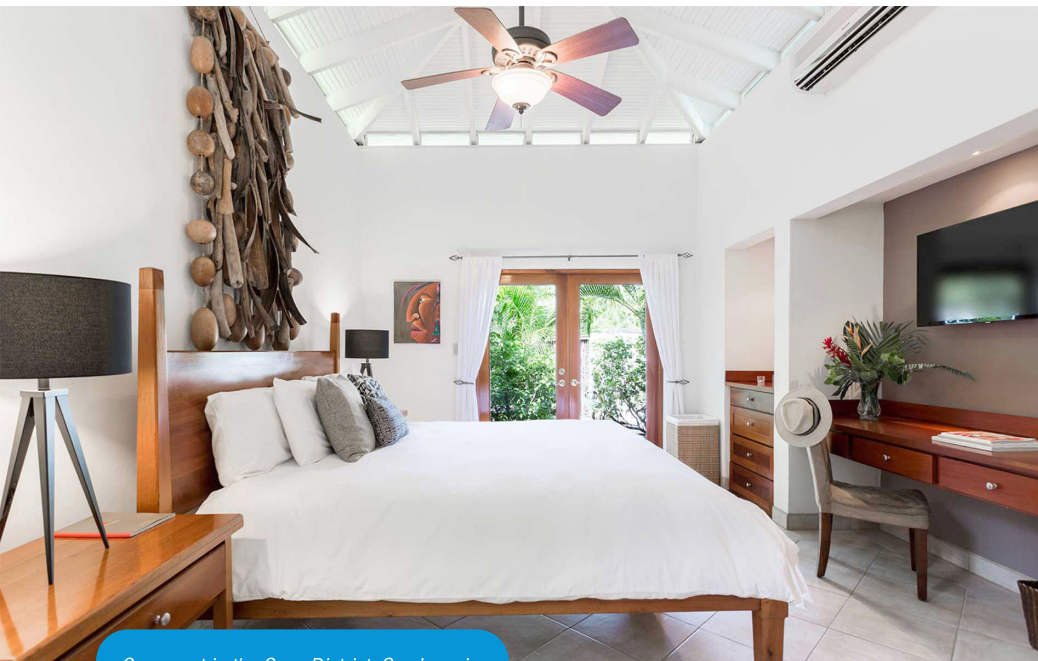
What's Included: • Round trip motor coach transportation from Central Illinois to Chicago • Baggage handling • Round trip flights • Round trip transportation from airport to lodge & villa • All meals in Belize • Carrie Bow Cay visit • Tour in San Ignacio • 18 Meals: 6 Breakfasts 6 Lunches 6 Dinners • \$94 current total taxes & fees, subject to change • Hotel

Immediately above: At the Green Iguana Conservation Project the animals are thriving again before being released into the wild; Top: Cahel Pech Mayan Ruins

San Ignacio's diverse population include Mestizo, Kriol, Lebanese and Mopan Maya. San Ignacio also has a fairly large Chinese and Mennonite population. Boasting a daily produce market, this is the second largest town in the country with 21,000 people that features a variety of nature, adventure and Mayan attractions.



Our resort on a Caribbean beach at Hopkins Village, Villa Verano

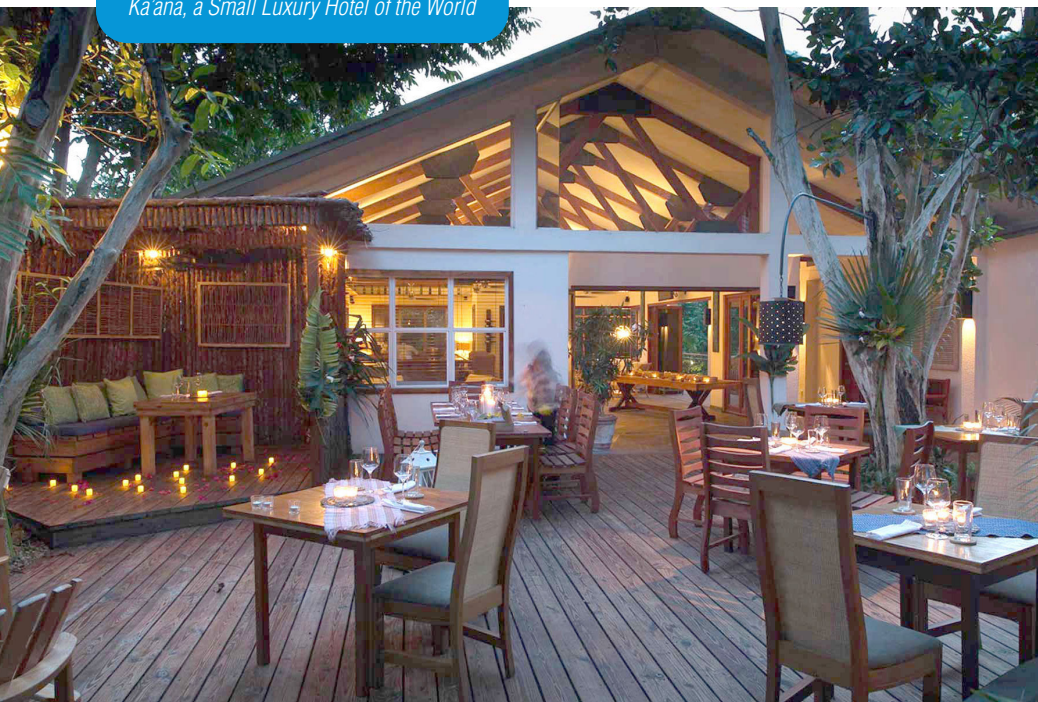


Our resort in the Cayo District, San Ignacio, Ka'ana, a Small Luxury Hotel of the World

accommodations • Led by WILL's John Steinbacher
Accommodations: (7) total number of nights
 Rosemont (1) Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Chicago O'Hare
 Hopkins Village (3) *Villa Verano*
 San Ignacio (3) *Ka'ana Resort*

What's Not Included: • Tax/fuel surcharges in effect if any • Travel insurance
 • Airline checked bag fees if any • Optional tours and activities • Upgrade rooms \$250/person, double occupancy

*All prices are per person, based on occupancy, double: \$3883, single: \$4757, triple \$3732. Airfare will be confirmed by the end of December; price subject to change once flights are booked. • Document required for US Citizens is Passport valid through the length of stay; no visa or shots at this time. Other citizens should consult their consulate. • Insurance coverage is Deluxe Group Plan from Travel Guard at a cost of 7.2% for trip cancellation, medical coverage and more. For coverage details see tourgroupplanners.com/insurance. Other terms and conditions at tourgroupplanners.com/terms incorporated by reference. • Price and details are subject to change. **Please note:** Optional adventure tours and adventure activities are not covered by your group travel insurance plan. Acct#201108r 27Nov19 11:20



Join us from • Decatur • Springfield • Urbana or call for a quote from other cities. Tour Coordinator is Judy or Dawn, email: Judy@TourGroupPlanners.com or Dawn@TourGroupPlanners.com; call 217-422-5002 to charge your credit card for the \$1200 per-person deposit. Or mail a check (payable to **Rio Grande Travel**) to **Tour Group Planners**, 363 S Main St Suite 307, Decatur IL 62523



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