

# Your customized itinerary

## Critical Thinking

### June 5, 2023 | Program Begins

Monday

**Meals Included**

Per airline  
Dinner (at the hotel)

**Belize City Accommodations**

[Radisson Fort George](#) or similar  
(1 of 1)

- Flight departs for Belize – *Arranged by WorldStrides.*

**Departure Flights**

Flight #	Origin	Destination	Departure	Arrival
AA1198	San Francisco (SFO)	Dallas (DFW)	5:58 a.m.	11:40 a.m.
AA739	Dallas (DFW)	Belize City (BZE)	12:20 p.m.	2:15 p.m.

*Welcome to Belize City! This historical capital of Belize is the largest city in Belize and the entry point to this unspoiled tropical nation. Sail through the jungle on a zipline, dive in the famous Blue Hole, or study the culture of the diverse people that make up this small nation.*

- At the most common arrival time of all participants, transfer to your accommodations – *Local staff and private transportation included.*
- Check-in to your accommodations or store luggage if check-in is unavailable.
- Take a break for lunch on own.
- After lunch, return to hotel and gather in reserved meeting room for lecture.

**Guest Lecture**

*Sourced by Merritt College*

*Half day (2-3 hours) meeting space included; A/V equipment (PA system with corded microphone, multimedia projector with screen, WIFI with 10Mb bandwidth) included.*

- In the evening, taste the local cuisine with a group **Welcome Dinner.**

### June 6 | Belize City to Hopkins

Tuesday

**Meals Included**

Breakfast

**Hopkins Accommodations**

[Hopkins Bay Resort](#) or similar  
(1 of 4)

- Check out of your accommodations and depart for your next destination – *Local staff and private transportation included.*

**Coach to Hopkins** - *Approximately 2 hours & 15 minutes*

- Upon arrival, make your way to your accommodations – *Local staff and private transportation included.*
- Check-in to your accommodations or store luggage if check-in is unavailable.
- Enjoy a free afternoon with lunch on own.
- In the evening, enjoy a group dinner at the Belize Women’s Collective (not included) – *Private transportation included.*
- After dinner, return to hotel.

**June 7 | Hopkins**

Wednesday

**Meals Included**

Breakfast

**Hopkins Accommodations**  
[Hopkins Bay Resort](#) or similar  
 (2 of 4)

- Visit sites not on your scheduled itinerary with some free time.
- Have lunch on your own at a selection of restaurants in the area.
- In the evening, enjoy a group dinner at Stan Creek Ecumenical Junior College (not included) – *Private transportation included.*
- After dinner, return to your hotel.

**June 8 | Hopkins**

Thursday

**Meals Included**

Breakfast

**Hopkins Accommodations**  
[Hopkins Bay Resort](#) or similar  
 (3 of 4)

- Make your way to today’s engagements – *Full day local staff and private transportation included.*
- Garifuna Farm Visit (Guided)**  
*Belize has a large population of Garifuna or “Garinagu.” It is believed they are descendants of African survivors of human cargo ships that were wrecked off the island of St. Vincent around 1675. Afro-Caribbean Garifuna culture combines Caribbean fishing and farming traditions with a mixture of South American and African music, dance, and spirituality. UNESCO declared Garifuna language, dance, and music in Belize to be a “Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity” in 2001 – Tour included.*
- Take a break for lunch on own, stop provided.
  - After lunch, continue to next visit.
- Pen Cayetano Gallery**  
*Visit the Studio Gallery and meet legendary Garifuna artist and King of Punta Rock, Master Pen Cayetano and admire the extraordinary textile art by his wife, Ingrid Cayetano. Listen to stories of the Garifuna Journey. View paintings, murals, thread arts in their colonial era gallery. Tour the gallery and enjoy a live drumming session. Sourced by Merritt College*
- Continue to next visit.
- Gulisi Garifuna Museum (Guided)**  
*Named in honor of a Garifuna woman who migrated to Belize with her 13 children and founded the Punta Negra region, the museum has a number of exhibits that cover the Garifunas’ migration from Africa to Belize. Other exhibits cover Thomas Vincent Ramos, a legendary Garifuna leader, food, clothing, medicinal plants, music and dance – Entrance fees and tour included.*
- Return to your hotel for an evening at your leisure and dinner on own.

### June 9 | Hopkins

Friday

**Meals Included**

Breakfast

Lunch

**Hopkins Accommodations**

[Hopkins Bay Resort](#) or similar  
(4 of 4)

- Make your way to today's engagements – *Full day local staff and private transportation included.*

**Serpon Sugar Mill (Guided)**

*Start the day off with a stop at the Serpon Sugar Mill in Sittee River and learn about the history on your guided tour. Serpon Sugar Mill is the country's first historical reserve. Hidden in the jungle one mile in, it is the remnants of the steam powered Serpon Sugar Mill, which was established in 1865, marking the start of Belize's industrial era – Entrance fees and tour included.*

**Che'il Mayan Chocolate Factory, Maya Center (Guided)**

*Maya Center was established in the 1980's to relocate Mopan Maya villagers. Many of today's residents make their living from, among other things, working at the local chocolate farm. Here you can learn the traditional process of making chocolate – how they cultivate cacao trees, process the beans, and make the final product – Entrance fees and tour included.*

- Enjoy a group lunch.
- Continue to next visit.

**Placencia**

*Tour this small village located in the Stann Creek district. Placencia was inhabited by the Maya prior to the European colonization of the Americas. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it was settled by English Puritans – Tour included.*

- Return to your hotel for an evening at your leisure and dinner on own.

### June 10 | Hopkins to Tobacco Caye

Saturday

**Meals Included**

Breakfast

Lunch (at the hotel)

Dinner (at the hotel)

**Tobacco Caye Accommodations**

[Windward Lodge](#), [Joe Jo's by the Reef](#), or similar (1 of 2)

*Beds are bunk beds; WiFi is very limited due to remote location*

- Pack small bag for two nights in Tobacco Caye.
- Check out of your accommodations and store large luggage.
- Depart for the pier – *Local staff and private transportation included.*

**Boat to Tobacco Caye** - *Approximately 30 minutes; Quote only*

- Upon arrival, make your way to your accommodations – *No assistance included.*
- Check-in to your accommodations or store luggage if check-in is unavailable – *Island fee included.*

*\*Note, island fee covers costs of accommodation, three meals daily, drinking water, access to survey and scientific equipment, and use of classroom.*

- Take a break for lunch at the property.
- In the afternoon, enjoy snorkeling – *Fisheries Reserve fee included.*

**Introduction to Snorkeling Presentation - Mandatory**

*Start with a presentation on marine hazards in the classroom, followed by the demonstration and fitting of snorkel gear (included). Participants are taken into calm and shallow water to be taught essential snorkeling skills – Introduction to Snorkeling Session included.*

**Tobacco Caye Snorkeling (Guided)**

*Follow your instructor to the Man O' War Caye Bird Sanctuary, one of the few remaining nesting sites in the Caribbean of the magnificent Frigatebird. You will then be able to enjoy snorkeling alongside the roots of the nearby Tobacco Range mangroves before discovering the richness of the Tobacco Caye Reef. Fortunate groups might spot the resident West Indian Manatees cruising through the sheltered waters of Tobacco Range – Professional service provider and snorkeling equipment (mask, snorkel, fins, and vest) included.*

- Return to hotel for an evening at your leisure and dinner at the hotel.

### June 11 | Tobacco Caye

Sunday

**Meals Included**

Breakfast  
Boxed Lunch  
Dinner (at the hotel)

**Tobacco Caye**

**Accommodations**

[Windward Lodge](#), [Joe Jo's by the Reef](#), or similar (2 of 2)

*Beds are bunk beds; WiFi is very limited due to remote location*

- Make your way to the dock – *No assistance included.*
- Board boat for a full-day excursion (approx. 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.).

**South Water Caye Marine Reserve Tour (Guided)**

*Spend today exploring the South Water Caye Marine Reserve and enjoy snorkeling along various ecosystems including the Patch Reef and Range mangroves. The three snorkels in Belize's largest Marine Protected Area will be completed by a visit to the Smithsonian Institute's facility on Carrie Bow Caye, and a visit to the Man O' War Caye Bird Sanctuary – Snorkeling equipment (snorkel, mask, fins, and vest) included.*

- Boxed lunch included for your enjoyment during your tour.
- Return to the hotel on Tobacco Caye for dinner.
- Enjoy the remainder of the evening free on own.

### June 12 | Tobacco Caye to Hopkins

Friday

**Meals Included**

Breakfast  
Dinner (at the hotel)

**Belize City Accommodations**

[Radisson Fort George](#) or similar (1 of 1)

- Check out of your accommodations and depart for the dock – *Local staff included.*

**Boat to Hopkins** - *Approximately 30 minutes; Quote only*

- Upon arrival, depart for Belize City – *Local staff and private transportation included.*

**Coach to Belize City** - *Approximately 2 hours & 15 minutes*

- Check-in to your accommodations or store luggage if check-in is unavailable.
- Enjoy lunch on own.
- In the evening, reflect on your experiences with a group **Farewell Dinner** – *Local staff included.*

### June 13 | Program Ends

Tuesday

**Meals Included**

Breakfast  
Per airline

- Check out of your accommodations.
- At the most common departure time of all participants, transfer to the airport – *Local staff and private transportation included.*
- Flights return home – *Arranged by WorldStrides.*

**Return Flights**

Flight #	Origin	Destination	Departure	Arrival
AA466	Belize City (BZE)	Dallas (DFW)	2:54 p.m.	7:10 p.m.
AA2404	Dallas (DFW)	San Francisco (SFO)	8:30 p.m.	10:09 p.m.