

# Tri-location Research Adventure: Guatemala, Lamanai and Ambergris Caye

## *Example itinerary*

### Day 1 - Guatemala

- **Arrive at Francis Ford Coppola's La Lancha** - Set in the rainforest, La Lancha is a quaint lodge that sits beside Lago Petén Itzá and is close to Tikal, the epicenter of Mayan spirituality. Relax and enjoy your first night.

### Day 2

- **Early departure for the Tikal Maya Ruins and Museum** - Tikal's five monolithic temples pierce the jungle canopy and along with ancient plazas, stelae and ball courts, they tell a rich and powerful history. Spend the day exploring Tikal National Park, a paradise for birders, nature lovers and amateur archeologists.

### Day 3 - Lamanai

- **Travel to Lamanai Outpost Lodge in Lamanai, Northern Belize** - The lodge is situated on the bank of a 28 mile long spring-fed lagoon amidst the remnants of a major Mayan city. It is surrounded by an amazing variety of habitats that allows unsurpassed nature-based activities to depart right from your cabaña's doorstep.
- **Evening spotlight tour** - Ride on an airboat and watch your expert guide point out Morelet's crocodiles, tree frogs, bats and other creatures of the night.

### Day 4

- **Morning Lamanai Ruins tour** - Explore the mysterious jungle-shrouded temples of a once-powerful 3000 year old civilization.
- **Research the five wild cats in the area** – Roam the jungle in search of jaguars, pumas, ocelots, jaguarundis and margays, and participate in Lamanai Field Research Center's wild cat conservation project by checking camera traps.
- **Research the Morelet's crocodiles** – Hop on an airboat this evening to witness the capture of a Morelet's crocodile and assist in collecting data that will help further the understanding of this endangered reptile.

### Day 5

- **Jungle dawn** - As the jungle awakens, a naturalist guide will teach you about the intricacies of a habitat that is home to a wide range of creatures including the jaguar, black howler monkey, keel-billed toucan and the blue morpho butterfly.
- **Afternoon bird survey** - The Lamanai area boasts nearly 400 bird species that include the national bird, the keel-billed toucan, the blue-crowned motmot, Montezuma's oropendula, and the olive-sided euphonia, to name a few. A nearby walk is the perfect opportunity to survey the avifauna and significantly fill in your lifetime bird spotting checklist.
- **Evening frog survey** - Participate in frog and toad monitoring and quickly learn how to distinguish the dozen local species by call as well as appearance.

### Day 6 - *ATM cave and Ambergris Caye*

- **Travel to and explore the Actun Tunichil Muknal cave system in Western Belize** - Wade and climb through the caves as you find remnants of Mayan rituals and ceremonies arranged just as they were left thousands of years earlier.
- **Arrive at Victoria House in Ambergris Caye** - Soak up the sun at this luxury resort situated just half a mile from the shores of Ambergris Caye. Lounge by the pool and enjoy a fruity drink or stroll along the beach, where you may come across Green Iguanas, Striped Basilisks and all sorts of local wildlife.

### Day 7

- **Snorkel at Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Shark Ray Alley** - Explore the Belize Barrier Reef and get an up-close view of large schools of fish that have thrived in this protected area. Next, visit Shark Ray Alley to see friendly Nurse Sharks and several Southern Stringrays.
- **Evening barbeque on the beach** - For your last night in paradise, relax and enjoy a delicious barbecue on the beach.

### Day 8 - International departure

- **Return home** - We will transfer you to Belize International Airport for your departure home.

