

RAIN FORESTS TO REEFS

A Legacy Circle Journey through Belize with Nadia Bood,
WWF-Belize Reef Scientist and Climate Change Officer

April 4–12, 2019



As a **WWF Legacy Circle Member**, you're invited on an exclusive journey to explore WWF's work in Belize.

This special journey, led by WWF experts, offers an opportunity to explore tropical forests, coral reefs, and coastal mangroves teeming with life. You'll meet local scientists while immersing yourself in the worlds of WWF's field staff and partners on the ground.

Come explore the best of the natural world and see how together we are making a difference for our planet.



Rain Forests To Reefs

Belize | April 4–12, 2019



J.J. HUCKIN / NHA

Join us to explore the coral reefs and coastal mangroves of Belize that are home to a diverse array of life—from sea turtles that glide through clear waters to vibrant corals that stud the ocean floor. WWF and our partners have been working in Belize for decades, monitoring and restoring coral reefs, protecting marine species, safeguarding the watershed, and promoting sustainable tourism and fisheries. Despite its size—Belize is one of the world's smallest countries—a wealth of wonders is tucked within the country's

compact borders. From two inland ecotopes, experience the dramatic waterfalls of the lush rain forest and discover the wildlife that lives beneath the verdant canopy, including parrots, howler monkeys, ocelots, and jaguars. Our journey finishes on the remarkable coastline, just off the planet's second-longest barrier reef, where snorkeling reveals rays, colorful corals, and myriad tropical fish.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Join marine conservation expert and native Belizean, Nadia Bood, WWF-Belize Reef Scientist and Climate Change Officer.
- Travel with Legacy Circle members and learn about WWF's work to protect watersheds, coral reefs, mangroves, and sustainable livelihoods.
- Discover the natural and cultural treasures of Belize, and search for tropical wildlife as our naturalist Expedition Leader unveils the country's diverse riches.
- Look for signs of elusive jaguar in a rarely visited private conservation area that boasts the highest sighting rate in Central America.
- Snorkel with tropical fish and colorful coral over the world's second-longest barrier reef.
- Explore Mayan ruins and ancient subterranean caves by canoe.

To register or if you have questions, please contact Court Whelan at Natural Habitat Adventures at 888-993-8687, (Int'l) 303-449-3711 or courtwh@nathab.com



ANTONIO BUSIELLO / WWF-US

A Message From Nadia

Please join me on this special trip to my home country to experience the diversity and beauty of Belize while also getting an exciting look at WWF's work to conserve and protect its lush tropical rain forests

and remarkable and vibrant reefs. Partnering with local communities to conserve the natural jewels of this region has been one of the most rewarding parts of my 12-year career with WWF. As WWF Belize's Marine Scientist and Climate Change Officer, I oversee scientific research programs that help conserve and restore coral reefs and mangroves, and better understand the ecological and human impacts of climate change. I'm proud of our efforts to protect the Mesoamerican Reef ecoregion and can't wait to share the wild beauty of Belize with WWF's closest supporters.

ITINERARY

Day 1-3: Belize City, Belize / Chan Chich Lodge— Our adventure begins in Belize City, where we will be greeted at the airport before boarding a short flight to Chan Chich Lodge on the Gallon Jug Estate in northwest Belize. This premier ecolodge is located atop an ancient Mayan city and surrounded by a rainforest laced with hiking trails. On game drives and jungle walks in the Gallon Jug Estate, we can spot rare species like the tapir and kinkajou, and large birds like the crested guan and great curassow. All five Latin American cats—jaguar, puma, ocelot, margay, and jaguarundi—live here, and Chan Chich is renowned for having the highest rate of jaguar sightings. Birding is extraordinary, with 350 resident species, and we'll hope to see several at Laguna Seca, a wetland that is often patrolled by a troop of spider monkeys.



Day 4-5: Botanical Gardens / Xunantunich Mayan Ruins / Hidden Valley— We'll then board a flight to the Chiquibul Forest where WWF has been

working with local partners to develop an integrated management plan that protects the Belize River Watershed. We'll visit the Belize Botanical Gardens, a 45-acre riverfront complex in a valley flanked by the Maya Mountain foothills. Featuring native and exotic plants, the gardens help protect Belize's floral biodiversity while educating and inspiring the community to support conservation. In Hidden Valley Inn & Reserve, a 7,300-acre private reserve in

the Maya Mountains, there are more than 90 miles of trails that crisscross the area's towering waterfalls and give you an opportunity to encounter a variety of wildlife, including peccaries, colorful butterflies, and endangered birds like the orange-breasted falcon and the stygian owl. We will



STEVE GETTLE / MINDEN PICTURES



ERIC ROCK

then visit the dramatic Mayan ruins of Xunantunich to learn about Mayan culture and the history behind its intricately carved stone temples. During a canoe trip into Barton Creek Cave, we will glide silently through caverns to witness rock formations and cultural artifacts from centuries ago. We will finish the day with a visit to the Blue Morpho Butterfly Farm at Chaa Creek, dedicated to research and the conservation of

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JJ HUCKIN / NHA

Belize's native butterflies and plants, and meet with local biologists to learn more about conservation research. Our day will conclude with a stop at a local Cayo District home to hear the traditional music of Belize's indigenous Garifuna people.

Day 6-9: Hummingbird Highway / Naia Resort / Belize City—
During a scenic drive along the famous Hummingbird

Highway, we will stop at St. Herman's Blue Hole National Park in the Maya Mountains, a 500-acre tropical rain forest preserve that is home to more than 200 bird species and varied wildlife.

In Placencia, we will stay at the secluded Naia Resort, a luxury retreat located within a 200-acre private reserve on the Placencia Peninsula. Just offshore lies the most spectacular

marine island reserve in the Caribbean: the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the second-longest barrier reef in the world, with crystal-clear water and 500 species of tropical fish, numerous corals, delicate sea fans, bright anemones, and spiky sea urchins.



JJ HUCKIN / NHA

Here we will explore the reefs and cayes that make Belize so special, learn about WWF's mangrove and reef restoration projects, and visit nearby sustainable fisheries, which are vital to Belize's economy. On the final day we transfer to the Placencia airstrip for our flight back to Belize City to connect with homeward flights, or continue your journey with an extension to the ruins of Tikal.



CINDY HOPKINS / ALAMY



RED TEA / ISTOCK

Reservation Information & Trip Details

Dates: April 4-12, 2019

Price: \$8,595 per person, based on double occupancy

Internal Air Fee: \$1,095 per person

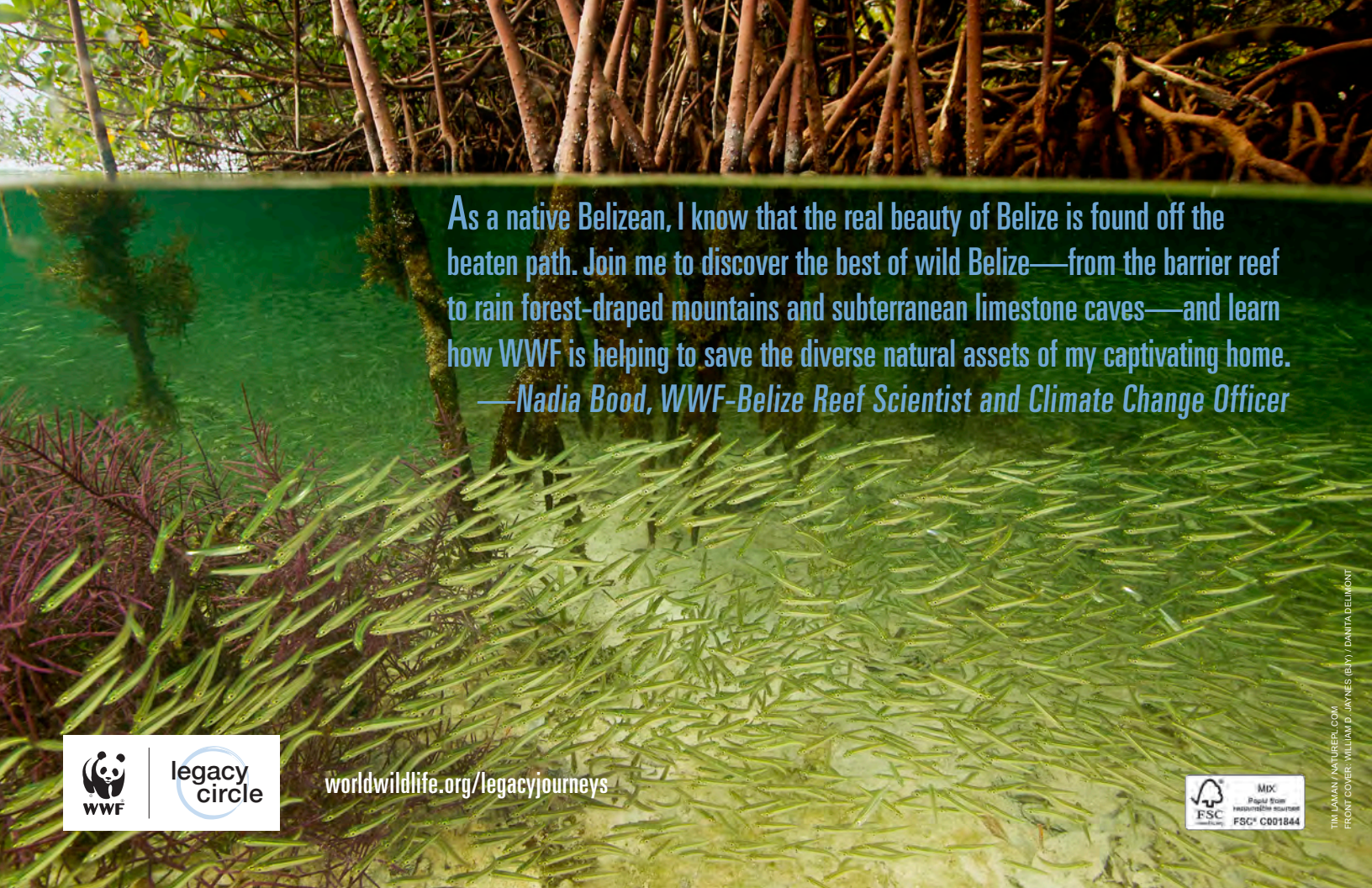
Single supplement: \$1,795

Group size: Limited to 11 guests

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As a native Belizean, I know that the real beauty of Belize is found off the beaten path. Join me to discover the best of wild Belize—from the barrier reef to rain forest-draped mountains and subterranean limestone caves—and learn how WWF is helping to save the diverse natural assets of my captivating home.

—*Nadia Bood, WWF-Belize Reef Scientist and Climate Change Officer*



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