

Vacationer's Guide



Welcome to our Belizean Dream!



Thank you for your interest in visiting our Belize Tree Top Villa. Please learn more about the villa, local attractions, and important info to easily plan your vacation. We hope you love our Villa as much as we do!

More than a decade ago, Chris and Kristi spent their honeymoon exploring Belize. Over the years, their love for the tropics has taken them to many destinations around the world. Along with their love for the diverse adventures Belize has to offer and under the spell of pristine, sun-kissed beaches, Chris and Kristi saw the unique value that Belize has to offer. With the convenience of accessibility from the states, Chris and Kristi landed on their Belizean Dream.

Do not hesitate to email us or call at any time with questions or when you are ready to book your visit!

Chris & Kristi Cullen

Kristi@cullenproperties.net 303-601-9075



Getting to the Villa

Many airlines provide service to Belize including American Airlines, United/Continental, Delta, TACA, and US Airways.



Once you arrive at Belize City International airport, you will need to go through customs. It is a small and easy to navigate airport... so no stress is involved!

- The quickest way to the Villa is on a flight with Maya Air or Tropic Air. You can book it at mayaisland-air.com, or we can book it for you and add it to your PayPal reservation invoice. This is a scenic 35 minute flight that takes you over the savannah, islands and beaches into the Placencia airstrip. We will provide you with free transportation from the Placencia Airstrip. Just let us know when your plane is scheduled to arrive and we will have a ride waiting for you.
- If you have more time and wish to see more of the countryside, you can rent a car at the Belize City airport and drive through the country to Placencia. If you choose to drive, we have more information about the drive, and stops along the way on the next page.



Driving to Placencia

If you have a longer vacation, the drive from Belize City to Placencia gives you a great perspective of the different parts of Belize. Budget has rental cars, if you would like to make the drive both ways, or one-way to Placencia for an additional fee. You can make a reservation with Neima Ramos, 501-523-3068 nramos@budget-belize.com, and mention that you will be staying at Belize Tree Top Villa. www.budget-belize.com.

The drive is approximately 3.5 hours, but requires your full concentration – the road winds through the mountains, you may encounter rain through the rainforest section, large mango trucks, and potholes. Please, do not make this drive at night.

You will receive a map from the airport rental car check out, that will send you through Belmopan and onto the Hummingbird Highway. Be sure you don't take the coastal road. It is unpaved and more or less a mystery to the unknown.

There are some nice places to stay if you arrive in Belize City in the evening, and make the scenic drive the following day. One great adventure is to stay the night at the Savannah Guest House near the zoo. Carol does wildlife documentaries and has an interesting tour as well as a few wildcats on the property as well. She can arrange for a nocturnal tour of the Belize Zoo, which is fabulous. Be sure to take your own flashlights! It can be very dark. Also, we have stayed at and recommend Twin Palms, a nice bed and breakfast in Belmopan. For a list of B&Bs visit: www.belmopancityonline.com/belize-bed-and-breakfast

Enjoy the Drive – Here Are A Few Recommended Stops Along the Way (in order from Belize City to Placencia)

- Before you reach Belmopan, the Belize Zoo is on the right. The wild cats and tapirs were among our favorites. Their night tour is great!
- Just before the zoo on the left, is Cheers Restaurant. They carry the local favorite, stewed chicken and coconut rice.
- Past Belmopan onto the Hummingbird Highway the topography gets more interesting as you enter the rain forest. It is likely you will hit a bit of rain and some pot holes so drive carefully. You are likely to pass some large trucks full of mangos or oranges and the banana farms as well.
- We stop at Ian Anderson Caves Branch. They have a great orchid garden and a small cheese making room. It's not a full blown restaurant but might have some bar menu foods if you are hungry.
- A bit farther on the right, you will find the Inland Blue Hole (not the camp but just past that there is a parking spot and pay bench). Keep your swimsuits handy if you want to walk in and take a dip. It's cool. We are often the only ones there, the water is clear, there is a waterfall and swim with the little fresh water fish. It's the best way to break up the drive!
- Just past that on the right is the Sleeping Giant were you can enjoy a cool rainforest top view lunch (over priced but a good stop nonetheless).
- Once you head into the flats again, you will come across the Jaguar Preserve and the Mayan Village for shopping with the local artisan.



- Next you will arrive on Placencia Peninsula.
- Once you drive into Maya Beach, there is a grocery store on the right where you can get your food and wine and beer. Our top favorite restaurant is the Maya Beach Bistro. The food is phenomenal.

Before you leave Maya Beach, Cocoplum is on the left. It is at Mile Marker 17.5. If you get to Seine Bight, you have gone too far. There is a guard station. Just let them know who you are and you are checking in and they will direct you straight back towards the beach. Once the road hits a "T," the villa is directly on the right. It is the first of three tree top villas. Aaron, your concierge, will be there to greet you with keys to the villa and show you around.



Transportation During Your Stay

You will need transportation, a car or golf cart, during your stay. The villa is not within walking distance to most restaurants, stores, or tourism operators that you will want to visit.

Golf Cart

Golf carts are a great way to travel between the villa and Maya Beach and restaurants throughout the peninsula. You can rent a golf cart prior to your stay from Captain Jaks at www.captainjaks.com. Ask for Erin or Lucky! They can arrange to have a cart waiting for you at the villa if you would like to reserve one.

Car

Depending on the adventures you have in store, you may want to rent a car rather than a golf cart, even if you flew in to Placencia. A rental car can be picked up and dropped off from the Budget rental car in Placencia Village. Mention that you are staying with us when you make your reservation with Neima Ramos at 501-523-3068 or by email at nramos@budget-belize.com. Or, your consierge Aaron is happy to assist you with car rentals as well.



Please make yourselves at home. The Villa is Complete with...

Living Room

- Sleeper sofa with linens
- Ceiling fans
- Air conditioning
- Main floor verandah
- Tree top views

Fully Appointed Kitchen

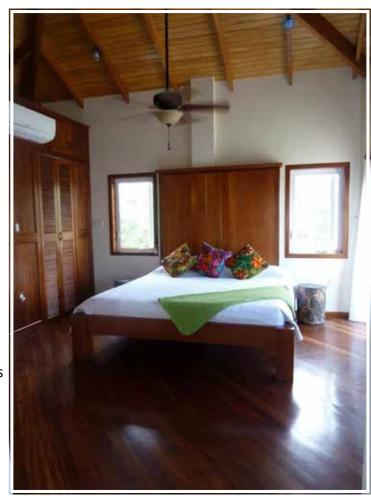
- Microwave/convection oven
- Dishwasher
- Gas range with 4 burners
- Coffee maker
- Toaster
- Tea kettle
- Dining space 4 person

Large Luxury Master Suite

- King size mahagony bed with linens
- Master Bathroom Suite with double sinks
- Double headed shower with vaulted ceilings and shutters to provide open air feel
- Deep tiled outdoor bathtub
- Two walk in closets
- Bath and beach towels provided
- Ceiling fans
- Air conditioning
- Ocean and island views
- Master Suite Verandah

Laundry

Washer/Dryer



Please, fill the tiled tub at least once and enjoy a good soak on the rooftop of the villa. Under the stars or at sunrise, it is a tranquil place to find yourself in your most relaxed state. After all, isn't that why you came?



Outdoor

- Covered parking
- 2 beach chairs
- 2 sets of snorkel gear
- Floating chair
- Beach toys
- Fishing Rod(s)
- Beach towels and blanket
- 2 cruiser bicycles
- Hammock
- 1 (two person) Kayak

Other Amenities

- Cable TV
- Free internet service
- CD player
- Music and DVD library
- iPod-iPhone music player

Services

• Cleaning services provided upon request for a fee of \$100 US







Water Adventures

Explore the world's second largest barrier reef, enjoy world class fishing, sailing, snorkeling, scuba diving, and see Whale Sharks, Manatees, and Dolphins amongst many other marine species. Come explore the largest and most pristine reef in the Northern Hemisphere or explore the Blue Hole, one of the worlds' natural wonders of the sea.

Avadon is great for snorkel and dive tours and is located on the way to the village on the right before you get into the village (ask for Anna Marie!)



Captain Jaks rents kayaks, scooters, and I think even fishing equipment if you are looking for something more heavy duty than what we provide in the utility closet. 622-7104. Ask for Erin or Lucky!











All beaches are public in Belize! You will find beach access by walking down the driveway and across the street to the left of the Beach Villa. If you walk the CoCoPlum beach to the south, you will come to the Villas Condos Beach, which is a very nice beach and a nice quiet place to hang out. There is also a pier in CoCoPlum that you can walk out on and enjoy.



Land Adventures

We just purchased two bikes for your use. They come complete with baskets and locks. They provide a fun ride around the Lagoon side of the CoCoPlum resort and also are a fun means to ride up to Maya Beach to have breakfast or lunch at the local restaurants or to pick up a few groceries!



Check out the nearby Monkey River, or explore the Cockscomb Jaguar Preserve, go cave tubing or zip lining and see thousands of bird species, Howler Monkeys, Tapirs and Crocodiles.

If you wish to take a tour, whether it be jungle, cave, monkeys or whatever your heart desires, we have had good luck with Trip and Travel located in the office supply shop in the Village. Aaron, your concierge is happy to coordinate which ever adventure you choose.





Cultural Adventures



Belize is so rich in so many ways. It is a melting pot of sorts when it comes to the colorful people of Belize. A peaceful nation with a deep history of Mayan people who live today much like they have lived for hundreds of years. Feel their history as you visit Mayan ruins and see their arts throughout the land. The Garifuna offer drumming entertainment you can'tmiss, it is the heartbeat of the sea with its carribean roots. The Creole, descendants of Africa speak a beautiful dialect of their own. The European Mennonites are easily noticed with their traditional simple way of life. Many have farms and make wooden furniture. Along with some Spanish influence from the surrounding countries of Guatamala and Mexico, you will find people from all around the world. English is the primary language to it is easy to engage with the friendly locals!





Food and Restaurants

The villa has a fully appointed kitchen with everything you need to prepare your catch of the day.

The farmers markets are located in Placencia Village. Please be sure to wash or skin all your vegetables and fruits. Although the drinking water is safe and pure in Cocoplum, the organic produce needs extra care.

The best grocer is Top Value across from the Atlantic Bank just before Placencia Village. But there is one north on the left before the Maya Beach Bistro in the Maya Beach area.



If you choose to frequent the local restaurants, you can choose anything from local faire to fine dining that will satisfy the most exquisite food critic. Restaurants vary from a 15 minute walk on the beach to a 15 minute golf cart ride.







The Placencia area has a variety of restaurants to suite the tastes of everyone in your group.

The nearest restaurant is the Bonefish Grill, in the Singing Sands Resort, which is North of the Villa and serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Maya is the manager and she has given us permission to use the pool there if we use the restaurant! Also located north of the Villa, Maya Beach Bistro lets us use the pool during daytime dining hours! There is a new Beach Club that has a fancier pool and you are welcome to have a drink and spend the day at that pool as well. They have pool parties on Sundays last I heard!

Don't miss the gelato at Tutti Frutti. I think it is fun to have lunch at Roberts Grove as they have a great beach. Town has many great options for fun: Barefoot Bar, The Purple Space Monkey, Yoli's, DeViners, Breakfast at Detach, smoothies at the Shak, local flavor at Omars and fine dining at Rumfish and The Turtle Inn! For good bread, you can go the the bakery at Haciendas across from Roberts Grove.

Enjoy nice wine and food at The Turtle Inn. Your concierge, Aaron, plays flamenco guitar there on Wednesday evenings!











What Our Guests Are Saying...

"Our trip to Belize was everything I had hoped it would be. Staying at the Tree Top Villa was the best planning decision we made. It was not only very comfortable but a wonderful base location for many of our adventures.

One thing the letters don't talk about is the comforts of the villa. There were several small things that made a difference. Having morning coffee, the excellent air conditioning, the hair dryer, the Rough Guide and the blowup bed (it was nice for the four of us to all be together at bedtime). We all explored around on the bikes, used the fishing gear in the lagoon, and had fun with the kayak.

There were soooo many cool things to do in Belize that even the fourteen days we were there was not enough time to do all the things we had planned.

This experience has given our family priceless memories. Many thanks to you all for your part." - DiAnn

"We spent the first week in February at the Villa and it was the best vacation we've ever had. Placencia is quiet and serene without a lot of tourists and commercialization, and we loved that. The villa is spectacular, and you pretty much have your own beach. We only saw a couple of other people all week aside from the locals who walked by with their dogs on occasion, which we looked forward to since we missed our dog.

After taking a day to decompress (we turned our phones off and didn't have email) we mostly just relaxed. Went out to dinner every night and had some great meals. Took a drive to Cockscomb wildlife preserve and tubed down the river, went on the Monkey River Tour and saw Howlers, took the kayak out to False Key, road the beach cruisers to lunch...the only thing we didn't do is snorkel because of my broken foot, but it is highly recommended.

We are especially fond of the huge tub on the top floor balcony where we got engaged! Chris and Kristi are wonderful hosts. I have only wonderful things to say about this vacation, if anyone has any questions about the area, we got to know it pretty well and I'm happy to help." - Jean

Simply a lovely week at a rather secluded neighborhood that was a brief bike ride away from restaurants and other amenities. We had perfect weather, and used the night breezes and ceiling fans to cool the bedroom at night. The pictures show the property accurately ... and the home was closer to the beach than I expected. You just have to experience the outdoor tub under the stars - W.O.W! Owners Chris and Kristi were super helpful answering emails quickly and offering lots of info. -Jane



Arranging Your Visit

Are you ready to make your reservation? Contact Kristi at 303-601-9075.

If you need anything locally while you are at the Villa, you are welcome to walk over to the CocoPlum sales office and speak with Aaron. He will serve as your concierge service while you visit and he is very knowledgeable about the Peninsula.



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