



## BELIZE: PILGRIMS OF THE CARIBBEAN

*Belize is a Central American one-of-a-kind. From the rich rain forests to the Caribbean Sea, Belize boasts the peculiar integration of two worlds. She was the stomping grounds of a vast Mayan culture, as numerous ruins testify, but Belize was*

*eventually conquered by English pirates who found logging to be a safer method to make a living. Today, Belize is the only English speaking Central American country and the birthplace of Anglicanism in CA. An eco-paradise, Belize boasts such exciting adventures as world-class snorkeling, the exploration of ancient ruins, or the thrill of cave tubing. This is a true paradise.*

*But, the majority of the populace lives under the poverty level, and there is great need. Your group will have the opportunity to meet this joyful people and, at the same time, serve them in a tangible way. Belize is a CA country with an island culture. Here you will live as Pilgrims of the Caribbean.*

### DAY 1: CARIBBEAN PILGRIMS

Our pilgrims from North Carolina will arrive Tuesday morning and head out to a traditional lunch in the heart of Belize City. Our spiritual journey will begin with a Pilgrim's Eucharist led by the Bishop of Belize at the oldest Anglican Church in Central America, Saint John's Cathedral. We will learn about the history of the Anglican Church in Belize and what our week entails. We then journey inland to our jungle home for the week, a mission base outside of the capital, Belmopan. We will settle in to our comfy eco-lodges, have a great meal, and take the evening to learn about Belize while pondering what it means to be a pilgrim.



### DAY 2: SACRIFICE

What does sacrifice look like? This will be our primary question of the day as we first travel to the ancient Mayan kingdom of Xunantunich to explore the ruins and learn about ancient Mayan sacrifice and society. We then head into San Ignacio, a pleasant town with a busy marketplace. Your team will not only enjoy a good lunch, but you will buy the supplies for your Stone Soup meals. The afternoon will be spent with an onsite work project in a local town. This will allow us, as visitors to Belize, to give something back. After Stone Soup we will go on a night hike through the jungle in search of the Hearth of the Universe. Our evening session will finish on what sacrifice means to us as followers of Christ.



### DAY 3: THE INNER SANCTUARY AND CAVE TUBING

Those who join the road of pilgrimage have to be willing to deal with the dark and hidden areas of their lives. Today we have a unique opportunity found only in Belize- a cave tubing adventure. A tubing trip down a lazy river is fun, but tubing through a series of caves is thrilling! We will focus our encounter times on the inner sanctuary of our hearts, and on allowing God into the dark and hidden places of our lives.

## DAY 4 - GIVING BACK

We start the day by exploring a passage in the Gospels: Matthew 25. What did it mean when Jesus said what you do for the least of these you do for me? We will not only ponder scripture, but we will put our faith to the test with a series of activities throughout the course of the day. We'll start our morning with a Water Day Celebration for the small children of the village and throw a neighborhood picnic for lunch. The afternoon will be a day of work projects throughout the village. You could do anything from painting a home to building a whole house. A cultural exchange with young people will fill our evening. This is a day of great joy, hard work and true understanding of the heart of Christ.



## DAY 5: AN ISLAND UNTO THYSELF

Today will be one of those once in a lifetime days. We will head out to the coast early to catch our private boat for our Caribbean adventure on one of the most beautiful coastal expanses in Central America. Imagine snorkeling in crystal clear water, frolicking on our own private island, exploring paradise, and sailing in the ocean breezes. This will be a day that will deeply etch the title "Pilgrims of the Caribbean" into the hearts of our travelers. It is also a day to ponder the need for community in our lives. What is the church? Why do we need the community of Christ? Why do we need each other? We were never designed to be islands unto ourselves.

## DAY 6: A PILGRIM'S REFLECTION

After what we hope was a great night of sleep, the team will head into St. Ignacio to join in the pigeon English service at a local church. After service the team will have an hour of free time in San Ignacio before we head out to a secret location, the 20-Foot Falls, an idyllic spot for swimming. On the way back to IHW, you will stop for some shopping to pick up souvenirs. You'll spend a couple of hours in the afternoon showering up, packing up and cleaning up so your evening will be free. Tonight we will engage in a fantastic Celebration Feast and head back to our base for our Pass the Candle ceremony where we will recall our adventures and moments of wonder throughout our pilgrimage.

## DAY 7 - THE PILGRIM'S RETURN

After a final Belizean breakfast the team will depart of jungle home. We will stop for one last half-hour shopping spree at a special art shop, and then it is back on the road to the airport. Our Pilgrims of the Caribbean will have stories galore to share of their travels to the only English-speaking country in Central America. We hope that their real pilgrimage has just begun.

