

## Chaa Creek initiative soars

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*World traveller, 95-year-old Majorie Hagan, lands at the Lodge at Chaa Creek in style.*

Ninety-Five-year old Marjorie Hagan has an unquenchable appetite for adventure. Earlier this year she was in India riding elephants.

Last week she was one of the first guests to experience Chaa Creek's new helicopter transfer service. Mrs. Hagan was at Chaa Creek on an extended celebration of her 95th birthday in October.

"I enjoyed the flight, but I also miss riding the elephants in India," Hagan chuckled as the helicopter landed at the Lodge at Chaa Creek's helipad.

Living up to its true pioneering spirit, the Lodge at Chaa Creek has joined with Astrum Helicopters, a local helicopter transfer company, to give guests an innovative and thrilling sight-seeing tour of Belize's attractions while being transferred to the Lodge.

According to Gustavo Giron Jr., President of Astrum Helicopters, the company offers guests two transfer options to Chaa Creek from the Philip Goldson International Airport – either via a direct route or via the Maya Mountains and the 1,000 Foot Falls.

Exploring the first option, guests can sit back and enjoy the picture perfect view of the mainland as they soar over lagoons, creeks and villages. The flight first takes them over Macklehanny and Cox Lagoons. There they can see Black Howler Monkeys swinging from the trees and Jabiru Storks – the largest flying birds in the Americas – wading in the marshes. Suddenly, they find themselves gliding over the Belize River with its many twists and turns while their newly found birds' eye view scans the quaint villages of Camalote, Ontario and Cristo Rey, which dot the unspoiled mainland of the Cayo District.

The second option takes guests over lagoons, sinkholes, river and caves. Their flight path soars above the winding Sibun River, the green expanse of Belize's mountainous rainforests and famous bathing spots such as Freetown Sibun, Butcher Burns, Cedar Bank and Gracy Rock Bank.

The flight path includes Caves Branch, an area that encompasses 58,000 acres that are situated beneath a 100 foot rainforest canopy and bordered by the turquoise waters of the Caves Branch River and the deep forest of the Mountain Pine Ridge.

Guests will be treated to a stunning full view of the splashing 1,000 Foot Falls, the largest waterfall in Belize and Central America. The flight then heads west as it glides over the lush Mountain Pine Ridge where guests can see up to 6 additional waterfalls before arriving at the Lodge at Chaa Creek.

The company uses the Bell 206 Jet Ranger helicopter, which can accommodate 4 passengers and the Bell 206 Long Ranger helicopter, which can accommodate 6 passengers. All transfers can originate from Belize International Airport, Municipal Airport or Cisco Base for the same price.

In addition to making transfers for Chaa Creek, the company also provides charters to any destination in Belize.

Asked why Astrum Helicopters decided to partner with Chaa Creek, Gustavo said: "Chaa Creek is a unique, world class resort. Its accommodations are excellent and our transfers give value for money to Chaa Creek's guests as they can enjoy a faster transfer to Chaa Creek while enjoying Belize's attractions from a unique and different perspective."

"Our flight department staff is committed to providing our clients with efficient, convenient and safe responses to their transportation needs. Our pilots have logged over several thousand hours of flight time. Our management team and pilots all have more than 25 years of aviation experience," Giron said.

The Lodge at Chaa Creek is a pioneer in natural history travel since 1981. The joint partnership with Astrum Helicopters now takes Chaa Creek's pioneering spirit to new heights and elevates its efforts to provide its guests with an adventurous and unforgettable visit to Chaa Creek.