



## Helicopter Adventure to the Blue Hole

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(Adventure departs from Cisco Base, Belize City. Total Flight Time 1.4 hrs approximate)

Your adventure will begin once you board your private helicopter. This once in a lifetime adventure will take you to see 2 of the 3 atolls in Belize which has the largest Barrier Reef in the Western Hemisphere and second largest in the world, stretching for more than 179 miles.



Once in flight you will head south-east and see Belize City from the air as few have seen it before. You will quickly have the Reef in view where you will fly over Drowned Cayes and Gallows Pt. At the cross over of the reef you will view the rushing waves that fight to get across the reef. Open your ears as the music of the waves take you far away into a relaxation zone. Keep your eyes open too; you may be one of the lucky few who get's to see sharks, dolphins, sting rays, manatees or crocodiles along the way.

Not further along will be the beautiful view of Turneffe Islands, about 30 miles long and 10 miles wide. The flight enters over the north of the Island at Snake Pt., then you will enter the Central Lagoon where you will fly over many small cayes before reaching the Northern Bogue and the east end of Turneffe Islands. At

the atolls, there are about 200 cayes that are covered by mangroves. The Turneffe Islands are home to many exotic marine animals the more popular of those are the eagle rays, playful dolphins, turtles, huge green morays, giant Jew fish, nurse sharks, reef sharks, grouper, snapper and hose-eye jacks.



The adventure continues as you venture into the open ocean continuing south-east heading towards the Lighthouse Reef Atoll, beyond the barrier en route to the one of a kind Blue Hole. The Blue Hole is the largest



ocean sinkhole in the world, created by a collapsed underground cavern, hence giving the appearance of a dark blue circle amidst the turquoise sea. The Blue Hole measures 1,000 ft in diameter and 460 feet in depth. It is located approximately 60 miles east from Belize City and in March of 1996 it was declared a World Heritage Site and later declared a National Monument in February of 1999.

Passing inside the Lighthouse Reef you will now see the great Blue Hole surrounded by hard reef that borders it with only two small channels breaking into it. As you go across this spectacular hole, you will be dazzled by its size and color. Going

on further in the tour, the flight will take you over one of Belize's largest protected areas, Half Moon Caye Natural Monument which encompasses 10,000 acres of atoll and 15 square miles of surrounding areas. Moving toward Long Caye on the west side of the atoll, you will pass again over the Turneffe Islands where you will be able to see once again one of the few islands with white sandy beach. Finally, it's off back to the deep blue sea of the Caribbean as you head back to Belize City.