



## Helicopter Adventure to the Maya Ruins of Altun Ha & Lamanai

### Helicopter Adventure to the Maya Ruins of Altun Ha & Lamanai (Adventure departs from Cisco Base, Belize City. Total Time 4 to 5 hrs)

After leaving the heliport at Belize City, your helicopter adventure takes you over the International Airport where you will turn north to fly over Salt Creek Estate which is 44 square miles (it is said there are 14 unexcavated Maya sites in the estate). Moving along, you will fly over the Old Northern Highway which was the main highway in the British Honduras time.



The flight heads over to the Altun Ha Maya Ruins located 31 miles north of Belize City. Altun Ha means Water of the Rock. It was here that the largest carved jade object in the whole Maya area, a Jade Head, was found. This Jade Head represents the Sun God, Kinich Ahau, and can be seen in the corner of every Belizean banknote. Altun Ha was a major ceremonial center during the Classic Period (250-900 A.D) and functioned as a vital trading center linking the Caribbean shores with other Maya centers. You will view the most visited Mayan Site in Belize from above as it looks so peaceful yet magnificent.

Continuing on the journey, you will fly over a rainforest canopy that sweeps across Northern Belize and not further along is the famous Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. Feel free like the birds as they flock around at the lake where they come every year for mating season. Crooked Tree is popular not only for bird watching, but also for fishing. Not long after leaving Crooked Tree you will fly over the Lamanai Maya Ruins. The meaning of Lamanai is Submerged Crocodile. It is located in the Orange Walk district on the New River Lagoon. Lamanai, being one of Belize's largest ceremonial centers, displays the more exotic features of ancient Maya art and architecture. Lamanai had one of the longest occupation spans, dating from 1500 B.C to the 19th century A.D. See it as very few have seen it flying over and around it as you get to have a first-hand air experience of one of the most ancient historical Maya Ruins. You will then land at a private airstrip where you will be transported to the Mayan Ruins of Lamanai for your private tour of the site; your guide will walk you through and give you a unique insight to the details of this amazing place (lunch can be arranged at the Lamanai Outpost Lodge, before or after your private tour).



Next you are once again towering into the sky as you head back to Belize City in the helicopter but not before passing over the New River Lagoon and the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. Not long after the last lagoon you will fly over the Belize River and Burrell Boom, once approaching Belize City you will get a bird's eye view of the city as you head in for your final landing at Cisco Base.