



How To Spend 72 Hours in Placencia, Belize

Years ago, we stopped in Belize on a Caribbean cruise, and we honestly weren't that impressed. Our excursion took us on a tour around Belize City and to a popular archaeological site. The ruins were amazing, but we spent the days with crowds of tourists and didn't get to fully appreciate all that this tiny Central American country has to offer.

I was excited when we had the opportunity to go back to Belize with our two boys and visit a few destinations off the beaten path. We spent three days on the narrow Placencia Peninsula and fell in love with this beautiful region. Keep reading to discover how we spent 3 days in Placencia and why it was so magical!

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The Best Things to Do in Placencia, Belize

Check Into the Kalimera Beach Hotel

If you're looking to escape the crowds, [Kalimera Beach Hotel](#) is the place for you!

This charming boutique hotel sits right on the shore of Maya Beach, a sleepy beach town about 25 minutes from Placencia.

The hotel itself is small, with only 8 rooms, which means you'll be sharing the beach with only a few other guests. The beach also has limited public access, so it feels like your own private beach and personal slice of paradise!

This eco-friendly hotel opened at the end of 2023, and the pristine property still feels fresh and new. We stayed in the Double Deluxe Room, which was perfect for our family of four.

The rooms are comfortable, spacious, and tastefully decorated to reflect the region. The cold air conditioning and hot showers were also heavenly!

Our favorite feature of the hotel is that each room is only steps from the pool and beach. Each morning, we would roll out of bed and relax in the hammocks or shaded lounge chairs.

Eat Lunch at Kalimera

We took a red-eye flight to Belize, and after a 2.5-hour drive from the airport (you can also take a 30-minute flight on a small plane), we were famished by the time we arrived at our hotel.

After checking in, we immediately ordered lunch from the small cafe at Kalimera Beach Hotel.

The shrimp tacos and Kali Mezze platter were amazing! The food was so fresh and flavorful, and completely hit the spot. It was a bonus that we could enjoy such a delicious meal right on the beach!

Spend the Afternoon Relaxing

After a long travel day, it was so nice to spend the afternoon just relaxing at the hotel. We napped in the hammocks, read books on the beach, and swam in the pool.

The service here is top-notch. The server from the beach bar knew us by name and was quick to bring us anything we needed at the pool or beach. He even brought us complimentary homemade banana muffins hot out of the oven!

We enjoyed another delicious lunch on the beach, and also ordered poolside fresh mango smoothies. They were unbelievable!

Dinner at a Local Restaurant

The cafe at Kalimera is only open for breakfast and lunch, but the hotel gave us recommendations for local restaurants within walking distance.

We walked under the stars to Maya Beach Bistro and enjoyed local dishes on their outdoor beachfront deck.

Sunrise on the Beach

Even if you aren't a morning person, I recommend waking up for sunrise at least once on your trip. I promise it will be worth it!

I woke up just before the sun crept over the horizon, and it was so peaceful to watch as the clouds were slowly illuminated with bursts of orange and pink.

The early morning water was smooth as glass, and one of my favorite moments of the entire trip was paddleboarding on the calm water at sunrise.

I had the entire beach to myself for a few hours. I bounced between the salt water and the swimming pool, and it was the best way to start the day!

Breakfast at Kalimera

While I was soaking up the sunrise, the boys enjoyed sleeping in, which is a dream vacation for any teen!

After they woke up, we ordered breakfast from the cafe at Kalimera Beach Hotel. Breakfast is included with your stay, and once again, the food exceeded our expectations!

Everything was made fresh to order using locally sourced ingredients. We loved everything we ate, but we couldn't get enough of the sweet fryjacks and fresh-pressed pineapple juice!

Enjoy the Watersports

Complimentary kayaks and paddleboards are available for guests to use. We had fun spending a few hours out on the water as a family.

Snorkel gear is also free for guests to use. The water is so warm and clear, and my youngest son had the best time snorkeling in the shallow water.

Complimentary bikes are also available if you want to ride around town to check out the local shops.

Dinner in Placencia

That evening, the hotel arranged a taxi for us, and we drove about 25 minutes to Placencia. This colorful seaside town offers a vibrant mix of local restaurants and beachfront rum bars.

One of Placencia's claims to fame is the world-famous "Placencia Sidewalk". This 4-foot-wide 'street' is lined with shops and restaurants and is listed in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the Narrowest Main Street in the World.

It was fun to stroll along and pop into the different shops to look for souvenirs, and of course, ice cream.

For dinner, our taxi driver recommended Wendy's Creole Restaurant. The food was delicious, and I loved eating on the plantation-style front porch. However, the mosquitoes were in full force, so bring your bug spray!

Island Hopping + Snorkeling Tour

After another amazing breakfast at the hotel, we headed out on a full-day [Island Hopping & Snorkeling Tour](#).

The tour operator was [Go Sea Belize](#), but we booked it through the hotel. It was cheaper to book it through the hotel, and it was convenient to have them arrange everything for us.

It was a private tour with just our family, and we had the most amazing day! It helped that the weather was in our favor. The sky and the sea were completely calm, and the early morning water was as smooth as glass.

Our captain told us that the barrier reef helps keep the water from getting too choppy, so you don't need to worry about getting seasick unless it is stormy and windy.

Gladden Spit & Silk Cayes Marine Reserve

It took about 50 minutes to drive to our first stop, the Gladden Spit & Silk Cayes Marine Reserve.

This tiny island sits about 22 miles off the shore of Palencia. Although it is small, the island is surrounded by abundant marine life.

As we pulled in closer to the island, we were greeted by a pod of dolphins. This little welcoming committee likes to greet each boat that enters the reserve. It was the cutest thing ever!

We spent about an hour snorkeling around the island with a licensed guide. We saw so many colorful fish and intricate coral, and learned all about this protected reserve.

My youngest is nervous in the ocean, but our guide made him feel so comfortable, and he was the last one out of the water when we were done!

After snorkeling, we enjoyed a delicious traditional Belizean lunch right on the beach.

Not only did we have the best view, but our table was surrounded by sea turtle nests. The rangers at the reserve tag and track all the mama turtles who travel as far as the US before coming back to this tiny island in the Caribbean to lay their eggs on the same beach where they were born. It is mind-blowing!

Turtle Alley

Turtle Alley is a short boat ride from Silk Caye and is known as a popular hangout for sea turtles, nurse sharks, and sting rays.

We didn't see any rays, but were able to snorkel right alongside a massive sea turtle and float above a nurse shark. It was so surreal, and my boys couldn't get enough!

Ray Caye

We stopped at two more islands as we made our way back to Placencia. The first was [Ray Caye](#), a private island resort.

Our favorite part was the two-story dock with a jumping platform and a waterslide that goes right into the ocean! We spent most of our time on the slide and hanging out in the hammocks on the lower level.

We ventured over to the beach bar, where we ordered fresh mango smoothies (we couldn't get enough of them on this trip!) and took a dip in the pool before it was time to leave.

Moho Caye

Our last stop was at Moho Caye. This private island is owned by Ray Caye Island Resort and is only open to their resort guests and contracted boat tours.

The small island is absolutely gorgeous! You'll find thick groves of palm trees, pristine white sandy beaches, and crystal clear water. It is the epitome of paradise! We spent about an hour relaxing in the shade and snorkeling.

We visited in September during the slow season, and we shared the entire island with only a handful of other people.

We loved it here, and it was hard to leave!

Dinner at the Pelican Pub & Grill

The full tour took about 7 hours, and we were happy but exhausted by the time we returned to Placencia.

We opted for an early dinner at the Pelican Pub & Grill located at the Green Parrot Resort right next to our hotel.

The food was good, the portions were generous, and the service was great. We also loved the ambiance of the open-air restaurant right on the beach.

The resort also has ocean swings right in the water, and my boys had fun swinging on them after dinner.

We ordered dessert to-go and enjoyed a thick slice of chocolate cake and rich key lime pie while sitting on the beach at Kalimera Hotel. It was the perfect ending to our unforgettable time in Placencia!

The next morning, we headed to the Cayo district in the heart of the Belizean jungle. Stay tuned as I share about our jungle adventures soon!

