

A tropical beach scene with several palm trees. In the foreground, a woman in a blue bikini and a white cover-up is holding a baby. The background shows the ocean and a clear sky. The image is framed by a white border with decorative white line art of leaves and a sunburst in the upper center.

Belize

FAMILY TRAVEL GUIDE

Kennady Scott

TRAVELING WITH A BABY?

Air Travel Tips:

- If you are traveling with an infant on your lap, call your airline reservations to ensure your child is attached to your reservation and ticketed EVEN IF you already did it online.
- Bring your baby's passport AND birth certificate (especially if you and your partner have different last names)
- Book seats A and C, people are less likely to book the middle seat and you might end up with the row to yourself!

Hotel and Accommodations:

- If you are staying at an AirBnB and plan to use their Pack 'N Play - contact them ahead of time to ensure they have it available for you.
- Most hotels will have a travel crib ready in your room if you request it. I suggest bringing your own sheet from home

Health and Safety:

We got two additional vaccines for our baby, Hep A and MMR, prior to our trip. Talk with your doctor at least two months in advance to ensure you can take the proper safety precautions.

Safety

Despite the US level 3 travel advisory for Belize, we felt very safe the entire time. There is quite a bit of crime in Belize City, but we only traveled through there during the day. The locals were all very kind and helpful as we traveled around.

We brought our carseat for all taxis and the golf cart despite there being zero laws in Belize about carseats. See my [instagram video](#) on how to attach a carseat to a golf cart.

Don't Miss:

- The Tipsy Lobster
- Secret Beach
- Cave Tubing

Where we stayed:

- [Mystic River Resort](#) (San Ignacio)
- [AirBnb](#) (San Pedro)

Definitely...

- Rent a golf cart
- Explore the north end of San Pedro
- Get cash in your home country (Belize uses BZD and USD)

Itinerary



Austin, TX

Day 1

- Hotel Indigo
- Pelons
- SouthCongress



San Pedro

Day 5

- Secret Beach
- Golf Cart Excursions



San Ignacio

Day 2

- Travel & Customs
- Mystic River Resort



San Pedro

Day 6

- AirBnb
- Golf Cart Excursions
- Truck Stop



San Ignacio

Day 3

- Pool Day
- Cave Tubing



Travel Day

Day 7

- Transfer to airport
- Fly to Miami



San Pedro

Day 4

- Check Out & Transfer
- Belize City Ferry Terminal
- AirBnb



Travel Home

Day 8

- Fly home



DAY 01

Layover in Austin, TX

We flew out of Aspen, Colorado direct to Austin where we had a 13 hour overnight layover. We were determined to make the best of it, because my husband and I love Austin. We stayed at the Hotel Indigo on points, which was okay. It is directly across from Stubb's, so if you are ready for a night out, it's great.

However, we were with our 8 month old son and two teenagers. You can clearly hear bumpin' music very late into the night in your room. It did have a nice pool that the boys were able to play in for a couple of hours and Pelons is next door for some yummy snacks and margaritas.

“You're the yee to my haw”



After swimming and margs, we headed down to South Congress for happy hour/dinner at Joann's. Every single item out of that kitchen was delicious and I highly recommend eating there if you are in Austin. We are particular fans of the cucumber tajin appetizer and the spicy green margarita!

Next up, head over to Jenni's for some ice cream and stroll around South Congress with your cone. This is where all of the murals are that you see on social media and they are so fun to take pictures in front of.



If you walk a little further down South Congress, you will find Meteor. Here they have pizza, wine, lawn games, and more. We stumbled across this place last time we were in Austin and love it. Such a cool vibe and great place to chill and end the night.

I scheduled our morning Uber before we went to bed because we needed an XXL Uber at 4:00am - the driver always recommended scheduling those early morning pickups.

BOOKING TOURS

Option 1



Book directly through your hotel or resort if available. This allows transfers to be easily set up through your hotel.

Option 2



Use an online service such as Tripadvisor to book tours and excursions.

Option 3



Go on your own! Many activities can be done on your own - I would recommend a guide for cave tubing though!



DAY 02

Travel to San Ignacio

Mystic River Resort

We had an early 4:00am departure to the Austin airport, grabbed some grab and go burritos at Salt Lick once we were through security, and then started our journey to Belize. We had a very short layover in Miami and then a quick flight over to Belize City.

Once we landed in Belize City, they quickly moved us off the plane and into the customs line area. Complete all forms prior to getting off of the plane so you are ready to go in the line and aren't stuck filling out paperwork while the line fills up before your eyes.

Journey

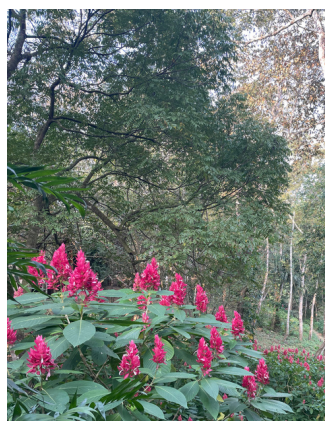


Mystic River Resort

We realized in the shuffle of everything, we did not grab our stroller or any gate check items, but this is common practice. They will bring your gate check items to the luggage area, so don't stress!

Customs felt intimidating. They are very serious about paperwork, asked our teenagers repeatedly if we were their mom and dad, and were not messing around.

If you have different last names, you must show birth certificates for your children proving they are your children. Additionally, if you are a blended family, come prepared with the notarized letter of consent for travel signed by both birth parents.



After making our way through customs, we found all of our luggage (including our gate check items) and went to the front of the airport where our driver was waiting for us. We got loaded up and head out to Mystic River Resort.

The drive was approximately 2 hours, so be prepared with water and snacks. The road is smooth and paved aside from the last mile into the resort.

Mystic River is set up as individual casitas, which was perfect. Each casita has its own balcony overlooking the jungle and river.

The pool bar will set you up with a welcome drink if you head over there on day one!

We arrived during a heat wave, but the hotel does not have air conditioning. We set up every fan available, but it was still hot - 85 degrees + at night. Our 8 month old slept in just a diaper each night.

If you are planning to book excursions through the resort, do so upon arrival.



DAY 03

Cristo Rey Village Cayo District

Mystic River Resort

The night before, you can request to have coffee delivered to your door first thing in the morning. This is a nice way to start the day before heading over to breakfast. We enjoyed our coffee and banana bread on the balcony each morning.

The hotel comes with continental breakfast, but it never felt quite enough for me.

It does not offer a protein option, so I ended up ordering breakfast each day. The kids seemed fine with the continental options.

Take the morning to walk down to the river and explore the hotel grounds - it is beautiful. You can access the kayaks to go in the river as well, just ask the front office for assistance and they will get you set up.



Cave Tubing & Pool-Side Lounging

My husband and two teenage step-sons went on a cave tubing expedition straight from Mystic River. I hung back with my 8-month old at the resort for the day.

The boys had a fantastic time exploring the cave, swimming, and tubing through the river. They said it was one of the best experiences they have ever had. Our oldest son (15) was nervous to go, but ended up loving it. I recommend getting out on an excursion if you have the time and funds.

My baby and I spent the day walking around the resort, taking naps, and swimming at the pool. The pool is up a dirt path, so don't expect to get your stroller up there unless you are prepared for some off-roading.

The boys came back around 4pm and we spent more time at the pool before having dinner. The restaurant at the resort is surprisingly delicious. All of our meals were top notch.

WHAT WOULD I DO NEXT TIME?



ATM Cave

Hopefully our guy will be big enough next time to do a cave tour together. The boys loved their excursion.



Tikal Day Trip

I would love to visit the ruins around San Ignacio and throughout Belize



Barton Creek Tour

This looks stunning and I would love to explore this area.



DAY 04

Travel to San Pedro

San Pedro, Belize

With a long travel day ahead, we left Mystic River Resort at 9am to head back to Belize City to the ferry terminal. The drive took a little over 2 hours. The ferry terminal is chaotic. The men in green polos take your bags from you to check onto the boat. This feels like you will never get your luggage back, but you will.

We grabbed a couple beers and stood in line for the ferry. They recommend arriving 30 minutes early, and take that advice. Don't hang around sitting at the terminal, get in line. The ferry was 1.5 hours over to San Pedro. We brought our own life jacket for our 8 month old as an extra precaution.

Journey



San Pedro, Belize

Taxis, Ferries, and Golf Carts

Once we arrived on San Pedro, we waited about 20 minutes to get our luggage. Then we found our taxi, signed off on our golf cart, and drove up north to our AirBnb. It took approximately 30 minutes to get from town to the [AirBnb](#). I was originally nervous about this, but it ended up being amazing. The north side is calm and quiet compared to the hustle bustle of town.

We stopped for wine and a few groceries on our way. If you are staying up north, I recommend grabbing your groceries in town. The options as you continue up are limited.

We checked into the AirBnb and got our golf cart squared away. The AirBnb was perfect and air conditioned - a welcome change from the jungle.

After spending some time at the pool, we loaded up for dinner at the Topsy Lobster. I personally think this was our best dinner the entire trip.



DAY 05

San Pedro, Belize

Secret Beach

Take a day to head out to Secret Beach, which I assure you is not so much of a secret but is plenty of fun. Don't get distracted by the first parking area, go ahead and drive down to the end and park down there. The restaurants on the far end are better and the vibe is chillier.

We posted up on some beach chairs. The restaurants have servers that come to you and check on you all day. You will have plenty of refreshments and food while you hang out on the beach, go swimming, and check out the water park.

It's not the destination, it's the journey. And in Belize, it's both.

Our AirBnb had a private beach, dock, and swimming pool.





DAY 06

San Pedro, Belize

On our final full day in Belize, we took the day to chill at the Airbnb. We went out for lunch at the Truck Stop which is almost all the way back to town. It was a great option for the wide variety of wants in our family. The place is very cool with access to a pool, games, and a beach.

We grilled out at our Airbnb and sorted out our travel arrangements for the following day. American Airlines had a last minute change to our flight which impacted our ferry and taxi. Ferry tickets are always adjustable even if you have a time written on your ferry!

San Pedro, Belize





DAY 07

Travel Home

Give yourself plenty of time to get to the airport if you are over on San Pedro. It took us a 30 minute taxi ride, 1.5 hour ferry ride, 30 minutes awaiting luggage, and another 30 minute taxi ride to get to the airport.

Checking in and moving through customs was simple. We stopped for pizza and beer once we were in the terminal and went on our way to Miami, Florida for our overnight connection. The following morning, we flew through Dallas back to our home in Aspen, Colorado.

WHAT WOULD I DO NEXT TIME?

Caye Caulker



I would like to stay on Caye Caulker. It seemed like a very mellow pace.

Lobster Season



I want to come back during lobster season! We couldn't find lobster anywhere!

Hol Chan Marine Reserve



I'd love to go snorkeling at the Hol Chan Marine Reserve.

March 2024

Belize



Secret Beach

Let's get social!

● @adventureonfamily

● @infantonlap
