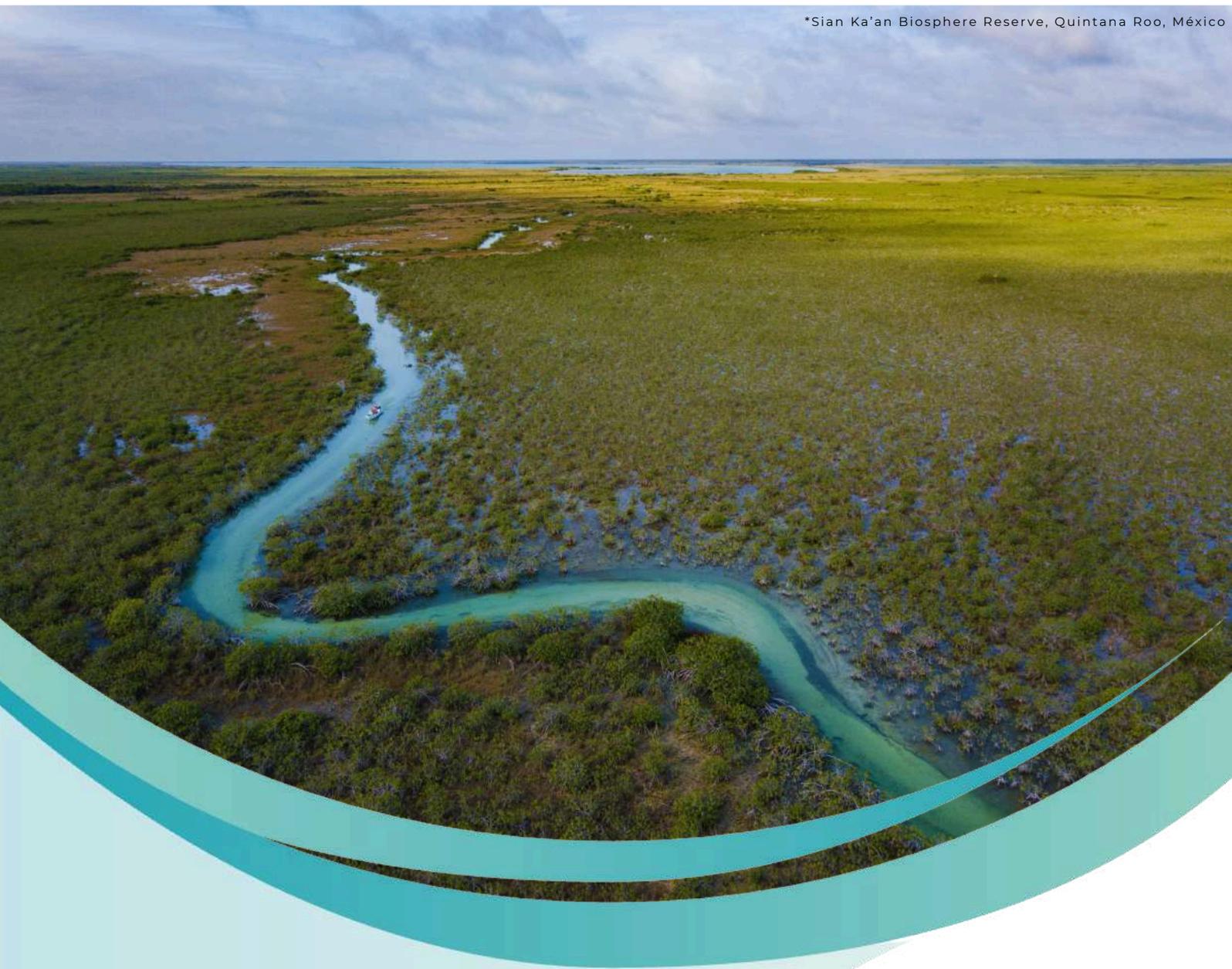


September 30th, 2025



\*Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Quintana Roo, México



# GOOD TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

GTA's: FIRST SELECTION OF AUTHENTIC AND  
GENUINE EXPERIENCES

**AMERICAS**

[alliance.greendestinations.org](http://alliance.greendestinations.org)  
[www.goodtravel.guide](http://www.goodtravel.guide)



The Good Travel Alliance is a **collective of committed** destinations, tourism boards, tour operators, and experience providers working together to develop travel products, attractions, activities, and trails that maximize social benefits while **minimizing negative impacts on the climate, environment, nature and culture.**

## FORCE FOR GOOD

With the support of Green Destinations experts, we help measure the impacts of those experiences, enabling the promotion of existing and new travel offers enabling **Good Travel Experiences.**

You are now reading the first edition of a guide that will be updated every month, with an ever increasing number of experiences.

**Would you like to see your experience included?**

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[alliance.greendestinations.org](http://alliance.greendestinations.org)  
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### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

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# AMERICAS

**GOOD TRAVEL  
EXPERIENCES**

# ANCIENT CANAL

## DISCOVER A BIOSPHERE RESERVE WHILE CONNECTING WITH LIVING MAYAS

Just minutes from Tulum, explore an ancient Mayan canal winding through four unique ecosystems within the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sian Ka'an. Operated by a Mayan cooperative committed to sustainability, this immersive journey supports local communities and environmental education.

  NATURE & CULTURE EXPERIENCE

GOOD TRAVEL  
ALLIANCE 

## SIAN KA'AN MAYA ZONE

Experience an ancient Mayan canal winding through the four unique ecosystems of Sian Ka'an. Glide along crystal-clear waters, spot exotic birds, manatees, and crocodiles, and float peacefully among lush mangroves, orchids, and bromeliads. Explore the historic Mayan temple of Xlapak and conclude with a traditional Mayan meal, supporting the local community and the conservation of this UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.



### CONTACT US

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+52 9841140750 | [VIDEO-STORY](#)

### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** 8 Hrs

**Type of activity:** Adventure & Nature  
**Is accessibility information available?** Yes

### RECOGNITIONS

 GTE SCAN: 100%



Making contributions to the local economy



Empowering local people or communities



# KAYAK

## PADDLE THROUGH ANCIENT MAYAN WATERWAYS

Just minutes from Tulum, embark on an unforgettable kayak journey through the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sian Ka'an. Operated by a Mayan cooperative committed to sustainability, this adventure combines nature, history, and culture while directly supporting local communities and environmental conservation.

  NATURE & CULTURE EXPERIENCE

GOOD TRAVEL  
ALLIANCE 

## SIAN KA'AN MAYA ZONE

Paddle across tranquil lagoons once used as Mayan trade routes, surrounded by lush mangroves and thriving wildlife. Spot ospreys, herons, egrets, and even crocodiles basking in the sun. Navigate a handcrafted Mayan canal connecting two lagoons, witness the ingenuity of this ancient civilization, and immerse yourself in the serenity of the wetlands. The experience concludes with a traditional Mayan meal at the cooperative's palapa, ensuring your visit benefits both the community and the conservation of Sian Ka'an.



### CONTACT US

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+52 9841140750 | [VIDEO-STORY](#)

### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** 6 Hrs

**Type of activity:** Adventure & Nature

**Is accessibility information available?** N/A

### RECOGNITIONS

 GTE SCAN: 100%



Making contributions to the local economy



Empowering local people or communities



# BIRD WATCHING

## DISCOVER THE SKIES OF SIAN KA'AN

Just a short drive from Tulum, explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sian Ka'an, home to over 350 bird species. Operated by a Mayan cooperative committed to sustainability, this immersive experience blends ornithology, ecology, and Maya knowledge while supporting local livelihoods and environmental conservation.

  NATURE & CULTURE EXPERIENCE



GOOD TRAVEL  
ALLIANCE 

## SIAN KA'AN MAYA ZONE

Begin at dawn, when bird activity is at its peak. Observe iconic species like the Turquoise-browed Motmot, Keel-billed Toucan, Emerald Hummingbird, and seasonal migratory birds, all in their natural habitat. With patience and expert guidance, enjoy a contemplative journey into the wetlands and forests of Sian Ka'an. The experience concludes with a traditional Mayan meal at the cooperative's palapa, ensuring your visit directly benefits the local community and the preservation of this extraordinary biosphere.



### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** 5 Hrs

**Type of activity:** Adventure & Nature

**Is accessibility information available?** Yes



### RECOGNITIONS

 GTE SCAN: 100%



Making contributions to the local economy



Empowering local people or communities



### CONTACT US

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# MAYAN PARADISE ENCOUNTER

## CONNECT WITH ANCESTRAL MAYA CULTURE

Step into the jungle of Quintana Roo and experience one of Mesoamerica's most authentic living cultures. Operated by Kiichpam K'áax-Selva Bonita, this meaningful encounter supports Maya communities that proudly preserve their traditions, language, and way of life deeply connected to nature.

  NATURE & CULTURE EXPERIENCE



## CHUNHUHUB, MAYA ZONE

Discover the daily life of Maya families in the Zona Maya: travel with them on local transportation, learn sustainable farming practices, and explore traditional crafts like embroidery. Share their cuisine, taste authentic flavors, and hear stories passed down through generations. Visit sacred cenotes—gateways to the underworld—and immerse yourself in a journey that is both authentic and transformative. More than a visit, this experience is an invitation to learn, connect, and support the living heritage of the Maya people.



### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** Flexible  
**Type of activity:** Nature & Culture  
**Is accessibility information available?** Yes



### RECOGNITIONS

 GTE SCAN: **95%**



Making contributions to the local economy



Empowering local people or communities



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# MANGROVES OF SAN CRISANTO

## RESILIENCE, CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY IN ACTION

Discover San Crisanto, a coastal Mayan community that turned adversity into opportunity through resilience and collective action. Operated by the local ejido (common land property), this regenerative tourism experience invites you to explore restored mangrove canals while supporting a model of conservation and community-driven sustainability.

### NATURE EXPERIENCE



## SAN CRISANTO, YUCATAN

Glide peacefully along hand-restored waterways as local guides share how their community rebuilt after hurricanes, overfishing, and disease. Discover San Crisanto's pioneering work in conservation, carbon markets, and sustainable livelihoods before arriving at Dzonot-Tzik, a sacred cenote to swim in crystal-clear waters. By joining, you directly support Mayan families and the preservation of vital mangrove ecosystems, an unforgettable lesson in resilience, innovation, and hope.



### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** Flexible  
**Type of activity:** Nature  
**Is accessibility information available?** Yes



### RECOGNITIONS

 GTE SCAN: **95%**



Making contributions to the local economy



Empowering local people or communities



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# MAGICAL NIGHTS IN THE MANGROVE

## STARGAZING, FIREFLIES & BIO- LUMINESCENCE IN CAMPECHE

Experience the magic of Isla Arena, within the federally protected Ría Celestún Biosphere Reserve, on a nighttime adventure with Wotochaayin Ecotourism Center. Operated by a local cooperative, this tour invites you to glide through mangrove tunnels under the stars and discover a viewpoint overlooking the shimmering estuary.

### NATURE EXPERIENCE



## ISLA ARENA, CAMPECHE

As night falls, fireflies illuminate the mangroves while marine bioluminescence sparkles along the shoreline. Far from city lights, the sky opens for stargazing as Mayan legends and local stories bring culture to life. More than a tour, this experience supports a community-based cooperative, ensuring conservation of Isla Arena's unique ecosystems while offering visitors an unforgettable encounter with nature and tradition.



### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** Flexible  
**Type of activity:** Nature  
**Is accessibility information available?** Yes

### RECOGNITIONS GTE SCAN: 100%



Making contributions to the local economy



Empowering local people or communities

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# DOLPHIN ENCOUNTER IN THE WILD

## OBSERVE BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS WHILE SUPPORTING LOCAL GUARDIANS

Experience the natural beauty of Laguna de Términos, with a community-based dolphin watching tour that blends adventure, education, and conservation. Guided by local experts, you'll observe bottlenose dolphins in their natural habitat while discovering the importance of protecting this unique ecosystem.

  NATURE & CULTURE EXPERIENCE

GOOD TRAVEL  
ALLIANCE 

## ISLA AGUADA, CAMPECHE

This journey goes beyond dolphin watching, taking you through mangroves, pristine beaches, and the extraordinary biodiversity of the lagoon. Operated by a local cooperative, the tours are carefully managed to ensure minimal impact, while supporting scientific monitoring and conservation efforts. By joining, you directly strengthen the local economy and a community that has chosen protection of nature as its way of life—while enjoying an unforgettable encounter with dolphins in the wild.



### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** Flexible  
**Type of activity:** Nature & Culture  
**Is accessibility information available?** Yes



### RECOGNITIONS

 GTE SCAN: 100%



Making contributions to the local economy



Empowering local people or communities



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**+52 9381270654**



# MAYA KITCHEN ECO-RETREAT

## A REGENERATIVE WELLNESS SANCTUARY IN YUCATÁN

In the heart of Yucatán, Shambalanté invites you to an all-inclusive eco-retreat within the sacred cenote ring of the Chicxulub crater. This regenerative sanctuary blends ancestral wisdom, conscious gastronomy, and wellness practices in a natural setting designed for healing, balance, and reconnection with Mother Earth.

 CULTURE EXPERIENCE

GOOD TRAVEL  
ALLIANCE 

## IZAMAL, YUCATAN

Over three transformative days, immerse yourself in vegetarian cooking classes, KINAM (Toltec postures), purifying temazcal, energetic mud baths, tree planting, sacred fire ceremonies, and nourishing detox meals. Guided by local practitioners, this experience offers a holistic journey of renewal that celebrates Maya legacy while inspiring personal growth and harmony with nature.



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### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** Flexible

**Type of activity:** Wellness Retreat

**Is accessibility information available?** Yes

**RECOGNITIONS**  GTE SCAN: **95%**



Empowering local  
people or communities



# CENTRAL AMERICA'S TALLEST WATERFALL

## A NATURAL WONDER IN THE HEART OF BELIZE

Journey to the Thousand Foot Falls Natural Monument, a pristine 1,290-acre protected area co-managed by Belize Karst Habitat Conservation. This exclusive experience combines awe-inspiring scenery with meaningful conservation, allowing visitors to witness one of Central America's most extraordinary natural wonders while directly supporting its protection.

### NATURE EXPERIENCE



## 1000 FOOT FALLS, CAYO

Marvel at Central America's tallest waterfall, cascading more than 1,600 feet from the Maya Mountains. Explore a landscape rich in biodiversity within the Selva Maya corridor, a sanctuary for the rare Orange-breasted Falcon and countless other species. With basic visitor amenities and ongoing upgrades, this is a journey designed for conscious travelers seeking both inspiration and impact.



### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** Flexible  
**Type of activity:** Conservation  
**Is accessibility information available?** Yes

**RECOGNITIONS** GTE SCAN: **95%**



Empowering local people or communities

### CONTACT US

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[info@belizekarst.org](mailto:info@belizekarst.org)

**+501 6119014** | [VIDEO-STORY](#)





# MAYA COOKING CLASS

## AUTHENTIC YUCATEC FLAVORS WITH "UPE NAI"

Dive into the heart of Maya and Yucatec culinary traditions with Upe Nai in the village of San Antonio, Cayo, Belize. Operated entirely by locals, this experience goes beyond a cooking class—it's a cultural immersion that preserves heritage, empowers the community, and celebrates authentic flavors passed down through generations.

 CULTURE EXPERIENCE



### SAN ANTONIO, CAYO

Learn to prepare traditional dishes like tamales or Maya stewed chicken on an open-fire hearth, using fresh ingredients grown on-site or sourced from nearby farmers. Guided by passionate local cooks, you'll roll up your sleeves, share stories, and discover ancestral recipes infused with love and cultural wisdom. More than a meal, this is a journey into the living heritage of Belize, where every bite connects you with tradition and community.



### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** 3 Hrs  
**Type of activity:** Traditional Gastronomy  
**Is accessibility information available?** Yes

### RECOGNITIONS GTE SCAN: 100%



Making contributions to the local economy



Empowering local people or communities

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**+501 6387046** | [VIDEO-STORY](#)





# FARM EXPERIENCE COOKING CLASS

## FROM FARM TO TABLE: AUTHENTIC YUCATEC FLAVORS

Discover the flavors and traditions of the Yucatán with the San Antonio Women's Cooperative at Ki Kuxtal Farm—"Good Life" in Yucatec Maya. Just minutes from San Antonio village, this community-led experience blends farm-to-table cuisine, sustainable practices, and authentic cultural heritage.

 CULTURE EXPERIENCE



## SAN ANTONIO, CAYO

Stroll through fruit orchards, handpick fresh ingredients, and learn traditional farming techniques before joining a 3.5-hour cooking class guided by local women. Prepare a three-course Yucatec meal over an open fire, enjoy fresh coconut water, and hear stories of culinary heritage passed down through generations. The experience ends with a handmade recipe book to take home, ensuring the flavors and traditions of Ki Kuxtal Farm live on in your kitchen—while your visit supports local women and community-led sustainability.



### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** 3.5 Hrs

**Type of activity:** Traditional Gastronomy

**Is accessibility information available?** Yes

### RECOGNITIONS

 GTE SCAN: 100%



Making contributions to the local economy



Empowering local people or communities

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# SAPODILLA WATERFALLS

## A HIDDEN JUNGLE SANCTUARY IN ELIJIO PANTI

Nestled deep in the heart of Elijio Panti National Park, the Sapodilla Waterfalls invite you to immerse yourself in one of Belize's most pristine natural treasures. This cascading wonder, surrounded by orchids, towering hardwoods, and the calls of exotic birds, offers not only a refreshing swim but also a journey into the cultural and ecological heart of the Maya forest.

### NATURE EXPERIENCE

GOOD TRAVEL  
ALLIANCE 

## ELIJIO PANTI, CAYO

Operated by the Itzamna Society—local Maya guardians and co-managers of the park—this experience is more than a hike. Along the trails alive with rare flora and fauna, from colorful tanagers to playful Spider Monkeys, guides share the story of how their community united to protect these sacred lands from logging, poaching, and looting. Visiting Sapodilla Waterfalls means directly supporting this pioneering conservation model, where culture and nature are safeguarded together for future generations.



### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** Flexible  
**Type of activity:** Nature  
**Is accessibility information available?** N/A



### RECOGNITIONS GTE SCAN: 100%



Making contributions to the local economy



### CONTACT US

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# GREEN IGUANA CONSERVATION PROJECT

## PRESERVING BELIZEAN REPTILES & HERITAGE

Nestled at San Ignacio Resort Hotel in Belize, the Green Iguana Conservation Project is run by Belizean owners and staff. This initiative offers a purpose-driven encounter with the endangered green iguana, combining education, rehabilitation, and conservation to protect both animal and habitat for future generations.

 NATURE EXPERIENCE

GOOD TRAVEL  
ALLIANCE 

## SAN IGNACIO, CAYO

On a guided tour, learn about the life cycle, habitat, and importance of green iguanas as you explore the project's rearing and release programs. Observe the vulnerable hatchlings, understand threats faced by the species, and discover the efforts behind their protection. Every visit supports this community-led conservation effort, helping safeguard Belize's biodiversity and empower local conservation work.



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### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** Flexible

**Type of activity:** Nature

**Is accessibility information available?** Yes

**RECOGNITIONS**  GTE SCAN: 100%



Making contributions  
to the local economy



# BIRDING AT TUNICH HA RESERVE



TUNICH HA RESERVE

## SOUTHERN BELIZE'S HIDDEN BIRDING GEM

Just five minutes from Punta Gorda, Tunich Ha Reserve and Ecological Center is ranked the #2 birding hotspot in southern Belize. Nestled within 35 acres of pristine rainforest, riparian forest, and mangroves, it is home to over 320 resident and migratory bird species, making it a must-visit destination for birding enthusiasts.

### NATURE EXPERIENCE



## PUNTA GORDA, TOLEDO

Guided walks along forest trails or paddling down Joe Taylor Creek reveal an extraordinary diversity of species, while each tour directly supports local conservation. Visitors can also pre-arrange a traditional breakfast prepared by Jessica, the owner, featuring farm-grown fruits, vegetables, Belizean coffee, local chocolate, and honey. With its rich biodiversity, authentic hospitality, and focus on sustainability, birding at Tunich Ha offers a meaningful connection to nature.



### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** Flexible  
**Type of activity:** Nature  
**Is accessibility information available?** Yes



**RECOGNITIONS**  GTE SCAN: 100%



Making contributions to the local economy



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# ANDREA'S CHOCOLATE BEAN TO BAR

## SAVOR MAYA HERITAGE THROUGH CHOCOLATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Andrea's Chocolate, located in the cacao-rich Toledo District of Belize, is a purpose-driven enterprise rooted in Maya heritage. By partnering directly with local farmers, Andrea ensures fair compensation while preserving agroforestry traditions that protect biodiversity and sustain the environment.

 CULTURE EXPERIENCE



### SAN MIGUEL, TOLEDO

Join a hands-on “bean-to-bar” journey where you’ll follow cacao from seed to finished chocolate bar. Learn about planting, harvesting, fermentation, and roasting before crafting chocolate yourself and enjoying a guided tasting of artisanal bars that capture the flavors of Belizean terroir. More than a workshop, this is a cultural immersion that celebrates Maya legacy, supports sustainable livelihoods, and empowers local communities—while letting you indulge in the artistry of chocolate.

### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** Flexible  
**Type of activity:** Culture  
**Is accessibility information available?** Yes



### RECOGNITIONS GTE SCAN: 100%



  
 Making contributions to the local economy

  
 Empowering local people or communities



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# KENIMA'S GARIFUNA COOKING CLASS

## EXPERIENCE THE HEART OF GARIFUNA CULTURE IN HOPKINS

Immerse yourself in Hopkins, Belize, and discover the vibrant heritage of the Garifuna community. This locally-run initiative offers an authentic culinary experience where tradition, flavor, and culture come together in a meaningful way.

 CULTURE EXPERIENCE



## HOPKINS, STANN CREEK

Guided by Kenima, a passionate local Garifuna descendant, you'll prepare traditional dishes while learning the stories, songs, and customs behind each recipe. Using fresh, locally-sourced ingredients and age-old techniques, this immersive experience connects you with the community's heritage. Beyond a cooking class, it supports a community-driven enterprise, preserving Garifuna traditions and promoting sustainable local development.



### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** Flexible  
**Type of activity:** Culture  
**Is accessibility information available?** Yes

### RECOGNITIONS GTE SCAN: 100%



Making contributions to the local economy



Empowering local people or communities

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# ARAPAIMA CONSERVATION & RESEARCH INITIATIVE

## HANDS-ON ARAPAIMA TAGGING, CONSERVATION, & COMMUNITY-LED ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH

The Arapaima Conservation Programme at Rewa Eco-Lodge is a community-led project in Guyana's North Rupununi Wetlands, focused on protecting and sustainably managing the Arapaima gigas, the world's largest scaled freshwater fish. In partnership with the indigenous Makushi community, it blends traditional knowledge with modern science to safeguard this iconic species.

  NATURE & CULTURE EXPERIENCE



## REWA VILLAGE, GUYANA

Visitors join guided catch-and-release tagging excursions that contribute to long-term population monitoring and regional conservation strategies. Beyond scientific value, the initiative channels revenue into local livelihoods, capacity-building, and ecological monitoring, ensuring that conservation and community empowerment go hand in hand. This model shows how tourism can both protect biodiversity and strengthen indigenous communities.



### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** 4 - 5 Hrs

**Type of activity:** Educational Activities

**Is accessibility information available?:** Yes

**RECOGNITIONS**  GTE SCAN: 100%



Empowering local people or communities

### CONTACT US

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[gaymonedwards20@gmail.com](mailto:gaymonedwards20@gmail.com)

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# YUPUKARI RIVER TURTLE CONSERVATION PROJECT

## COMMUNITY-LED PROTECTION AND EDUCATION AT CAIMAN HOUSE

Since 2011, the Yupukari River Turtle Conservation Project protects the yellow-spotted Amazon River turtle through a community-led approach combining indigenous knowledge and scientific research. Focused on conservation, education, and sustainable livelihoods, the initiative is based at Caiman House Eco Lodge in Yupukari Village, Central Rupununi.

 NATURE & CULTURE EXPERIENCE



## YUPUKARI VILLAGE, GUYANA

During nesting season, rangers monitor riverbanks, relocate vulnerable eggs, and raise hatchlings until their shells harden for release. The project engages youth and nearby villages through conservation, data collection, and the annual Turtle Festival, uniting communities around education and wildlife protection. Now in its second decade, it strengthens biodiversity, preserves cultural heritage, and builds resilience across Guyana.



### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** 4 - 5 Hrs

**Type of activity:** Educational Activities

**Is accessibility information available?:** Yes



**RECOGNITIONS**  GTE SCAN: 100%



Empowering local  
people or communities



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# IWOKRAMA CANOPY WALKWAY TRAIL

## ELEVATED RAINFOREST WALK WITH WILDLIFE, CULTURE, AND CONSERVATION IMPACT

The Iwokrama Canopy Walkway in central Guyana is a 154-meter structure rising up to 35 meters above the forest floor. Just a short 15-minute walk from Atta Rainforest Lodge, it offers close encounters with hummingbirds, monkeys, and agoutis while revealing the rainforest from a rare, elevated perspective.

### NATURE EXPERIENCE



## ATTA RAINFOREST LODGE

More than a tourist attraction, the walkway is a model of responsible tourism. Managed by the Iwokrama International Centre in partnership with local Makushi Amerindians and tourism operators, it links conservation with community development. Local guides share traditional knowledge while revenue supports forest preservation and village projects, ensuring that every visit contributes to both biodiversity protection and cultural resilience.



### GOOD TO KNOW

**Duration:** 1.5 Hrs  
**Type of activity:** Guided tour with limited group size  
**Is accessibility information available?:** No



### RECOGNITIONS

 GTE SCAN: **94%**



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