

Half Moon Caye, Lighthouse Reef, Belize

Belize's first nature reserve sits at the edge of Lighthouse Reef Atoll — a crescent of white sand ringed by living coral, home to ~4,000 red-footed boobies and some of the clearest water in the Caribbean. Expedition ships anchor offshore and tender in; crowds are minimal.

Tender only (no pier)

Typical call: 5–7 hrs

Belize dollar (BZD); USD accepted

English (official)

UNESCO World Heritage Site

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender/Zodiac to beach — expedition and small ships only; no cruise pier

Best For: Snorkeling, diving, wildlife watching (red-footed boobies, frigatebirds, sea turtles)

Entry Fee: BZ\$20 (~US\$10) national monument fee per person, collected on arrival

Don't Miss: Booby colony observation tower and the Half Moon Caye Wall reef dive/snorkel

Getting around: **Taxi** \$200–300 USD per person (small-group charter); full private charters from ~\$1,500/boat/day

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Red-Footed Booby Colony Walk** — A short trail leads through the western littoral forest's zircote thicket to the Belize Audubon Society observation...
- Half Moon Caye Wall Snorkel** — The wall drops dramatically from the reef flat into deep blue just off the southern shore — eagle rays, sea turtles...
- Great Blue Hole Day Trip** — The iconic UNESCO-listed Great Blue Hole lies about 10 km (6 mi) north of Half Moon Caye, near the center of Lighthouse...
- Kayak & Sea Turtle Watch** — Paddle the calm lagoon on the caye's leeward side and look for sea turtles resting or feeding on the grass beds.

BEST WALKS

- Ranger Station to Booby Colony Loop** ~1.5 km | Easy | 30–45 min — From the Belize Audubon Ranger Station, follow the sandy path west through coconut palms into the zircote littoral forest to the...
- Lighthouse & Beach Walk** ~0.5 km | Easy | 15–20 min — Walk from the ranger station along the beach to the lighthouse near the island's southeastern tip — great views back along the reef...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	82°	80°	5d
Jun	84°	81°	16d
Aug	84°	81°	19d
Sep	85°	81°	22d
Oct	84°	80°	23d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:34AM–6:06PM · Jun 5:16AM–6:25PM · Aug 5:33AM–6:15PM · Sep 5:38AM–5:51PM · Oct 5:43AM–5:27PM

Belize dollar (BZD); USD accepted

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring everything with you. There are no shops, restaurants, or fresh water on the caye. Pack snacks, plenty of water, and sunscreen before you tender ashore.

Half Moon Caye, Lighthouse Reef, Belize — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Half Moon Caye Protected island sanctuary for red-footed boobies and marine life.

P Cruise port / terminal