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How to Spend a Few Perfect Days in Belize

The small Central American nation has long lived in the shadow of its neighbor Mexico, but it's about to come into the spotlight in a big way

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Formerly the colony known as British Honduras, *Belize* is the only country in Central America where English is the official language. With ancient Mayan ruins rivaling the ones on the Yucatán Peninsula, lush tropical rainforest, and white-sand beaches with access to the largest barrier reef in the Northern Hemisphere, it's well worth a visit. And with the recent opening of Mahogany Bay, plus many more resorts on the way, including Itz'ana, it's the Caribbean's fastest-growing destination. Because the country is so small, it's easy to take a puddle jumper by the local airline Tropic Air and explore several different regions.

Finally, it's beach time. Take a puddle jumper north to San Pedro, where you can relax on Ambergris Caye, where most of the development is happening. To stay right on the beach, check into *Las Terrazas*, a sleek all-white boutique hotel with apartment-style suites and an open-air lobby. Or stay at the new *Mahogany Bay Resort*, a member of Hilton's Curio Collection. Opened this winter, the resort has an elegant colonial-meets-modern design with wicker chairs, botanical paintings, and potted palms in the common areas.



Mahogany Bay Resort.