

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 platform, where ~4,000...
- 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, schools of snappers and...
- 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 Reef Atoll — a roughly 300...
- 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 observation platform at the colony...
- 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 crest and a good vantage for spotting...

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.
- Pay the entry fee in USD cash. Rangers accept US dollars at ~US\$10 per person. Cards are not accepted. Some ships collect it onboard — confirm before you go.
- Watch out overhead at the colony. Frigatebirds are kleptoparasites — they steal food mid-air from boobies. Keep valuables covered and don't hold food near the colony trail.
- Wet landings are common. Wear sandals you don't mind getting wet and be ready to step out of the tender into ankle-deep water. Leave valuables in a dry bag.
- Reef-safe sunscreen only. As a protected UNESCO site, chemical sunscreens are harmful to the coral. Use mineral-based SPF and cover up with a rash guard instead.
- No connectivity ashore. There is no phone signal or Wi-Fi on the caye. Photograph offline maps or briefing materials before you tender off the ship.

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