

South Water Caye, Stann Creek, Belize

A gem of the Belize Barrier Reef — UNESCO-protected waters, world-class snorkeling just steps from shore, and the kind of serene tropical paradise most cruisers only dream about.

Tender (no pier)

Typical call: 4-6 hrs

USD widely accepted (BZD official)

English

Marine Reserve / UNESCO Heritage

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:

Arrive:

All aboard:

Excursion:

Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender only — small/expedition ships anchor offshore; guests tender ashore to the beach

Best For: Snorkeling the barrier reef, diving, wildlife spotting, total relaxation

Walk to center: Island is walkable end-to-end in ~10 min; very little onshore infrastructure

Don't Miss: Reef snorkeling directly off the beach — the coral is minutes from shore

Getting around: Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Snorkeling the Belize Barrier Reef** — The reef is minutes from shore.
 - Scuba Diving — Curlew Wall & Paradise** — Wall dives along the outer barrier reef drop into deep blue water.
 - Sea Turtle & Manatee Watch** — The South Water Caye Marine Reserve protects nesting hawksbill and loggerhead sea turtles, and is
- one of the last strongholds of the West Indian...

 - Man-O-War Caye Frigatebird Colony** — A short boat ride brings you to Man-O-War Caye, a protected nesting colony for magnificent frigatebirds and brown boobies — a surreal sight as...
 - Beach Day at the Caye** — With calm, clear water, white sand, and a horizon of nothing but reef, South Water Caye is one of the best simple beach days anywhere in the Caribbean.

BEST WALKS

- Island Perimeter Stroll** ~20 min | Flat sand | All abilities — Walk the full perimeter of South Water Caye along the beach.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		83°	79°	11d
Jun		85°	80°	24d
Aug		85°	80°	26d
Sep		86°	80°	28d
Oct		85°	79°	24d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:36AM–6:07PM · Jun 5:19AM–6:26PM · Aug 5:36AM–6:16PM · Sep 5:40AM–5:53PM · Oct 5:45AM–5:30PM

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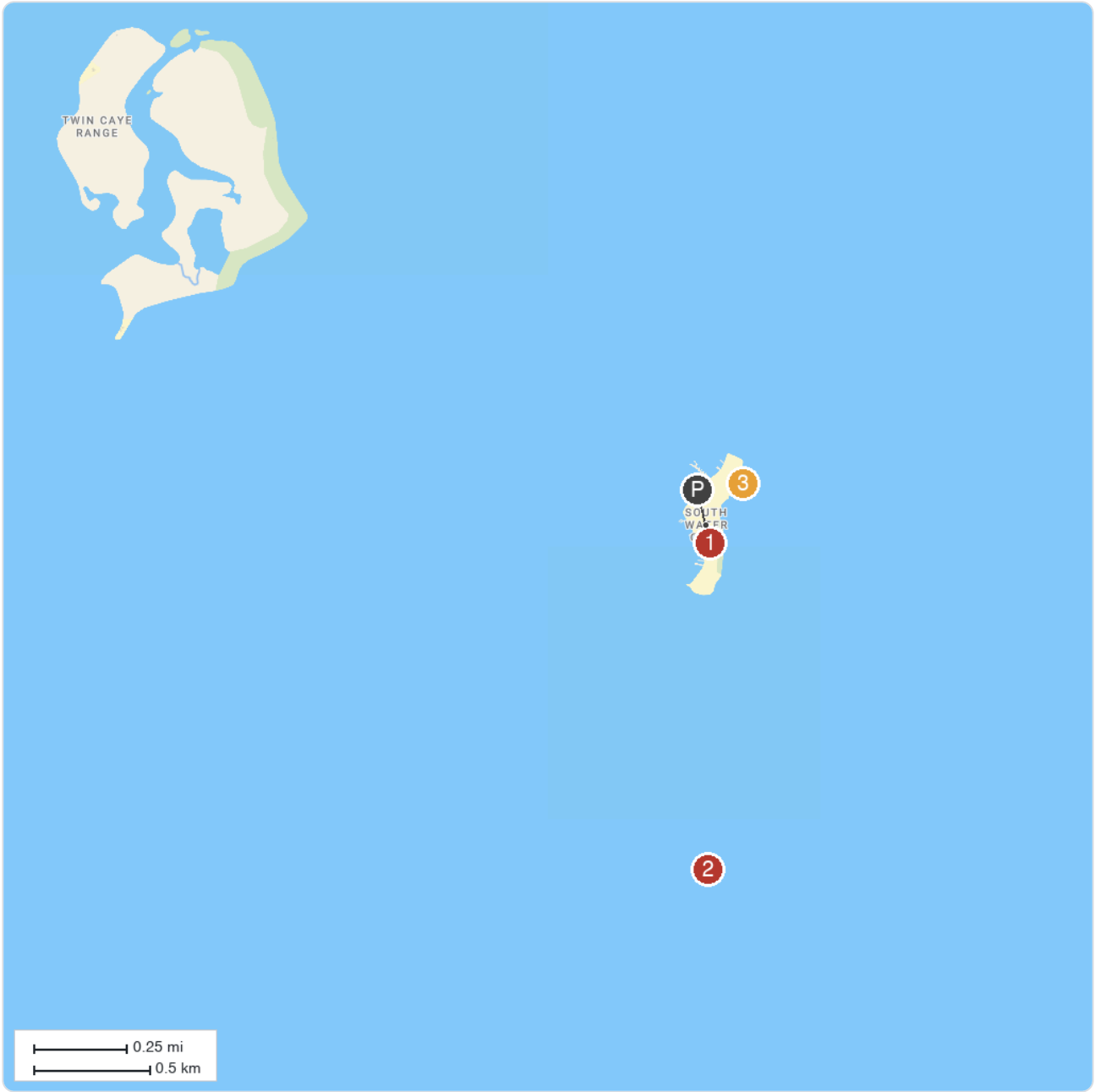
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring your own snorkel gear. Mask, fins, and a rash guard are worth packing — reef entry is steps from the beach and gear rental can run short during busy calls.
- Reef-safe sunscreen only. The South Water Caye Marine Reserve bans oxybenzone and octinoxate sunscreens. Bring mineral (zinc oxide) sunscreen or buy it before the trip.
- USD is widely accepted, but the island has very limited commercial activity. Bring cash for any tips or fees — there are no ATMs on the caye.
- Respect the marine life. Don't stand on coral, touch sea turtles, or feed fish. This is a UNESCO World Heritage site — the rules are enforced and the ecosystem is the whole point.
- Weather can be breezy. The barrier reef location means occasional chop on tender runs. If you're prone to seasickness, take medication before boarding the tender.
- Connectivity is minimal. Cell service and Wi-Fi are extremely limited on the caye. Fully disconnect — it's a feature, not a bug.

South Water Caye, Stann Creek, Belize — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1 Marine Reserve** Belize's second-largest marine protected area, sitting directly atop the Belize Barrier Reef with patch reefs and seagrass beds.
- 2 Research Station** Smithsonian Institution marine research station on a tiny nearby cay studying coral reef ecology since 1972.
- 3 Snorkel Site** A shallow reef patch famed for dense schools of tropical fish and soft coral gardens just offshore.
- P Cruise port / terminal**