BELIZE TO TIKAL
REEFS, RIVERS & RUINS OF THE MAYA WORLD

MARCH 10-18, 2018 | ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC QUEST
Travel with Rice Professor André W. Droxler
DEAR RICE ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS,

The breadth of biodiversity found in the waters and jungles of Belize and Guatemala is nothing less than astounding. From the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System, the largest reef in the Northern Hemisphere, to the lush jungles of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, an impressive array of wildlife calls these ecosystems home. Join us on our nine-day land-and-sea expedition, and you’ll have the opportunity to observe and photograph many of them up close.

Traveling aboard the brand-new, 100-guest National Geographic Quest, the only expedition ship exploring the Mesoamerican Reef, gives you access to places few ever get to see. And the ship’s tools let you experience these diverse habitats with all your senses. Snorkel or dive over this extensive reef that is home to myriad species of fish and coral. Kayak and stand-up paddleboard on turquoise lagoons. Head ashore on Zodiacs to white sand beaches for naturalist-led hikes in search of nesting red-footed boobies.

The region also holds a fascinating human history revealed in the sublime Maya ruins of Tikal. You’ll spend a full day and a half exploring the stone temples, palaces, and public spaces. Plus, venture to lesser-visited sites like Topoxté and Quiriguá, providing you with rich insight into this once great civilization.

You’ll travel with Rice Professor André W. Droxler, along with a top team of naturalists, cultural experts, and undersea specialists, who will help you see, do, and learn more. And the Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor will help you capture it all in your best photos ever.

I hope you are inspired to join us, March 10-18, 2018, in discovering the natural and historic wonders that await in these two vibrant countries. To reserve your space, please return the reservation form or call 713-34-TRIPS.

Sincerely,

Dan Stypa
Associate Director of Alumni Programs

André W. Droxler, Ph.D. is a professor in the Department of Earth Science. His research focuses on studying the morphology of and the sediments accumulating on slopes and basin floors surrounding coral reefs and carbonate platforms. Over the past 30 years, he has conducted research programs in the Bahamas, Jamaica, Belize, Gulf of Mexico, Maldives, Great Barrier Reef, and Papua New Guinea. The main focus of his research includes the regional and global evolution of coral reefs through time, the paleo-oceanographic/climatological and sea level records archived in the sediments deposited around reefs, and carbonate platforms. Dr. Droxler’s work has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the American Chemical Society, and grants from oil and gas companies. Before becoming an assistant professor at Rice in January 1987, he was a postdoctoral research scientist at the University of South Carolina and received his Master’s degree equivalent from the University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland) and his Ph.D. from the University of Miami (Florida).

Cover: Aerial view of the Mesoamerican Reef. © Brian Skerry
Opposite page: Lush rain forest surrounds a temple-pyramid at Tikal, Guatemala.
Ship’s registry: United States
DISCOVER A WEALTH OF BIODIVERSITY

The diverse ecosystems and habitats of Belize and Guatemala are teeming with a fascinating spectrum of sea life and neotropical fauna and flora. On the Belize Barrier Reef, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the largest reef system in the Northern Hemisphere, you may encounter an incredible variety of marine inhabitants: hundreds of species of fish, majestic sea turtles, graceful rays, gentle manatees, plus more than 90 species of stony and soft coral. As only a small percentage of the reef has been studied, researchers believe hundreds or thousands more species could be discovered in this protected zone. Over the course of five days, you’ll get deeply acquainted with the underwater wilderness as you snorkel, kayak, stand-up paddleboard, and dive. Plus, at Half Moon Caye Natural Monument, a remote islet protected since 1928, you’ll observe a nesting colony of red-footed boobies. Traveling aboard the only expedition ship exploring the Mesoamerican Reef ensures you access to remote places and one-of-a-kind experiences.

On land, more opportunities await to connect with wildlife. In Guatemala you’ll venture into the Maya Biosphere Reserve which is more than twice the size of Yellowstone National Park. Hike the tropical forest amid giant ceiba trees—the sacred tree of the Mayas—and search for some of the 400-plus species of birds that call the jungle canopy home. Listen to the haunting calls of howler monkeys and watch them flitting through the treetops alongside spider monkeys. Keep watch for tapirs, tree frogs, and coatimundi. You’ll explore it all with experienced naturalists at your side, your key to unlocking the secrets that lie within this vast natural wonder.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): Strawberry vase sponges are just one of the many unique species of sponges you’ll encounter; a vibrant green iguana; schools of tropical fish gather on a reef at Laughing Bird Caye National Park; howler monkey; green sea turtle.
Visiting the spectacular remains of this near-mythic civilization is a life-list must—and this expedition delivers the most in-depth exploration possible. You’ll begin in Tikal, one of the largest and most impressive archaeological sites of the pre-Columbian Maya civilization, dedicating a full day and a half to this UNESCO World Heritage site. In the heart of the jungle, well-preserved stone temples, palaces, ceremonial platforms, terraces, roads, and even ball-game courts, now surrounded by lush vegetation, reveal the story of a once great political and military center. Local experts and the expedition staff will share tales of this culture to weave their history into an enlightening investigation.

You’ll also spend time off-the-beaten path at little-visited ruins like Yaxhá, beautifully situated on a ridge overlooking Yaxhá Lake, where you may choose to ascend to the top of Temple 216 in the Acrópolis Este—which provides stellar photo ops with 360 degree views of the third largest ruin in the Maya world and the surrounding forests and lagoons. To access nearby Topoxté, you’ll sail across the lake, landing on an island cloaked in rain forest to walk through these incredible ruins as the sounds of wildlife and tropical birds float through the air. And in Quiriguá, gain further insight into these ancient people. Here, detailed sandstone carvings on monolithic monuments depict significant social and historic events in the city’s development.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): Morning sun illuminates the Temple of the Masks, Tikal; sunrise is a magical time at the ancient ruins of Tikal; ruins emerge majestically from the surrounding rain forest; beautifully preserved, highly detailed stonework at Quiriguá.
The brand-new, purpose-built expedition ship National Geographic Quest, equipped with a suite of cool tools, is the ideal way to discover the wildness of Belize and Guatemala. A fleet of Zodiacs lets you venture far from tourist infrastructure to access remote, palm-fringed beaches, while single and double kayaks and stand-up paddleboards bring you close down to the water and the wildness as you paddle along idyllic shorelines. At the start of the voyage, snorkel gear is provided to every guest—yours for the duration—so you can discover the incredible variety of color and forms found in the undersea.

THE PERFECT PLATFORM FOR EXPLORING

The lounge, with 270º views, is the hub of the expedition community.

Explore with the most knowledgeable team in the region who live and breathe the tropics. You’ll travel with an expedition leader, several naturalists, and cultural experts, plus an undersea specialist and an expedition diver who dive to capture vivid footage you can watch on screen at evening recaps, a wellness specialist who offers a range of spa treatments, and a video chronicler who provides you with a lasting record of your expedition. Additionally a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor is aboard to offer expert tips to help you with your camera. Whether you’re a novice or more advanced, you’ll take your best photos ever, and go home a better, more confident photographer.

TRAVEL WITH AN A+ EXPEDITION TEAM

Expert naturalists help you spot birds and other wildlife.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): Snorkeler swimming past a remote reef; stand-up paddleboarders enjoy the revitalizing ‘tonic of wildness’ being in nature provides; snorkelers greeted by a school of fish; explore diverse habitats up close on Zodiac forays.
Embark on a unique land-and-sea expedition to discover Maya ruins overgrown with tropical rain forest, and incredible, seldom-seen reefs. Snorkel among some of the 65 species of stony coral and 500 species of fish on the Belize Barrier Reef with the new 100-guest National Geographic Quest as your base, the only expedition ship exploring the Mesoamerican Reef. Then venture to the ancient Maya ruins of Tikal to explore the stories and archaeological sites of these stone temples swathed in rain forest and teeming with wildlife.

**DAY 1: U.S./BELIZE CITY, BELIZE/EMBARK**
Fly to Belize. Embark National Geographic Quest. (D)

**DAY 2: LAUGHING BIRD CAYE NATIONAL PARK OR SAPODILLA CAYES MARINE RESERVE**
Snorkel, kayak, or stand-up paddleboard the crystalline waters of Laughing Bird Caye National Park or Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve. Discover the dazzling undersea of the Belize Barrier Reef, second only to the Great Barrier Reef in terms of biodiversity, while snorkeling or, if certified, scuba diving. (B,L,D)
DAY 3: QUIRIGUÁ & RIO DULCE, GUATEMALA
See the highly detailed stonework of the Maya ruins of Quiriguá, sculpted to glorify Maya kings. Lunch on the shores of Lake Izabal, then take local boats through the beautiful limestone canyon of the Rio Dulce. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: GLOVER’S REEF/SOUTH WATER CAYE MARINE RESERVE, BELIZE
Explore turquoise seas and protected reefs of Glover’s Reef and South Water Caye Marine Reserves by snorkeling or, if certified, diving, then explore the shoreline and reef top by kayak or stand-up paddleboard. If conditions permit, we may stop at a remote field station to learn about reef research. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: LIGHTHOUSE REEF & HALF MOON CAYE NATURAL MONUMENT
Snorkel, dive, kayak, and stand-up paddleboard inside the fringing reef that surrounds Lighthouse Reef Atoll. This lagoon is dotted with hundreds of coral patches and is known for its high diversity of corals and fishes. Walk through the endangered and fragile littoral forest at Half Moon Caye to view the nesting population of red-footed boobies from observation platforms. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: BELIZE CITY/DISEMBARK/FLORES, GUATEMALA/TIKAL
Take a charter flight to Flores, Guatemala. Transfer to Tikal, one of the largest and most impressive archeological sites and urban centers of the pre-Columbian Maya civilization, which we’ll explore over two days. Check into the Camino Real Tikal Hotel. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: TIKAL
Delve deeper into Maya history and architecture with local experts in Tikal while enjoying a stay at the Camino Real Tikal Hotel. Explore the many temples, including Temple I, which rises 154 feet from the jungle floor, and the North and South Acropolis. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: YAXHÁ & TOPOXTÉ
Visit Yaxhá, the third largest ruin in the Maya world, beautifully situated on a ridge overlooking Yaxhá Lake. Hike nearby trails or explore the lesser-visited ruins at Topoxté, secluded on an island in the lake. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: FLORES/GUATEMALA CITY/U.S.
Fly from Flores to Guatemala City this morning, to connect with international flights home. (B)

EXTEND YOUR ADVENTURE
Combine your Belize to Tikal expedition with a one-day/one-night stay in Antigua, Guatemala OR join a 10-day/9-night extension Exploring Costa Rica: Cloud Forest to the Caribbean that also includes one day in Antigua, Guatemala. Please call for details.
The National Geographic Quest is the latest addition to the Lindblad-National Geographic fleet. Designed with over 50 years of expedition heritage, Quest is able to explore the same remote locations while setting a new standard in comfort and style.

**PUBLIC AREAS:** Global gallery; fitness center; LEXspa; lounge with full service bar and facilities for films and presentations; observation deck; mudroom with lockers for expedition gear, and a partially covered sundeck with chairs and tables. The “open bridge” provides guests an opportunity to meet the officers and captain and learn about navigation.

**MEALS:** Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Breakfast is a wide selection buffet and lunch is often served family-style. Menu emphasizes local fare.

**CABINS:** All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, private facilities, and climate controls. Category 4 cabins have step-out balconies.

**EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT:** A fleet of 8 Zodiacs and 24 kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, snorkel gear, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, Splash-Cam, underwater video camera, and video microscope.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** Guest Internet access, elevator, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, video chronicler, undersea specialists, and ship’s doctor.

**WELLNESS:** The vessel is staffed by a wellness specialist and features a gym with an elliptical machine, treadmill, exercycles, handweights, and resistance bands. Treatments in the LEXspa are available by appointment.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITINERARY</th>
<th>CAT. 1</th>
<th>CAT. 2</th>
<th>CAT. 3</th>
<th>CAT. 4</th>
<th>CAT. 5 SUITE</th>
<th>CAT. 1 SOLO</th>
<th>CAT. 2 SOLO</th>
<th>ADVANCE PAYMENT</th>
<th>SAMPLE AIRFARES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belize to Tikal: Reefs, Rivers &amp; Ruins of the Maya World</td>
<td>$5,490</td>
<td>$5,890</td>
<td>$6,290</td>
<td>$6,990</td>
<td>$7,790</td>
<td>$8,240</td>
<td>$8,840</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td>Miami/Belize City/Guatemala City/Miami–Economy from $540. Business from $1,300. Charter flight–Flores/Guatemala City, $250. Subject to change.</td>
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</tbody>
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**CATEGORY 1:** Main Deck #301-306
Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, and two portholes.

**CATEGORY 2:** Main Deck #307-315
Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, and two portholes.

**CATEGORY 3:** Upper Deck #201-206
Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, and two large view windows.

**CATEGORY 4:** Upper Deck #207-229
Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, sliding glass door, and small, private balcony.

**CATEGORY 5 (SUITE):** Observation Deck #101-108
Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, large view windows, an expanded bathroom, writing desk, ample storage space, and a convertible sofa bed to accommodate a third person.

**NOTE:** Sole Occupancy cabins are available in Categories 1 and 2 only. Third person rates are available in Category 5 cabins at one half the double occupancy rate.

**Connecting Cabins via internal doorway access:** Main Deck: #312-314, #311-315, #306-308, #305-307; Upper Deck: #224-226, #225-227

Clockwise from top left: Category 4 cabin with lower single beds converted to a Queen and private balcony; the dining room has unassigned seating for easy mingling; spacious Category 5 cabin on the Observation Deck; the sundeck is a perfect place to relax.
INCLUSIVE PRICING

ABOARD SHIP
✓ Accommodations
✓ All meals & nonalcoholic beverages
✓ 24-hour coffee, tea & soda on demand
✓ Hors d’oeuvres & snacks during nightly recap
✓ Environmentally friendly refillable water bottle
✓ Fully stocked library
✓ Exercise equipment
✓ The guidance & company of the expedition staff

ASHORE
✓ Three nights at Camino Real Tikal Hotel
✓ Meals as indicated
✓ Special access permits, park fees, port taxes
✓ Transfers to & from group flights
✓ The expertise of the expedition staff & local guides

ACTIVITIES
✓ All shore activities
✓ Zodiac & kayak explorations
✓ Snorkeling & paddleboarding
✓ Lectures & presentations in the lounge
✓ Photo instruction
✓ Morning stretch classes with wellness specialist

BRING THE KIDS: We believe sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. So, take $500 off the double occupancy price for each person under 18.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

VOYAGE COSTS INCLUDE: Five nights’ accommodations aboard ship; three hotel nights in Tikal; all meals and nonalcoholic beverages aboard ship; meals on land as indicated; charter flight from Belize City to Flores, shore excursions, sightseeing, entrance fees, and special access permits; use of kayaks, paddleboards, and snorkeling gear; transfers to and from group flights; tips (except to ship’s crew), taxes, and service charges, and services of a ship physician, the expedition staff and local guides.

NOT INCLUDED: International air transportation; charter flight from Flores to Guatemala City; meals not indicated; extensions; passport, visa, immigration fees; travel protection plan; items of a personal nature such as alcoholic beverages, email, voyage DVD, and laundry. Gratuities to ship’s crew at your discretion.

AIRFARE: Airfare is an additional cost. Lindblad will assist in making your air arrangements for a $50 per person service fee.

RESERVATIONS: To confirm your place, an advance payment of US$750 per person is payable by VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or check.

FINAL PAYMENT: Due 90 days prior to departure.

INSURANCE: Upon receipt of your reservation form, the Rice Alumni Traveling Owls will send you a confirmation email. In that confirmation email, you will receive information about optional travel insurance which all travelers are strongly encouraged to consider purchasing.

SMOKING POLICY: Allowed only in designated outdoor areas.

ENTRY AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: All guests are advised to verify travel documents (passport/transit visa/entry visa) for the country through which they are transiting and/or entering. Reliable and most current information regarding international travel can be found by contacting the consulate/embassy of the country(s) you are visiting or transiting through. We will not be responsible if you are denied entry or transit into a country, if you are unable to provide valid documents as per the country’s requirement.

RESPONSIBILITY AND OTHER TERMS & CONDITIONS: Certain other provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Maritime Enterprises’ and Rice University’s liability for loss of property, injury, illness, or death during the voyage will be provided to all guests on the ship’s ticket sent prior to departure or upon request. By registering for a trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.

Prices listed in this brochure are as of publication date, and are subject to change. Lindblad Maritime Enterprises reserves the right to impose surcharges based on increases in the actual cost of fuel.

CANCELLATION POLICY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Number of Days Prior to Expedition Start</th>
<th>Per Person Cancellation Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>120 or more days</td>
<td>$350</td>
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<tr>
<td>119–90 days</td>
<td>Advance payment cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>89–60 days</td>
<td>25% of trip cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59–45 days</td>
<td>50% of trip cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44–0 days</td>
<td>No refund</td>
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We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan.

PHOTO CREDITS: Alamy, Doug Berry, Vitaly Edush, Ralph Lee Hopkins, The Palmer, Stefano Paterna, Willy Alfaro Norbert Probs, Brian Skerry, Jim Zuckerman
RESERVATION FORM: BELIZE TO TIKAL

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC QUEST—MARCH 10-18, 2018

Please reserve ____________ place(s).

Name 1:_____________________________________________________________________
(As it appears on passport)
Name 1:____________________________Date of Birth: ___________Rice Class Year: _____
(Preferred name for name badge)
Name 2: ______________________________________________________________________
(As it appears on passport)
Name 2: ___________________________ Date of Birth: ___________Rice Class Year: _____
(Preferred name for name badge)

Street Address: ________________________________________________________________
City:_____________________________________ State: __________________Zip: __________
Home Phone: ___________________________Business Phone: __________________________
Cell Phone: ____________________________Fax: ____________________________
Email: _______________________________________________________________________

Accommodations:  ❑ Double  ❑ Single  ❑ Twin share w/ friend
❑ Sharing a Twin with a friend who will be sending their form separately

Please indicate choice of cabin category in order of preference:
1st choice: __________________________ 2nd choice: __________________________
❑ Enclosed is my advance payment of $ ______________________ (US$750 per person).
Check made payable to Lindblad Maritime Enterprises, Ltd.
❑ Charge my advance payment of $ ______________________ (US$750 per person)
to my ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ American Express  ☐ Discover
Account Number: ___________________________ Expires: __________________________
Cardholder Signature: ______________________________ Date: ______________
EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

» Walk the ancient city of Tikal over a full day and a half with expert guides who share the secrets of the site.

» Snorkel on the Belize Barrier Reef—the second largest in the world.

» Explore a partially excavated Maya temple situated on a tiny island in the middle of a lake where only the sounds of jungle wildlife and tropical birds can be heard.

» Be active: Zodiac cruise, kayak, stand-up paddleboard, snorkel, and scuba dive.

» Travel with Rice Professor André W. Droxler and a team of naturalists and cultural experts.