

Beautiful Belize

A Writer's Retreat

February 25-March 4, 2012

*Tropical rainforest, colorful flora,
clear turquoise water,
exotic wildlife—Belize beckons.*

*Join us for
a creative adventure!*

Sharpen Your Senses

We invite writers of all levels of experience and genres to travel with us to one of the most colorful and inspiring places in the world—beautiful Belize in Central America.

No ordinary writing retreat

Belize, rich in its diverse cultures, landscapes, and plant and animal life, is the perfect setting for a writing retreat—we promise you will be inspired.

The schedule will include a mix of writing, sharing, exotic excursions, and discussions about craft, all in the midst of a tropical jungle.

Writing Workshops Presented by:

Deb McKew, founder of *Words in Play* and director of communications at Biodiversity Research Institute, lives by the tenet that writing is fun. A science journalist, editor, and teacher, she has led many workshops for writers of all levels.



Who Should Attend:

This program welcomes science writers, naturalists who want to write, people interested in environmental tourism, travel writers, and writers of all genres.



Lagoon at the Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education (BFREE), where we will spend two days.



www.wordsinplay.net

Special Collaborations with:

Biodiversity Research Institute
www.briloon.org

Belize Foundation for Research & Environmental Education
www.bfreebz.org

Planned Itinerary

SATURDAY, FEB. 25 – Fly to Belize; arrive at Cotton Tree Lodge, a tranquil retreat on 100 private acres.

SUNDAY, FEB. 26 – Spend a full day at Cotton Tree Lodge exploring the unique jungle setting. Writing workshops begin.

MONDAY, FEB. 27 – Excursion to Blue Creek Cave. The Moho River begins in its depths and flows out to Blue Creek Village in a clear, cool stream. On our hike to the cave, we will enjoy waterfalls and clear, deep pools for swimming. Deep inside, marvel at the stalactites, stalagmites, and other unusual rock formations on this unique guided journey.

TUESDAY, FEB. 28 – Spend the day at Cotton Tree Lodge for writing workshops.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 29 – Excursion to the Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education (BFREE), which manages a private research and educational facility located on 1,153 acres of tropical rainforest. We will stay overnight at BFREE for an extraordinary experience that includes learning about and participating in their conservation work. Enjoy hiking, writing, birding, and an unforgettable guided night walk.

THURSDAY, MAR. 1 – Spend the majority of the day at BFREE, return to Cotton Tree Lodge early evening.

FRIDAY, MAR. 2 – Excursion to Barranco Garifuna Village. The Garifuna people, or Garinagu, are descendents of shipwrecked African slaves, who escaped to St. Vincent island in 1635, and the Carib Indians who already inhabited the area; these people still practice many of their cultural traditions. Enjoy samples of their food, music, and welcoming hospitality. Near Barranco Village lies the 41,000-acre Temash Sarstoon Wildlife Sanctuary, home to red mangroves, jaguars, tapirs, manatees, monkeys, and beautiful birdlife. Inspiration abounds.

SATURDAY, MAR. 3 – Spend the day at Cotton Tree Lodge for final writing sessions.

SUNDAY, MAR. 4 – Depart for the U.S.

Included Features

- 7 nights at Cotton Tree Lodge in unique cabanas
- 2 days at BFREE research and conservation center (includes one overnight in bunkhouse accommodations)
- All meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner)
- Daily writing workshops
- Guided excursions including night walk, caves, wildlife sanctuaries, and native villages
- Round-trip internal airfare from Belize City to Punta Gorda
- All ground transportation



Visit Cotton Tree Lodge online at www.cottontreelodge.com



Land Package

\$3,500 per person
(double occupancy)

Limited single accommodations

**Airfare
Not Included**

For Retreat Reservation:

Contact Holly Walker
Compass Travel, Inc.
PO Box 1675
New London, NH 03257
603-526-9600
www.compasstravel.net



Registration

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ (\$1,000/per person) as deposit to hold _____ place(s). I understand that final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

Please print name(s) as it/they appear on your passport(s).

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the General Information section and agree to its terms.

Signature _____ Date _____

Price for Land Package Only

Based on a minimum of 15 participants:

\$3,500 per person – double occupancy

Single room supplement available upon request.

Please Note - Airfare not included: call Compass Travel for pricing and flight information.

Reservations: For reservations, contact:

Compass Travel Inc., PO Box 1675, New London, NH

(603) 526-9600 - www.compasstravel.net

Payment Schedule: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

Cancellations & Refunds: All cancellations of confirmed reservations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 60-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

Insurance: Compass Travel strongly recommends that all tour participants purchase Trip Cancellation, Emergency Medical Evacuation, Baggage, and Accident/Medical Insurance. Upon receipt of your original tour deposit, an insurance brochure will be sent to you.

Responsibility: The responsibility of Compass Travel Inc. and/or its agents is limited and we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motorcoach, carriage, or any other conveyance used in carrying out these tours. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, acts of terrorism, quarantine,

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