

Eco Tour (Laguna, Blue Creek)

08:30 am to 04:30 pm, from Punta Gorda Town

Laguna gets its name from the magnificent Aguacaliente Lagoon which borders the quiet village on the west. It was founded in 1959 when three families moved from San Miguel. (AWS) Aguacaliente Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area of about 5,492 acres situated in the lowland area between the steep karst hills of Laguna and Blue Creek. It borders Mayan Indian Reservations and forest reserve. AWS consists of three freshwater lagoons, two hot springs (giving the area its name), and acts as a reservoir for waters that supply most of the tributaries flowing into the Moho River.

The area seasonally floods but during the drier months of February to May levels drop to allow easier access. As a wetland it is deemed one of the most fragile ecosystems, and ten local communities work together for the protection of the Sanctuary. The mangrove surrounding the lagoon is alive with warblers and flycatchers feasting on the plentiful insect life.

Being the only major wetland system in southern Belize, the avifauna list is extensive. We will explore this unique area in Laguna, along the boardwalk and trails, and then by canoe, for unforgettable hours of wildlife and bird watching.

It's then on to Blue Creek, where the first families settled here in 1925. Nestled on the banks of Blue Creek, this 200-acre rain forest preserve and wildlife sanctuary is just a short 15-minute walk from Blue Creek village, located next to a deep pool of clear water perfect for swimming.

Breathtaking discoveries await you as you explore the river, spectacular caves, and rainforest nature trails of this unique jungle site!

After enjoying your picnic lunch the tour begins with a hike along a beautifully planted path to the Biological Research Station, where your guide will explain about plants and their medicinal uses and later you will walk over the rocks of a dry creek bed to where the river runs out of the cave. Blue Creek's limestone caves are full of pristine crystal-clear mineral pools and lagoons, with a water temperature of a constant 75°. With life jackets and head lights you swim into the cave to see one or more waterfalls.

Back in the village of Blue Creek you spend the rest of your afternoon participating in village life. Descendants of Kekchi and Mopan Mayans who fled Guatemala to find peace in Toledo, the community is rich in culture. Learn about grinding corn and making tortillas, and embroidering traditional designs

Tour operated by
 Sun Creek Lodge
& IBTM Tours

☎ 614-2080 or 668-8811
E-mail: suncreek@hughes.net
www.suncreeklodge.com



- ☑ Full day tour US\$ 90.00 per person—including lunch and all entrance fees and guide fees.
- ☑ Don't forget hiking boots. Swimming costume, sunhat, sunscreen, insect repellent, change of clothes and your camera
- ☑ Experience Eco Tourism in TOL



☑ IBTM Tours make a difference to you, and to the areas we visit. Indeed, we pledge to engage in "responsible tourism to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people." We take these principles to heart, and for every person who joins one of our Eco Tours we make a donation to one of the leading conservation organizations working in the area.

