

**The rolling hills on the east and the steep karst hills on the south of the Aguacaliente Wildlife Sanctuary are crossed by several streams which feed three fresh water lagoons and two hot springs .**

The Aguacaliente Wildlife Sanctuary in Toledo encompasses 5,492 acres and was declared a sanctuary in 1998. The Sanctuary is critical for the preservation of biodiversity in Belize and the region.

### Notable Features

- The lagoons are a feeding area for hundreds of waterfowl including wood storks, endangered jabiru storks, black-bellied whistling ducks, sandpipers, and others. Many of the birds live year-round in the sanctuary and others use it as a transmigration point on their seasonal journeys through the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.
- In addition to being a key ecological resource, the Aguacaliente Wildlife Sanctuary plays a vital role in flood control and water purification. Its wetlands act as a filter for the Moho River Watershed, holding and cleansing runoff and floodwaters before they travel through the adjacent villages to the Gulf of Honduras.
- The forest and savanna areas of the Aguacaliente Wildlife Sanctuary provide habitat for a wide variety of animals including gibnuts, black howler monkeys, white-tailed deer, kinkajous, and endangered tapirs and jaguar.

### Visitor Experience

Hot springs, nature trails, extensive bird-watching are not the only attractions of this area. immerse yourself into to Maya culture at any of the three villages of Big Falls, Laguna and Blue Creek which buffer the reserve.

