

Boats were the original mode of transportation in Belize – whether upriver, down the coast, or between the islands.



From dugouts to sailboats, from small skiffs with a single outboard engine to larger water taxis with triple 200 HP engines; Belize sea roots are firmly ensconced. Visitor options today have expanded to include day cruises on 40 ft wooden “sand lighters” (previously used to transport sand from river mouths for construction sites; bareboat or crewed catamarans and airboats for wildlife sightings in marshy areas. For Cruisers passing through Belize legal ports of entry provisioning points and reef safety tips are provided here.

### **Airboat**

A fast-paced ride through a maze of mangrove forests aboard a large airboat gives travelers amazing views and ample time to photograph the large variety of wildlife and flora that reside in Belize’s four species of mangroves. These species include the red mangroves along the cayes and waterways, the black mangroves which help to facilitate gas exchange, and the white and buttonwood mangroves which are found in deeper parts of the sea. Tours are offered off-shore near Belize City, as well as on the New River Lagoon in the Orange Walk District.

### **Catamaran**

A catamaran offers the freedom and flexibility to sail, swim and snorkel, dive and move at your own pace along the coast and inside the Belize Barrier Reef.

Catamarans with their low draft and their ease with which novice sailors can get a handle on maneuvering and sailing the vessel make them a great choice for bareboat or crewed sailing in Belize.

There are two fleets of catamaran based in Belize with several individual boats available for crewed charter inside the reef.