

**The St. Herman's Blue Hole National Park takes its name from the inland “Blue Hole” cenote, a popular rest and swimming stop located steps from the roadside entrance on the Hummingbird Highway.**

Some 575 acres of primary and secondary forest situated just off the Hummingbird Highway and 12 miles southeast of the capital city of Belmopan, Blue Hole National Park was established in 1986. In addition to the inland Blue Hole, the park has nature trails and two caves - St. Herman's Cave and the Crystalline Cave within its boundaries.

### Notable Features

- The inland Blue Hole is a clear sapphire pool surrounded by sheer rock walls, hardwood trees and tangled vines, emerging from a collapsed karst sinkhole 25 feet deep.
- The water, on its way from a tributary to the Sibun River, appears briefly in this jungle setting before disappearing into a large underwater cavern.
- St. Herman's Cave takes the adventurer back to ancient Mayan times when this was an important ritual site during the Classic Period. Pottery vessels, spears, and torches have been recovered from the cave by the Department of Archaeology.
- Crystal Cave requires a guided exploration into this very spectacular cave system takes you miles through huge caverns that are adorned with spelotems and crystalline formation.
- 200 bird species have been recorded here, as well as three of the five species of wild cats found in Belize – the Jaguar, Ocelot and Jaguarundi.
- Other inhabitants include the Baird's Tapir and the Nine-banded Armadillo.

### Visitor Experience

The park has two entrances. At the mile 10 entrance is the Visitor Center and the trails to St. Herman's Cave, a camp site and observation tower and the Crystal Cave. The second entrance is about two - miles away just above the Blue Hole, and has a picnic area and the Hummingbird Loop nature trail.

The Dusky Ant Bird Trail connects the two entrances with a picturesque hike through the forest.

