A BELIZE FAMILY ADVENTURE
with Smith College

June 25–July 2, 2016
Dear Smith Alumnae and Friends,

Smith Travel invites you to join popular Smith College faculty leaders L. David Smith, Professor of Biological Sciences and Director of the Environmental Science and Policy Program, and Denise Lello, Research Associate in Biological Sciences at Smith College and Coordinator of the Four College Biomathematics Consortium, on A Belize Family Adventure, June 25–July 2, 2016.

The little Central American country of Belize has a huge variety of activities and the natural diversity is, simply, stunning. From beautiful mountains and lush tropical rain forests to a barrier reef that’s second in size only to Australia’s, there’s no end to exploration and discovery.

This custom-designed itinerary is packed with family fun; from zip lining through the rain forest to tubing through a cave system, from investigating ancient Mayan ruins to snorkeling among kaleidoscopic corals, Belize offers a family vacation that’s both relaxing and exhilarating.

Our primary base for the first half of the tour is the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve. Situated at a higher elevation than the rest of the country, the 100,000-acre reserve is the largest protected area in Belize and home to a vast expanse of pine and hardwood forest, and punctuated with limestone cave systems, many little explored. Here we will visit the mysterious Mayan ruins of Xunantunich (once an important ceremonial center), where we delve into all that this diverse reserve has to offer.

The second half of the itinerary is more leisurely with four nights on Ambergris Caye. The Caye, also known as an island, is 25 miles long from north to south, and approximately a mile wide. Here the focus will be on the joys of island living, spending time in the warm sun and turquoise waters. Beautiful beaches fade into azure waters, beckoning swimmers to explore the colorful reefs and meet the underwater life. Coral Reef Ed-Ventures; an innovative, cooperative educational venture between Smith College and the Hol Chan Marine Reserve in San Pedro will give you a once in a life-time opportunity to learn about the reef ecology and how locals are being encouraged to preserve the reef.

Throughout the week, sample the freshly prepared plantains, corn tortillas, white cheeses, picadillos, tamales, an abundance of fresh tropical fruits, and of course, beans and rice.

We hope that you will join Smith alumnae and friends on this Belizean sojourn. Space is limited, so reserve your place today!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director for Travel, Office of Alumnae Relations
**CUSTOM SMITH ITINERARY**

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**Sat, Jun 25**

**USA/Belize City**

Fly to Belize City, arriving in the morning, and transfer to Mountain Pine Ridge, stopping en route (time permitting) at the Belize Zoo, a 29 acre habitat for 125 indigenous animals. Check into the lodge and enjoy the evening at leisure.

*Hidden Valley Inn (B, L, D)*

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**Mon, Jun 27**

**Green Hills & Caves**

Today admire flocks of butterflies at the Green Hills Butterfly Ranch, a research facility which allows spectators to study interactions between different butterfly species. Later, canoe through the chambers of Barton Creek Cave, which extends three miles through the mountain. End the day by zip lining through the rainforest from tree-to-tree on a heart-pounding thrill ride.

*Hidden Valley Inn (B, L, D)*

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**Sun, Jun 26**

**Xunantunich**

Located in the Cayo District of western Belize, the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve serves as the base for the next two and a half days. The Mountain Pine Ridge area stands high overlooking Cayo and boasts of rich history, vibrant culture and 100,000 acres reserved for native Belizean pine forests. Having exchanged letters before departure, the children will meet their pen pals at the Friends Across Borders visit. The children will enjoy playing soccer with their new pen pal friends. Continue by walking the Xunantunich Ruins after crossing the Mopan River by hand-cranked, mechanical ferry. Spend the afternoon learning about Green Iguanas at the Green Iguana Conservation Project, and exploring San Ignacio town.

*Hidden Valley Inn (B, L, D)*

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**Tues, Jun 28**

**Ambergris Caye**

Begin the day with a journey through Jaguar Paw cave, tubing down the river and through an underground cave. Following a traditional lunch of rice and beans, drive an hour and forty-five minutes to Belize City to connect to Ambergris Caye by boat. Ambergris Caye is the largest island of Belize, located in the northeast of the country in the Caribbean Sea. It is the only part of Belize that is completely separated from the mainland. Savor the evening at leisure.

*SunBreeze Hotel (B, L, D)*

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**Wed, Jun 29**

**San Pedro**

Enjoy a morning promenade through San Pedro at leisure. San Pedro is a great place for a casual stroll, to see the beach, or maybe even visit the local souvenir shop. Later, experience Coral Reef Ed-Ventures, an innovative, cooperative educational venture between Smith College and the Hol Chan Marine Reserve in San Pedro. This school-based project began in 2000 as an effort to facilitate community awareness of reef ecology and to support and encourage reef preservation. Spend a few hours with the students, learning about reef ecology.

*SunBreeze Hotel (B, L)*
Travel with Smith Faculty Leaders

Dr. David Smith is Professor of Biological Sciences and Director of the Environmental Science and Policy Program at Smith College. His research interests focus on predator-prey interactions involving marine invertebrates, the causes and ecological consequences of marine biological invasions, and coral reef conservation. He has codirected the Coral Reef Ed-Ventures Program in Belize since 2012. Smith will discuss the importance of coral reefs, their imperiled status, and efforts to conserve these invaluable ecosystems.

Denise Lello is Research Associate in Biological Sciences at Smith College and Coordinator of the Four College Bio-mathematics Consortium. Her research interests include plant mating system evolution, plant soil adaptations, modeling phyllotaxis patterns and mangrove community response to changing sea level. She has codirected the Coral Reef Ed-Ventures Program in Belize since 2012. Dr. Lello will describe the history and dynamics of plant communities from the mangroves of Ambergris Caye and the coast through the fire-adapted palm- pine woodlands to the upland wet tropical forests of the Belize highlands.

Thu, Jun 30

Sunset Cruise
Take time to thoroughly relax and indulge in all that Ambergris Caye has to offer. Admire the coconut palms as they sway in the gentle cooling trade winds, or perhaps booking a side trip through the hotel (at your own expense)—snorkel to the Blue Hole, watch the exotic reef life, or even go catamaran sailing. As the sun sets, cruise along the Ambergris Caye shoreline on a two and a half hour boat ride, sipping drinks, munching snacks and savoring the adventure.
SunBreeze Hotel (B, L, D)

Fri, Jul 1

Caye Caulker
Spend the day snorkeling in the turquoise waters and swimming in the colorful reefs known as Coral Gardens and the Split. Interact with beautiful, friendly reef life such as Parrot fish, Hog fish, Fairy Bassets, Starfish, Rays, Moray Eels, Lobsters and the odd Nurse Shark. Caye Caulker, a village on a small limestone coral island off the coast, is the next stop. Located in the middle of natural fish migration routes, this formerly quiet fishing village has become the center for many painters, musicians, and locally owned businesses. This evening, say good-bye to your guide and fellow adventurers over a special farewell dinner.
SunBreeze Hotel (B, L, D)

Sat, Jul 2

Belize City/USA
All great adventures must one day come to an end. Cross the waters between Belize City and Ambergris, soaking in the last views of the island. Bid farewell to your new friends and beautiful Belize as you head to the airport for your flight home. (B)
## Tour Price (Land Only):
- Adult: $4,990
- Teen (12-17): $4,890
- Child: $4,790
- Single Supplement: $2,300

Tour Price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 15 paying participants. Land prices are subject to change.

## Activity Level:
Moderately Active – Daily programs tours involve walking between one to two miles. All participants should be in good health, physically fit, and capable of walking over uneven terrain without assistance.

## Flights:
Participants are responsible for all aspects of their air arrangements to and from Belize City (BZE), Belize. Participants who are unable to take the group airport transfers are responsible for their own airport transfers, which can be arranged through TFA at additional cost.

## Deposit & Final Payment:
A deposit of $700 per paying participant is required to guarantee participation in the program. This may be paid by check, or by Visa, American Express or MasterCard. Final payment is due by March 27, 2016. Registrations will be accepted beyond this date on a space available basis with payment in full by check only.

## Terms & Conditions:
Thomson Family Adventures (TFA) acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services relating to this tour. TFA, Smith College, and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, which may be caused by any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus, or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of the tour. TFA and Smith College reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason including insufficient numbers of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. If bookings fall below the minimum required, passengers will be advised of additional costs or itinerary alterations before departure date.

## Cancellations & Refunds:
All cancellations must be received in writing by TFA, and deposits are non-refundable. Written cancellation received by TFA on or before March 27, 2016: full refund minus $700 per person deposit. Written cancellation received by TFA on or between March 28 and May 12, 2016: 50% refund of the package price. Cancellations received on or after May 13, 2016: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds can be issued for occasional missed meals or sightseeing tours. No refunds for any unused portion of the tour. If due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors you are required to spend an additional night, you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, and meal costs. Tour cancellation-interruption insurance is strongly recommended. A confirmation letter and travel insurance application will be mailed upon receipt of your deposit from Smith Travel.

## Tour Price Inclusions:
- 7 nights accommodations as outlined in itinerary: breakfast daily, 7 lunches, 6 dinners; participation of 2 Smith faculty members; services of a guide through trip; all transportation; airport transfers; bottled water for land portion; pen pal coordination; select snacks/drinks on cruise; driver, hotel porter, and wait staff tips; beer and wine at welcome and farewell meals.

## Tour Price Exclusions:
- Airfare, airline taxes, fuel surcharges; connecting rooms; soda, beer, wine, spirits; passports, visas, and immunizations fees; meals and expenses on route; laundry, phone/fax/email, items of a personal nature; additional unlisted activities; guide and other staff tips.

### A BELIZE FAMILY ADVENTURE
**June 25-July 2, 2016**

**Tour Registration**

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The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risks therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless Smith College and Thomson Family Adventures (TFA) and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licenses, or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of and/or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, this tour.

**EACH ADULT PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN**

SIGNATURE / DATE

SIGNATURE / DATE

Complete and return by mail or fax to:
Smith Travel - Office of Alumnae Relations
33 Elm Street | Northampton, MA 01063
fax (413) 585-2015
Belize is packed with activities that delight visitors of all ages. Smith’s exhilarating family vacation showcases the country’s geographical diversity, cultural wealth, and amazing ecosystems—from high mountain forests to the longest reef system in the Western hemisphere.

Explore ancient Mayan ruins, snorkel in the famed reefs, and see iguanas, crocodiles, and howler monkeys through your youngsters’ eyes.

Enjoy the camaraderie of Smith professors L. David Smith and Denise Lello as they enrich the experience of learning about a new culture and ecosystem.

From the Cayo district of Western Belize, to Belize’s famous Caribbean beaches in Ambergris Caye... whether you’re traveling with youngsters or teens, or decide to introduce the grand kids to a new culture, Belize truly does have something tantalizing for everyone.