January 28 – February 6, 2016

Belize & Guatemala
Maya Treasures, Tropical Wildlife and Traditions

Leo W. Buss
Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Dear Yale Travelers and Friends

Escape to Central America for the perfect winter getaway. Belize and Guatemala offer some of the most breathtaking scenery: thick tropical forests stretching up towards the misty heights of the sparsely populated Maya Mountains, extraordinary Maya archaeology, exuberant wildlife, Spanish colonial heritage, impressive volcanoes, and a vibrant indigenous culture. Join Dr. Leo W. Buss, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, as we discover two vibrant Central America countries, while staying in charming, luxurious, tropical boutique hotels and lodges.

Your adventure starts in Belize from where we fly by charter plane to the incomparable Chan Chich lodge which due to its location is blessed with an abundance of wildlife. All five cat species—jaguar, puma, ocelot, margay and jaguarondi—are well represented with jaguars seen at the rate of about one per week, a record that is unmatched elsewhere. Visits to the sites of Xunantunich in Belize and Tikal in Guatemala will provide us with a thorough introduction of the Maya civilization during the Classic Period 600 to 900 A.D. Our journey then takes us to Lake Atitlán, considered one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, with visits to authentic indigenous open-air markets where the men and women still wear traditional colorful hand-woven dress. Our tour concludes in the graceful and charming colonial town of Antigua, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. For those who want to extend their stay, join a pre-trip extension to Ambergris Caye to see Belize’s barrier reef, the world’s second largest.

We look forward to welcoming you on this adventure! To hold your spot please visit www.yaleedtravel.org/belize16 to register now, or e-mail edtravel@yale.edu or call Yale Educational Travel at (203) 432-1952.

Sincerely,

Kathy Edersheim ’87
Senior Director
International Alumni Relations and Travel

Cover Photo: Chan Chich Lodge
Leo W. Buss

Leo W. Buss, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, is widely known for his research in ecology and evolution and has been teaching at Yale since completing his doctoral work at Johns Hopkins University in 1979. His book, *The Evolution of Individuality* (1987), broke new ground in understanding evolution. Professor Buss was named Guggenheim Fellow in 1985 and the MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellow in 1989. He serves as Curator of Invertebrates at Yale’s Peabody Museum, and has served as director of the Sears Foundation for Marine Research and director of Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies. He has taught Introductory Biology, Ecology, Invertebrate Zoology and a freshman and sophomore seminar course entitled “The Collections of the Peabody Museum.” Today his teaching efforts are split between lecturing in the newly designed “Foundations of Biological Sciences,” required of all Yale biology majors, and a freshman seminar “Contemporary Issues in Science”, intended for non-science majors. His wife Jane, a retired physician and medical director, will accompany Professor Buss on this program. Professor Buss comments, “Our itinerary has a special resonance for us as Jane was raised in the Panama Canal Zone and we first met there when I was working at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. We welcome the opportunity to return to the region and to discuss with Yale travelers the challenges posed by climate change and science’s surprisingly rich understanding of the history of the universe.

What to Expect

This exclusive expedition is designed for Yale alumni and friends who are interested in learning about the nature, history, culture and archaeology of Belize and Guatemala. Visits include some of the finest rainforest reserves in Central America plus the archaeological sites of Xunantunich and Tikal, and the colonial and cultural wonders of the highlands of Guatemala. There is a daily program of nature exploration, guided rain forest and historical walks and educational discussions. This program is described as active and includes hiking and walking over unpaved uneven and sometimes slippery surfaces often without handrails. Travel is by motor coach, vans, chartered planes, scheduled flights, ferry, and motor launch with daily walks of up to two miles in length at a leisurely pace suitable for nature study and Maya ruins explorations. Typically the weather is hot and humid in the rainforest (mid 80s); and spring-like in the highlands. Even in the dry season, when this trip is scheduled, some rain can be expected. Since some of the travel will be in remote areas, everyone must be flexible concerning time schedules. This program is a tremendous experience for travelers who are in good physical condition with an appetite for adventure, and who can tolerate some insects, heat, long walks, and bumpy dirt roads for the chance to explore superb natural areas.

TROPICAL NATURE
by Adrian Forsyth
A lively, lucid portrait of the tropics as seen by two uncommonly observant and thoughtful field biologists. Its 17 marvelous essays introduce the habitats, ecology, plants and animals of the Central and South American rainforest. With a lengthy appendix of practical advice for the tropical traveler.

MAYA ART AND ARCHITECTURE
by Mary Miller
Organized thematically, this book by Yale art historian Mary Ellen Miller surveys the art and architecture throughout Mayadom. She makes use of the latest discoveries at Tikal, Copan Palenque and other Maya sites to present the range of art from architecture, to sculpture, ceramics and murals. Rewritten and updated to include the discoveries and new theories from the past decade and a half, this classic guide to the art of the ancient Maya is now illustrated in color throughout.

Upcoming Trips

Symphony on the Danube
09/30/2015–10/14/2015
Professor Anders Winroth, History
www.yaleedtravel.org/danube15

Rediscovering the Mediterranean Diet on a Voyage from Lisbon to Rome
10/03/2015–10/15/2015
www.yaleedtravel.org/medcuisine15

New Year’s in the Sea of Cortez: Cousteau’s Aquarium of the World
12/25/2015–01/02/2016
Professor Laurie Santos, Psychology
www.yaleedtravel.org/seaofcortez15

Yale Educational Travel
Association of Yale Alumni
Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010
Reservations: 203.432.1952
edtravel@yale.edu
Itinerary

US / Belize City

Thursday, January 28
Upon arrival in Belize City meet and connect with a 30-minute charter flight to Chan Chich lodge on Gallon Jug Estate in remote north-western Belize in what is referred to as La Selva Maya, the largest contiguous forest north of the Amazon basin. Here, farsighted conservationists have established the finest rainforest lodge in the country carefully situated in the plaza of an ancient Maya city. The lodge is surrounded by pristine forest, and with conservation strong, wildlife here has thrived. Upon arrival relax and soak in the surrounding beauty. Chan Chich Lodge (D)

Chan Chich

Friday/Saturday, January 29-30
For the next two days immerse in the beauty of Belize. The adventure begins on the porch of your cabana where you may see parrots, parakeets, keel-billed toucans, oropendolas, tanagers, and grey fox. Explore the pristine rainforest which surrounds Chan Chich, enjoying the excellent trails. Over 350 species of birds have been recorded at Chan Chich including large birds such as the Crested Guan and Great Curassow which are readily seen here. You don’t have to be a “birder” to enjoy this! In addition, all five cat species – jaguar, puma, ocelot, margay and jaguaronddi are well represented. Walk the trails in this lush forest surrounded by towering trees, delicate orchids, bromeliads, and a variety of ferns. You may catch a glimpse of tapir, peccary, howler monkey or perhaps a jungle cat. At night join a guided safari to scope out nocturnal fauna. This night drive is considered the best chance for sighting the elusive jaguar or other nocturnal creatures. A medicinal plant walk will teach us about the variety of plants which were used by the Maya through history and still today. Chan Chich Lodge (2B, 2L, 2D)

Xunantunich

Sunday, January 31
After a short charter flight, drive to the nearby Xunantunich Maya Site. An impressive well-excavated site, Xunantunich was a thriving Maya city during the Classic Period, from about 600 to 900 A.D. We reach this major ceremonial center by crossing the Mopan River aboard a hand-cranked car-ferry. Once there, the site provides an impressive view of the entire river valley; its centerpiece, El Castillo, rises 120 feet above the plaza, making it one of the tallest buildings in Belize. After lunch travel to the Petén jungle in Guatemala where Tikal is located. Hotel Camino Real Tikal (B,L,D)

Tikal

Monday, February 1
Today, explore Tikal, one of the grandest of the Mayan cities, and perhaps the
finest gift to us from the Mayan heritage. Tikal flourished in the Classic period from A.D. 250 to 900, then suddenly collapsed around A.D. 900 and its population vanished. The jungle closed over the ancient metropolis and for a thousand years it lay buried under its cover. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Tikal has been under excavation and reconstruction since the late 1950s. Its location within a national park provides excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing. Today, Tikal is an extraordinary exhibit of temple pyramids topped with stone roofed combs towering above the surrounding Petén jungle. Plazas, deep reservoirs, carved stelae, and massive altars rise from the rainforest floor. Visit the Tikal Museum and the Lithic and Stelae Museums to view treasures from the excavations. Hotel Camino Real Tikal (B,L,D)

Santa Cruz / San Juan La Laguna

Wednesday, February 3

Enjoy the views as you take a pleasant boat ride to Santa Cruz, one of the 12 Indian villages located around the lake, all with striking, distinctive dress and traditions. Walk through the town, see the foot-loom art inside native homes and learn about weaving. After lunch continue by boat to the beautiful town of San Juan La Laguna where the Tz’utujil Maya lived. Return to the hotel with time to explore the beautiful vistas of Lake Atitlán and the lovely gardens. Hotel Atitlán (B,D)

Lake Atitlán

Tuesday, February 2

Morning flight to Guatemala City and transfer to Lake Atitlán. With breathtaking volcanic panoramas, Atitlán is considered one of the most beautiful volcanic lakes in the world. On the way, visit the authentic Indian market of Sololá. See men in their traditional dress of gold-embroidered jackets distinctive of the town and behold stunning mountainside views of the lake. Hotel Atitlán (B,L,D)

Antigua Guatemala

Thursday, February 4

This morning take an optional walk in the cloud forest behind the hotel or visit

continued next page
the village of Panajachel which is great for walking and seeing the local textiles and handicrafts. After lunch, transfer to the town of Antigua Guatemala and to our lovely hotel located in what it was a 17th-century monastery. Casa Santo Domingo (B,L,D)

Highlight

**Immerse** yourself in the pristine rainforest where wildlife thrives.

**Walk** the trails to see one of the five exotic cat species – jaguar, puma, ocelot, margay and jaguarundi.

**Marvel** in Antigua, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Learn** about Guatemala’s most famous export and the coffee making process at a coffee farm.

**Cruise** across Lake Atitlán on a private boat ride with volcanic panoramas.

**Explore** Tikal National Park which contains archaeological remains of the ancient Maya Civilization.

**Pre-Trip Extension to Ambergris Caye & Barrier Reef**


Upon arrival in Belize City, take a short flight to San Pedro on Ambergris Caye. Here you will find one of the finest barrier reefs in the world. The reef is a fantastic creation of coral polyps which formed over thousands of years, creating colorful gardens of coral, tropical fish, and shells. The marvels of the coral reef system can be easily enjoyed on boat excursions, and while swimming and snorkeling. Enjoy the waters of Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Mexico Rocks, a patch reef system, and see mangroves and many birds. Extension includes 3-night accommodations, two half day excursions to the reef, taxes, local flights to and from San Pedro, all breakfasts, and 2 lunches. Extension price based on a minimum of 8 passengers.

Program Cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Cost</th>
<th>$6,690</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(per person, double occupancy)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Single Supplement | $1,190 |
| (limited availability) |

| Deposit Amount | $1,000 |
| (per person) |

| Sample Airfare from New York | $650 |
| (per person, not included, price as of March 2015 and subject to change without notice) |

Group size limited to 25 participants.

Optional Pre-Trip Extension to Ambergris Caye to see Belize’s barrier reef

| Extension Cost | $1,995 |
| (per person, double occupancy) |

| Single Supplement | $775 |
| (limited availability) |

Note: Itinerary subject to change. Some excursions in this program involve a significant amount of walking.

*Included meals indicated each day as (B,L,D) = Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.*

**Terms and Conditions**

**RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS & FINAL PAYMENT:**
To reserve a space on this program, please visit www.yaletravel.org/belize16, e-mail edtravel@yale.edu or mail authorization of a credit card payment or a check made payable to “ROYAL ADVENTURES.” for $1,000 per person along with a completed reservation form to: Yale Educational Travel, Association of Yale Alumni, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010 or Fax to (203) 432-0587. Reservations are acknowledged in the order of receipt. Final payment is due on October 28, 2015. Royal Adventures handles all invoicing. CST #2009579-40.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:** Refunds, less a cancellation fee of $500 per person, are made if we are notified in writing to Yale Educational Travel on or before October 28, 2015. No refunds will be made after that date. All cancellations must be in writing and will become effective as of the date they are received. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations or other trip features or for any part of the program on which you choose not to participate.
BELIZE & GUATEMALA: MAYA TREASURES, TROPICAL WILDLIFE AND TRADITIONS  JANUARY 28–FEBRUARY 6, 2016

TO REGISTER, RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR DEPOSIT OF $1,000 PER PERSON, PLUS $200 FOR THE AMBERGRIS CAYE & BARRIER REEF PRE-TRIP EXTENSION. FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE OCTOBER 28, 2015 BY CHECK ONLY, PAYABLE TO “ROYAL ADVENTURES.”

1) NAME AS ON PASSPORT

DATE OF BIRTH

YALE CONNECTION

PASSPORT ORIGIN

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GUEST

2) NAME AS ON PASSPORT

DATE OF BIRTH

YALE CONNECTION

PASSPORT ORIGIN

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GUEST

CONTACT INFORMATION

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PRIMARY PHONE

SECONDARY PHONE

E-MAIL

PAYMENT OPTIONS

☐ PAY BY CHECK MADE OUT TO “ROYAL ADVENTURES”

☐ PLEASE CHARGE THE DEPOSIT OF _________ PER PERSON TO:

☐ AMEX ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER CARD

INSURANCE:

Yale Educational Travel highly recommends that participants purchase travel insurance as the cancellation policy will apply. However, Yale does not recommend a particular insurance company and Yale travelers are free to purchase the insurance of their choice. There is usually a short window of time (7–21 days from the first payment date) when one can purchase travel insurance and still be covered for certain provisions (such as pre-existing conditions). If travel insurance is important to you, please do not wait to purchase insurance.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Royal Adventures, its owners and employees act only as agents for the various independent suppliers and contractors providing transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services connected with this tour. Such travel and services are subject to the terms and conditions under which such accommodations, services and transportation are offered or provided, and the Association of Yale Alumni and Royal Adventures and their respective, employees, agents, representatives, and assigns, accept no liability therefor. The Association of Yale Alumni and Royal Adventures, assume no liability for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or other irregularity which may be caused by the defect of any aircraft or vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages or expenses of any kind due to sickness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. The Association of Yale Alumni and Royal Adventures reserve the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience or safety of the tour participants. They reserve the right to withdraw this tour without penalty. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, or to substitute another qualified leader or special guest. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. The price of the program is given in good faith based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, airfare, or fuel increases will be passed onto participants. Neither the Association of Yale Alumni nor Royal Adventures accept the liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline ticket. The air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release.

AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS

On occasion, Yale Educational Travel obtains, from its staff or from trip participants, photographic or video images of passengers and trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize Yale Educational Travel, without providing compensation to you, or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings of you, as well as voice recordings included with any videos, in YET’s sales, marketing, advertising, publicity and/or training activities.

QUESTIONS:
Pleaset visit www.yaleedtravel.org/belize16, e-mail edtravel@yale.edu, or call (203) 432-1952.
Belize & Guatemala
Maya Treasures, Tropical Wildlife and Traditions
January 28 – February 6, 2016

Experience the wildlife, Maya ruins & culture of Belize and Guatemala