

A HOTEL LIFE



BELIZE: GAIA RIVERLODGE

by BEN FINGLE

TYPE: ADVENTURE
ROOMS: 200
BAR: Adventure



Believe in Gaia Riverlodge - The jungle never sleeps

HIGHS + LOWS

- ⊕ The location is spectacular. I mean absolutely mind blowing. The natural beauty is incredible and it's yours for the taking, from the tropical birds, waterfalls, fauna and flora, rivers... wow!
- ⊕ GAIA can provide multiple experiences... nature, wine, table tennis or an action packed jungle adventure with trekking, Mayan Ruins, zip lining, cave rappelling, etc.
- ⊕ The service at GAIA is absolutely great. Attentive, informative, knowledgeable friendly people, who you can tell are genuinely happy to be there.
- ⊖ GAIA is remote. This is a plus and a minus, probably more of a plus because it means it will never become overrun with tourists. However, sadly, it means it isn't easy to plan. Miami to Belize, Belize to Maya Falls, or just to get up a dusty jungle road... but TRUST me, it's worth it!!

IMPORTANT BITS

TYPE:	River lodge	VIBE:	Magical jungle retreat
ROOMS:	200	MUSIC:	Local Belizean jungle vibes
POOL/SPA:	Mountain waterfall and spa	CHILDREN:	Bring them if they're well behaved.
RESTAURANT:	Yes, with the most incredible views!	LOCATION:	Perfectly remote
BAR:	Yes... cocktail bar ready anytime.	DESIGNED BY:	The lodge was designed by architect Volky Nelder and the floor was selected by owner David Lighter.
YEAR OPENED:	2013	BEST WAY TO BOOK:	Email info@gaiariverlodge.com
WIFI:	Yes, in the main building.	PRICES:	Reasonably priced, although you can't put a price on this kind of magic!

BAROMETER

 DESIGN	★★★★★	 NIGHT'S SLEEP	★★★★★
 WEBSITE	★★★★★	 SERVICE	★★★★★
 LIFE CHANGING	★★★★★	 AMENITIES	★★★★★
 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS	★★★★★	 REUSABLE STUFF	★★★★☆
 OVERALL VALUE	★★★★★	 REFER A FRIEND	★★★★★

A HOTEL LIFE RATING: 49/50

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The room at Gaia. Local Belizian crafts, t-shirts and coffee!



The welcome drink, a fresh fruit concoction with an optional serving of delicious rum, served by a happy Belizian chef.



Here for a couple of nights. 13 bungalows in total, spread out over a couple of acres.



The accommodations. Simple, clean jungle living.



The balcony high in the trees, overlooking the incredible valley.



The views presented over the mountains are incredible. The photos do it no justice!

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The attention to detail is fantastic! The service here is absolutely impeccable and you can tell all of the staff are genuinely proud to be working here.



Perfect weather, incredibly happy people and the most beautiful surroundings... what's not to be happy about?



This is where I had breakfast every morning. Nature is thriving with hundreds of species of tropical birds that buzz about while you eat. From toucans to hummingbirds, it's really incredible!



The grounds are immaculate and guests are encouraged to relax in any place.



And this is the best bit... you can take a 'mountain elevator' or walk 100 steps down to the natural pool for sunning and swimming. Heaven!



No Riverlodge is complete without a jungle spa, this was happened to be exceptional!

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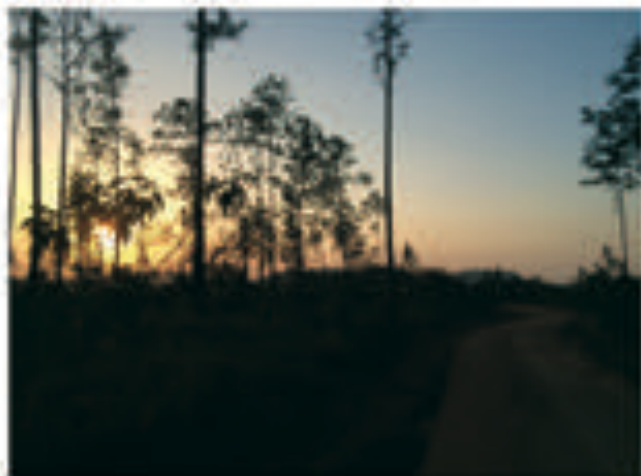
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The view at Big Rock. I mean...



I felt like I was in a Ryan Murphy photo... but with clothes on. Big Rock Waterfall at sunset is perfect, and just a short 10-minute bike ride from Gaia. Bikes provided, of course.



Another one of those incredible sunsets on the ride back from Big Rock.



This is the entrance to the answer caves where the Mayans used to stow away all sorts of things in hopes of survival. The caves are 7 miles long and filled with the most incredible stalagmites and stalactites. A 45-minute trip away from Gaia, arranged by the hotel.



Bat in... loved it.



A little more cave action.

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