

CROCS OF BELIZE

UNFAIR TREATMENT AND FALSE BELIEFS ABOUT CROCS IN BELIZE HAVE PERSISTED FOR GENERATIONS.

We can co-exist with these fascinating animals by following simple guidelines:

- 1) Do not directly or indirectly feed, harass, or handle crocs
- 2) BE AWARE at the water's edge at dusk and dawn as crocodiles are more actively hunting or feeding during this time of the day.

The killing or consumption of crocodiles is illegal, as is the sale or purchase of crocodile items such as teeth, skin, or meat.



MYTH VS FACT



Myth: Crocodiles in Belize are man-eaters.

Truth: The two species in Belize are NOT what experts consider "man-eating" crocs. Morelet's Crocodiles prefer a diet of snails, some fish, and small mammals, whereas the American Crocodile's diet primarily consist of fish.

Myth: Crocodiles of Belize actively attack people.

Truth: Belize has the lowest percentage of crocodile attacks throughout Central America. The Morelet's and American Crocodiles tend to be shy and wary of humans but lose their fear of humans through direct feeding, harassment, or handling.

Myth: Communities compete with crocodiles for fish.

Truth: Crocodiles actually help regulate fish populations by eating old, diseased, or injured fish. Scientific studies have shown that if the crocs are removed the fish eventually disappear due to overpopulation and/or disease.

Myth: Belize is overpopulated with crocodiles.

Truth: Although there has been some recovery from past over exploitation, current croc populations are not as large as they were once historically due to loss of habitat, pollution, and poaching, thus are considered vulnerable to extinction.

Myth: Relocation of crocodiles is a positive solution to protect my community.

Truth: Scientific research has proven that adult crocodiles CAN NOT be easily relocated as they will return back to their specific location. Even if that crocodile does not return another is likely to fill the the empty habitat.

Be a WILDLIFE HERO in your community and spread the knowledge of the Dos and Don'ts when living with Crocodiles to keep your family, friends, and pets safe while ensuring that Belize remains wild for future generations!



CROCODILE RESEARCH COALITION

