Morelet's Crocodile

*(Crocodylus moreletii)*

The Morelet's Crocodile is a small crocodile, seldom exceeding 10 feet in length. These larger animals can be considered dangerous to humans. This crocodile primarily inhabits freshwater lakes, rivers and ponds. The female will build a large nest of twigs and rotting vegetation and lay up to 3 dozen eggs.

The Morelet's Crocodile eats a variety of prey, including aquatic invertebrates, fish, small mammals and birds. These crocodiles are normally shy and timid, though the larger ones should be considered dangerous to humans.

Prior to 1981, the Morelet's Crocodile was hunted heavily in Belize for its hide. At the time of the passing of the Wildlife Protection Act, the number of crocodiles was few. The population has since rebounded and they can be found in most of the lowland interior rivers and ponds.

**Key Facts**

**Length:**
To 8 feet

**Habitat:**
Freshwater river and lakes

**Distribution:**
Northern and central coastal Belize
Food:
Small mammals, birds, reptiles, invertebrates, fish