

## **TRAVEL TIPS**

The winter months of the Northern Hemisphere, November through May, attract the most visitors to Belize.

Still, many visitors prefer to come during the quieter summer months from June to October. Both times of

the year have their own unique attractions, and the choice of when to visit is totally up to you, your budget,

and the adventures you crave.

### **Belize in Winter**

Belize has proven to be the choice location for those wanting to escape the harsh winter of the North.

Besides the favorable temperature, Belize is also a favorite destination because of the following:

- Belize is one of the most accessible of all tropical locations by geography and entry requirements.
- Belize is English speaking, which making it easy for you to get around by yourself, with a group, or if you have special needs.
- This is the dry season in Belize which means that you should have no problem predicting bright, sunny skies during your vacation.

### **Belize in Summer**

Belize is also the ideal place for those needing a summer break. Although Belize is a tropical country,

the offshore breezes often provide cooler temperatures during the summer months than experienced

in many cities to the north. During the summer months it is also true that:

- Belize receives fewer visitors, which gives you the opportunity to find the privacy and isolation you desire.
- Although it is the rainy season, showers are sporadic, and short, and followed by clear

- skies
- and sunshine.
- The best feature about spending a summer vacation in Belize is the savings. Rates start from
- around May 1st and remain significantly lower until November as compared to prices
- encountered during the winter months.

Visitors are advised to pack casual clothing in addition to their more relaxed beach and outdoor wear.

Below is a sample packing list for a 7-10 day visit which you can adjust accordingly.

**Pack according to:**

- Mobile or stationary--traveling a lot or staying in one place
- Mode of transportation--bus, flights, biking, etc.
- Activities while in country--camping, diving, fishing, etc.

**Keep in mind...** rolling suitcases and large bags are difficult to maneuver in sand, in and out of buses,

up and down steps and when there is adverse weather (rain, heat).

**Clothing**

- 5 to 7 shirts (short sleeve, sleeveless, cool & easy to dry)
- 1 thin long-sleeve shirt (protection from sun & insects)
- 2 pair shorts
- 2 pair long pants (jeans or khakis, nylon)
- 2 skirts or dress (not too dressy but cool)
- 1-2 bathing suits
- 5 to 7 underwear
- 1 pair sandals (waterproof is good, but not necessary)
- 1 pair of closed toed shoes (tennis or hiking)
- 2 pairs of thin socks (if hiking, bring more) sleepwear
- nylon windbreaker or long sleeve heavier shirt hat
- \*\*remember, laundry can easily be done here

## **Toiletries**

- personal toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, shaving stuff, toothpaste, brush, etc.)
- personal medicines (advil, motion sickness, all prescribed medications)
- hand sanitizer or wet wipes (when soap & water is not available to wash hands)
- sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher)
- insect repellent
- after bite lotion
- contact solution (if you wear contacts)
- small first aid kit

## **Equipment List**

- daypack (small backpack/carry-on)
- multi-purpose tool (leatherman/swiss army knife) watch
- water bottle
- small sewing kit
- polarized sunglasses & eyeglasses (plus a spare pair)
- your favorite snacks (i.e. granola bars, dried fruits)
- a few ziplock bags (large & small)
- camera
- small flashlight or headlamp (with extra bulb and batteries)
- binoculars
- small packable towel
- handkerchiefs or bandanas
- folding umbrella or raincoat
- address list for a few postcards
- activity equipment (depends on your interests-diving, snorkeling, fishing, birding, hiking, caving, camping, biking, photography, etc.)

## **Documents**

- airline tickets & itinerary
- passport and 1 photocopy of your passport (keep photocopy separate from original)
- insurance info. (both travel insurance & home country medical info.)
- money and associated records
- credit card info. (keep a separate list of number & phone number if lost or stolen)
- medical letter from your doctor (if you have a specific condition)
- emergency contact information (keep 2 names & numbers with your passport)
- SCUBA certification card and dive log

[www.belize.net](http://www.belize.net), <http://www.ambergriscaje.com/pages/town/divelighthouse.html>

[www.ambergriscaje.com](http://www.ambergriscaje.com), <http://www.hydromet.gov.bz/>

<http://www.longcayebelize.com/>, <http://www.cavesbranch.com/>

<https://www.nriol.net/nriol/insurance/sri/liaisonintl.html>, <http://cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/bh.html>

## **Belize Facts and Information**

Belize is situated on the Caribbean Sea, south of Mexico, and east and north of Guatemala in Central America. In Area it is about the size of New Hampshire. Most of the country is heavily forested with various hardwoods. Mangrove swamps and cayes along the coast give way to hills and mountains in the interior. The Highest point is Victoria Peak 3681ft.

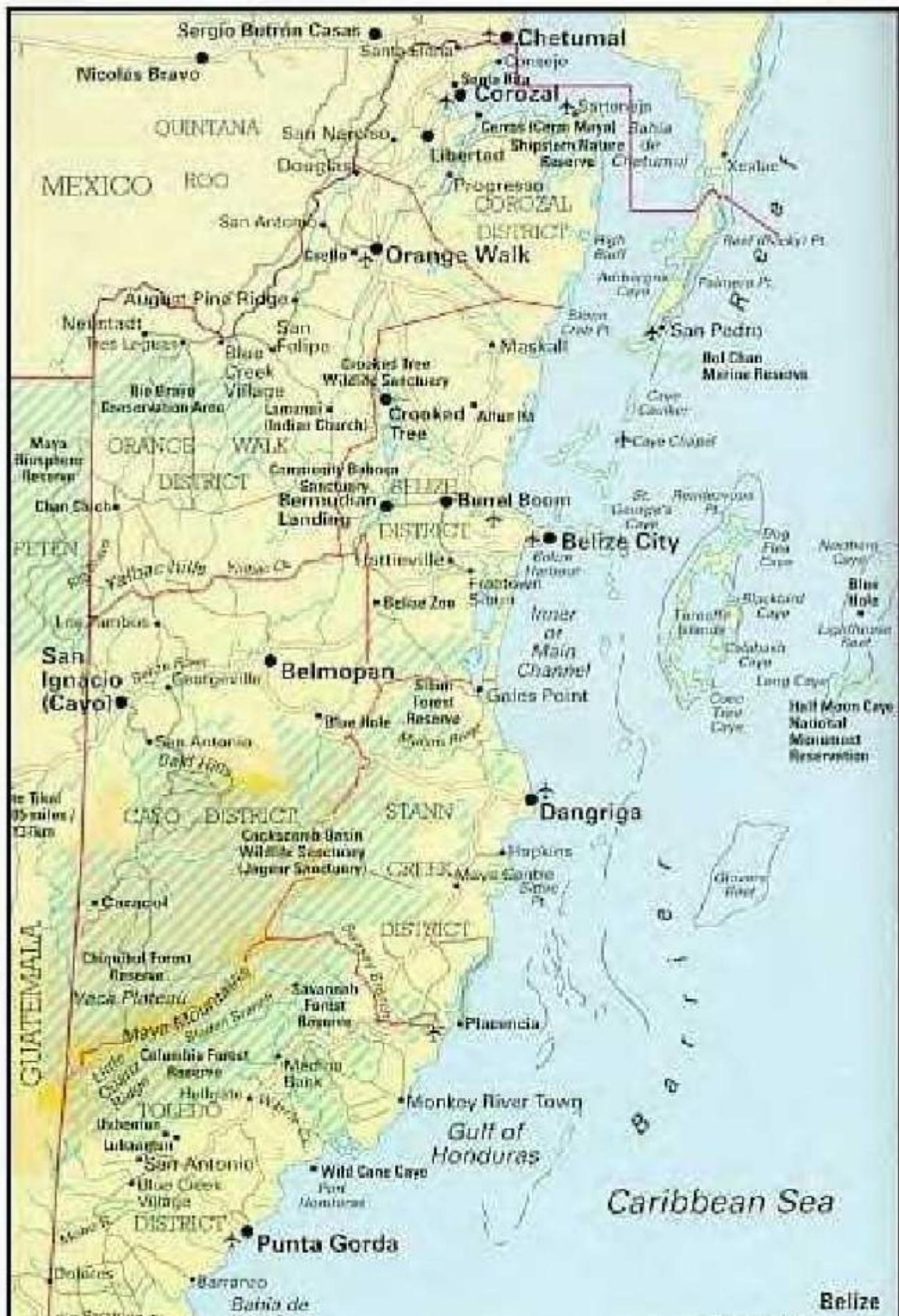
Government-Parliamentary democracy

History-The Mayan Civilization spread in the area of Belize between 1500bc and ad 300 and flourished until about 1200ad. Several major archeological sites -notably Caracol, Lamanai, Lubaantun, Altun Ha, and Xunantunich-reflect the advanced civilization and much denser population of that period. European contact began in 1502 when Columbus sailed along the coast. The first recorded European settlement was begun by shipwrecked English seamen in 1638. Over the next 150 years, more english settlements were established. This period was also marked by piracy, indiscriminate logging and sporadic attacks by Indians and neighboring Spanish settlements. Great Britain first sent an official representative to the area in the late 18th century, but Belize was not formally termed the Colony of Briish Honduras until 1840. It became a Crown colony in 1862. Subsequently, several constitutional changes were enacted to expand representative government. Full internal selfgovernment under a ministerial system was granted in Jan. 1964

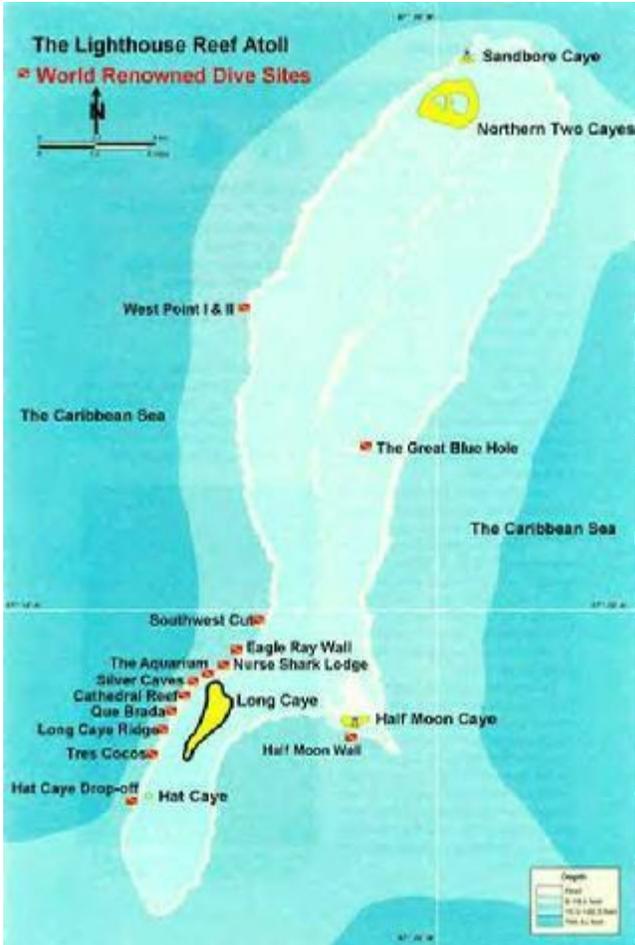


Aldous Huxley wrote that British Honduras, as Belize was called before its independence in 1981, would certainly be one of the ends of the world. "It is not on the way from anywhere to anywhere else...it is all but inhabited." With only a population of just over 250,000, Belize

remains one of the most relaxed countries in Central America. It is gratifyingly cosmopolitan with a mixed population of black Creoles, Spanish-speaking mestizos, Maya, East Indians, Syrians, Mennonites, Chinese and North Americans. Today, Belize is one of the world's leading ecotourism destinations. We were looking forward to jungle hikes, wildlife and snorkeling around a coral reef whose size trails only Australia's Great Barrier Reef.



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Lighthouse Reef Dive Sites and Islands

**Entry Requirements**

[VISA INFORMATION](#) | [DEPARTURE FEES](#)

With the exception of cruise ship passengers, all visitors to Belize **must present a valid passport before entering the country**. Please note that **driver's licenses and birth certificates** are not approved travel documents and **cannot be used to enter the country**. Passports must be valid up until time of departure.

In cases where a visitor remains in the country for over 30 days, an extension of entry must be requested. Extensions are available for the cost of:

- Up to 6 months for US \$25
- After 6 months US \$50 per month

**VISA INFORMATION**

**Who does NOT need a visa to enter Belize?**

Nationals of the following countries do not require visas:

- Australia
- Canada
- Hong Kong
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Norway
- United States
- Venezuela
- CARICOM member states

**Who needs a visa to enter Belize?**

Entry visas should be obtained outside of Belize. For the nearest place to obtain a visa please visit: [Belize Consuls and Embassies](#).

Nationals of European Community countries do not require visas.

In cases where a visa has not been secured, one will be issued upon arrival

at entry points. This will be facilitated only where prior approval has been granted by Immigration.

Nationals of the following countries **must secure a visa to enter Belize.**

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Angola
- Argentina
- Bosnia
- Brazil
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- China
- El Salvador
- Ethiopia
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Japan
- Korea (North and S
- Libya
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Morocco
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Poland
- Russia
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Ukraine
- Yugoslavia
- Zaire

In order to enter Belize, nationals of the following countries **must secure a visa, pay the appropriate fees and must obtain clearance** from the Director

- Bangladesh
- Bolivia
- Columbia
- Cuba
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- India
- Iran
- Iraq
- Israel
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Myanmar(Burma)
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Palestine
- People's Republic of China
- Peru
- Srilanka
- Syria
- Thailand
- United Arab Emigrates

of Immigration:

For Inquiries or questions, Please Contact:

Belize Immigration and Nationality Department  
Belmopan, Cayo District  
Belize, Central America  
Telephone 011-501-822-2423  
Fax: 011-501-822-2662

**OR Contact:**

[Belize Consuls and Embassies](#)

**OR Contact:**

The Belize Embassy  
2535 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest  
Washington, D.C 20008  
USA  
Telephone: (202) 332-9536  
Fax: (202) 332-6741

**DEPARTURE FEES**

**International Passengers by Air**

**Philip Goldson International Airport** Passenger Service Fee \$15.00 Airport Development Fee \$15.00 Conservation Fee \$3.75 Security Fee \$1.25 **Total Airport Departure Fees: US \$35.00** Payable ONLY in US currency. All fees apply to non-Belizean citizens and non-Belizean permanent residents. **These fees are sometimes included in the cost of your airfare.**

**International Passengers by Land**

**Santa Elena: Northern border with Mexico**

**Benque Viejo del Carmen: Western adjacency zone with Guatemala**

Border Processing Fee \$15.00 Conservation Fee \$3.75 **Total Border Departure Fees: US \$18.75 or BZ \$37.50** Payable in US or Belize currency. All fees apply to non-Belizean citizens  
Exemptions: children under 12; permanent residents of Belize; visitors from border towns for first 24 hours. **International Passengers by Sea**  
**Departure by boat from Punta Gorda, Dangriga**

**or San Pedro Conservation Fee \$3.75 Total Sea  
Departure Fees: US \$3.75 or BZ \$7.50** Payable in  
US or Belize currency. **Domestic Air Passengers  
International Airport to Domestic Airport  
Security Fee \$0.75 Total Fee for Domestic Air  
Passengers: US \$0.75 or BZ \$1.50**

