



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Belize - Belize City

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Belmopan
- ✓ **Language:** English, Kriol, Spanish, Garifuna, Maya & Plat Deutsch.
- ✓ **Population:** ± 61,000 (1/3 of country)
- ✓ **Square km:** ± 35,700
- ✓ **Currency:** Belizean Dollars (US Dollars)
- ✓ **Country code:** +501 (2)
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some countries, [check here!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 911 (police) / 90 (medic)
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A / Hep-B / Typhoid / Yellow fever / DTP / Malaria prevention



History Recap Over 1 Drink

1500BC-800AD: Maya civilization. 1100s-1400s: Yucatec Maya overthrew Itza-Maya. 1508: Spanish colonialists arrived, Maya's resisted. '44: Spanish occupation North→'46: Massive uprising threw them out. '47: Pechecos destroyed & killed. '67-68: Spain destroys everything related to Maya culture. '69: Dutch. 1636: War Maya-Spain→'37: Population nearly extinct→'42 independence. 1707: Spain tortured Tipu-Maya for aid in fight against Itza-Maya, then sold them into slavery. 1809: Maya's attacked British camps (arrived in '63). 1821: C-America independent from Spain→ '39: Guatemala claims sovereign rights of Belize, '40: UK claims it→'59: Treaty Guat-UK Belize boundaries→'British Honduras'. 1929-30: Great depression. '31: Hurricane kills 2500. '40: Guat claims Belize again. '50-60: Mennonites arrive from Canada. '54: Limited autonomy→'59: Border treaty Bel-Guat. '61: Hurricane Hattie kills 307&destroys Belize City. '64: Full autonomy--→Guat threatens war against UK: troops. '70: Capital moved from Belize City to Belmopan. Name changes back to Belize. '79: Refugees El Salvador arrive. '81: Independence from UK: '91 accepted by Guat - '93: Withdrawal UK troops. '97: Prime Minister Esquivel (UDP) - '98: Musa (PUP) - '08: Barrow (UDP). 2000s: Cocaine big business.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dry			driest									
Wet/Hurricane												
Best	hi	gh	sea	son							hi	gh
Budget												

Altitude: 4m. Climate: Tropical Monsoon.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Sights: Baron Bliss Lighthouse, Memorial Park, Catedral Holy Redeemer, Catedral St. John and the Supreme Court.
- ☺ Stroll along the harbor and try to avoid the Belize Tourism Village.
- ☺ [Bliss Center for the Performing Arts](#) occasionally hosts free shows.
- ☺ Pick up the free Calendar of Events of the [NICH](#) (National Institute of Culture and History) for a yearly overview of festivals, events and expositions.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👉 Nature & animals: [Burdon Canal Reserve](#), [Community Baboon Sanctuary](#), [Crooked Tree Wildlife Century](#) & [Belize Zoo](#).
- 👉 Maya sites close by: [Altun Ha](#) & Lamanai (Orange Walk).
- 👉 Museums: [Museum of Belize](#), [Casa de la Cultura](#) (Government House) & [Image Factory](#).
- 👉 Ferries leave to Caye Caulker and San Pedro.

Festivals

- ☼ Street Art Festival: Feb.
- ☼ National Festival Of Arts: May.
- ☼ Carnaval: Folklore, Aug.
- ☼ Garifuna Settlement Day: 19-Nov.

Budget Bites

⌘ Market: Micheal Finnegan open air market at Hickattee Street & food stalls scattered around on the streets.

⌘ Supermarket: Brodies / Save-U.

⌘ Belize's streetfood & cheap *comedores*: Garnachos (fried tortilla with beans and cheese), tostados (garnacho with chicken), burritos, fry jacks (fried bread with egg and beans), gacho, cow foot soup, pigtail, stew with meat or fish, panades, pupusa (stuffed corn pancakes with cheese), bread pudding, meat pies, tamales, salbutes (fried corn dough topped with meat / cabbage / cheese).

Next?

➔ In Belize: Corozal / Sarteneja, Orange Walk (Lamanai), Belmopan, San Ignacio, Dangriga.

➔ International destinations closeby: Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ There are no cheap accommodations in Belize City. It's hard to find anything under \$25 (single traveler).
- ❖ Instead, go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ Copa Cabana (salsa), Harbour.
- ◆ Calypso Bar (Princess Hotel), 1758 Newtown Barracks.
- ◆ MJ's Grand, 170 Barrack Road.

... Seated Down

- ◆ [Bliss Center for the Performing Arts](#), Southern Foreshore.

Mama Said

☠ First of all: Don't believe all panicking Americans that found their way on internet forums. They're used to their cruise ship comfort zone. That said:

☠ Watch your bag, buy a lock. Don't flash your valuables.

☠ Even though Belize is quite safe, avoid walking around alone at night in quiet areas. Violence happens around clubs.

☠ Narcotrafficking is big in Belize and most murders are related to drugs trade. In short: Don't get involved.

☠ Exit fee via air US\$39,25 / via land US\$18,75 (per 2015).

Free-Riding?

■ Within the small centre everything is walkable. Biking is possible with a rental bike, but traffic isn't that great.

■ Taxi's are quite overpriced and unnecessary during the day.

■ Belizean and ADO buses arrive at and depart from the Belize City bus terminal located on West Collet Canal. Express buses to Guatemala stop at the Marine Terminal near the Swing Bridge. Excellent bus information can be found at this website: [dick](#).

■ Hitch-hiking is a thing here. As an obvious foreign woman travelling solo I hitch-hiked all over the place without any problems.

■ Ferry's operate between Belize City and Caye Caulker / San Pedro. The international airport is located in Belize City.

Tip: Load Google Maps when you have wifi and leave it open, you will still be able to use it offline.

The Earth
Becomes My Throne