



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## Belize – Belmopan

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Belmopan
- ✓ **Language:** English & Kriol English (Spanish, Garifuna, Maya, Plat-Deutsch)
- ✓ **Sq km:** 32.78
- ✓ **Population:** ± 20,000
- ✓ **Currency:** Belizean Dollars (US Dollars)
- ✓ **Country code:** +501 (8)
- ✓ **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												
Wet/Hurricane												
Best												
Budget												

Altitude: 76m. Climate: Tropical Monsoon.

### Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Recommendable: [Belize Bird Rescue](#) (appointment).
- ☺ ±30 meters before the official entrance of Guanacaste NP you can get in for free (there's a sign next to a rock).
- ☺ Museum: [Belize Archives](#). Sometimes there are free expositions at the [US Embassy](#).

### Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#). Hostels and hotels are overpriced in Belize.

### Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 Highlight: Blue Hole NP (take the public bus to Dangriga). Other nature: Guanacaste NP (located along the Hummingbird Highway in Belmopan) / Five Blues Lake NP / 69 Orchid Garden (botanical garden).
- 👍 Cave-tubing: Nohoch Che'en (south off Western Highway at Mile 37) / St. Hermans Cave in Blue Hole NP (with a tour you can go deeper) / Jaguar Paw / Actun Tunichil Muknal (ATM).
- 👍 Ziplining, located at the Nohoch Che'en grounds.

## Budget Bites

- ⌘ Market: East of bus terminal, Tuesday/Friday.
- ⌘ There are many small supermarkets. Not cheap!
- ⌘ Belize has the tastiest streetfood in Central America (say bye to rice and beans 2 times a day!): Garnachos (fried tortilla with beans and cheese), tostados (gamacho with chicken), burritos, fry jacks (fried bread with egg and beans), gacho, cow foot soup, pigtail, stew with meat or fish, panades (corn dough with meat/beans/fish), pupusa (stuffed corn pancakes with cheese), bread pudding, meat pies, tamales, salbutes (fried corn dough topped with meat/cabbage/cheese).

## Mama Said

- 💀 Watch your bag, buy a lock. Don't flash your valuables or put your cell phone in your pocket.
- 💀 Even though Belize is quite safe, avoid walking around alone at night.
- 💀 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).

## Next?

- ➔ In Belize: Hopkins, Dangriga, San Ignacio, Belize City.
- ➔ International destinations closeby: Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras.

## Festivals

- ⚙ Art festival: Culture, Nov.
- ⚙ Independence Day: 21-Sep.
- ⚙ Garifuna Settlement Day: 19-Nov.

## Knowledge I'm Taking Home

- 📖 Hable español: [University of Belize](#).
- 📖 Bird rescue: [Belize Bird Rescue](#).

## Free-Riding?

- In the centre of Belmopan everything is walkable. Biking is possible.
  - Taxi's are not cheap in Belize, but can be convenient.
  - The main bus terminal is located in the centre next to the market. Buses leave to Dangriga/Punta Gorda, Belize City and San Ignacio/Guatemala.
  - Minibuses serve local locations. The route is displayed at the front window.
  - Hitch-hiking is a thing here. As an obvious foreign woman travelling solo I hitch-hiked all over the place without any problems.
- 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*