



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Belize - Punta Gorda

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Belmopan
- ✓ **Language:** English & Kriol English (Spanish, Garifuna, Maya)
- ✓ **Sq km:** 2,3
- ✓ **Population:** ± 55,000
- ✓ **Currency:** Belizean Dollars (US Dollars)
- ✓ **Country code:** +501
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some countries, [check here!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 911
- ✓ **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	coldest											
Wet/Hurricane					warmest							
Best												
Budget												

Altitude: 9m. Climate: Tropical / humid.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Climb the 2 mountains just outside of town. Go by car and ask a local to find the hidden entrance.
- ☺ Natural activities: Birding / fishing (= killing nature).
- Free internet: 1 hr per 24 hrs at Central Park / around RF&G Insurance Company / Freedom Fighters bus stop.

Festivals

- ⚙ Independence festivities: 14-15-Sept.
- ⚙ Garifuna Settlement Day: 19-Nov.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 Mayan sites in the area: Lubaantun, Nim Li Punit, Uxbenka, Pusilha.
- 👍 Visit [IXCACAO Maya Belizean Chocolate](#).
- 👍 Learn how to drum: [Warasa Garifuna](#) drum school.
- 👍 Museum: [We Art Gallery](#).
- 👍 Tours: [Toledo Ecotourism Association](#).

Budget Bites

- ⌘ Markets: Mon-Wed-Fri & [Saturday Farmers Market](#).
- ⌘ There are many small supermarkets. Not cheap!
- ⌘ Belize's streetfood: 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

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.

Free-Riding?

- In the centre of PG everything is walkable. Biking is possible.
 - Taxi's are not cheap in Belize, but can be convenient.
 - Hitch-hiking is a thing here. As an obvious foreign woman travelling solo I hitch-hiked all over the place without any problems.
 - The main terminal is James Bus Line. They drive from PG to Dangriga to Belmopan to Belize City.
 - Ferry's operate between PG and Guatemala (Puerto Barrios / Livingston). Even though you might find schedules online, they change daily: Just go with the flow without planning and check the day itself what's possible.
- Tip: Load Google Maps when you have wifi and leave it open, you will still be able to use it offline.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Nature's Way Guesthouse, +5017022119, Front street.
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ Waluco's, Front Street.
- ◆ PG Sports Bar, corner Main & Prince Street.
- ◆ Embassy Nightclub, Forest Home.

Knowledge I'm Taking Home

- 📖 Hable español: [University of Belize](#).
- 📖 Garifuna drumming: [Wasa Drum School](#).

Next?

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

The Earth
Becomes My Throne