



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## Belize - San Ignacio (Cayo)

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Belmopan
- ✓ **Language:** English, Kriol, Spanish, Garifuna, Maya & Plat Deutsch.
- ✓ **Population:** ± 17000
- ✓ **Square km:** ± 6,5
- ✓ **Currency:** Belizean Dollars (US Dollars)
- ✓ **Country code:** +501
- ✓ **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: 86m. Climate: Tropical Monsoon.

### Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Visit the Mennonites: Spanish Lookout. Closeby: Public park & Laguna Aguacate.
- ☺ Hike, swim, kayak or relax around Barton Creek or Río Mopán.
- ☺ Free live music on Fridays at [Belize Soul Project](#).
- ☺ Try some new local fruits at the Farmer's Market, which has its big day on Saturday.

👉 Other tours: [Ajaw Chocolate tour](#), [ziplining & rappelling](#).



### Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👉 Nature: Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve (Only accessible by own vehicle/tour... around \$US 80), Río Frío Caves, Río On Pools, Hidden Valley Falls, Actun Tunichil Muknal (ATM) cave tubing (tour around \$US 80), [Belize Botanic Gardens](#), Masewal Medicinal Trail, [Green Iguana Conservation Project](#), 1000 Foot Falls, [Crested Caracara Reserve](#).
- 👉 Maya sites close by: Xunantunich (cheap public buses leave from central park), Cahal Pech (walkable), Caracol (Only accessible by own vehicle/tour... \$US 100+), El Pilar & in Guatemala: [Tikal](#).

## Festivals

- ☼ National Festival Of Arts: May.
- ☼ Belize Jazz Festival: June.
- ☼ Carnaval: Folklore, Aug.
- ☼ Garifuna Settlement Day: 19-Nov.

## Budget Bites

- ⌘ Market: At the village entrance.
- ⌘ Supermarket: Costless / Mega Food (Santa Elena).
- ⌘ 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).

## Mama 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).

The Earth

Becomes My Throne

## Sleep Cheap

- ❖ It's hard to find cheap accommodations in Belize. Instead of booking online, 'shop' around once you're there and negotiate.
- ❖ Instead, go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

## Nights Best Spent

- ◆ Blue Angels, Hudson Street (after the post office).
- ◆ The Fox Club, George Price Avenue.
- ◆ Meluchi's, across Sacred Heart College.

## ... Seated Down

- ◆ [Belize Soul Project](#), Buena Vista Road (uphill near police station).

## Knowledge I'm Taking Home

- 📖 Art: Empyrium Art Center / [Artemis Glass Studio](#).
- 📖 Stretch up: [Full Lotus Yoga & Pilates](#).

## Free-Riding?

- Within the small centre everything is walkable. Biking is possible with a rental bike (offered in hotels).
- Taxi's are quite overpriced and unnecessary during the day.
- Chickenbuses run frequently from/to Belize City (2.5h). More expensive express buses go faster. All buses run through Belmopan (where you can change buses for southern destinations), except the ones heading to Benque at the Guatemalan border, with connections to Flores and Tikal. More info [here](#)!
- 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.

## Next?

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