



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Belize - Sarteneja

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Belmopan
- ✓ **Language:** Here Spanish. Also English, Kriol, Garifuna, Maya & Plat Deutsch.
- ✓ **Population:** ± 4,500
- ✓ **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: 4m. Climate: Tropical Monsoon.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Grab a kayak and explore the coast. Swimming and snorkeling & diving are possible. There's no beach.
- ☺ Walk through the village and surrounding nature.
- ☺ Contact the Manatee Rescue Center, run by [Wild Tracks](#), to schedule a visit.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 Nature: [Shipstern Nature Reserve](#) and its Butterfly Breeding Center (in low season an appointment may be necessary) / [Bacalar Chico National Park](#) (San Pedro).
- 👍 Maya sites close by: [Cerro Maya](#) (ask a fisherman to take you there) or [Lamanai](#) in Orange Walk.

Festivals

- ⚙ Easter Regatta: Various, Apr.
- ⚙ Independence festivities: 21-Sept.
- ⚙ Carnival: Folklore, Sept.
- ⚙ Garifuna Settlement Day: 19-Nov.

Budget Bites

- ⌘ Food trucks pass by weekly with fresh produce.
- ⌘ There are many small supermarkets. Not cheap! It's better to bring in groceries from outside, it's quite remote.
- ⌘ 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, salbutes (fried corn dough topped with meat / cabbage / cheese).

Mama Said

- ⌘ There are no banks or ATM's in Sarteneja!
- ⌘ Watch your bag, buy a lock. Don't flash your valuables.
- ⌘ Even though Belize and especially Sarteneja is quite safe, avoid walking around alone at night in quiet areas.
- ⌘ Narcotraficking 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 Sarteneja everything is walkable. Biking is possible with a rental bike, but there's only dirt road (with potholes).
 - Taxi's are non-existent and unnecessary in Sarteneja.
 - From Belize City there are 5 daily buses going to Sarteneja (Mon-Fri 10:30-12:30-14:00-16:00-17:00 next to the Swing Bridge – On Saturday no 17:00 bus, no buses on Sunday), and 3 buses leave Sarteneja in the morning (Mon-Fri 3:30-4:30-5:30-6:30 AM!).
 - 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 Sarteneja and San Pedro. It's cheaper to leave from Belize City though. The Thunderbolt water taxi from Corozal to Ambergris Caye will stop in Sarteneja on request.
- Tip: Load Google Maps when you have wifi and leave it open, you will still be able to use it offline.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ [Backpackers Paradise Camping & Cabanas](#), +5014232016, before beginning of village on the right. (Still not very cheap, Belize is expensive!)
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Nights Best Spent

There is no nightlife in Sarteneja.

Knowledge I'm Taking Home

📖 Ecological preservation: [Blue Ventures](#) / [Wild Tracks](#) (Manatee Rescue Center).

Next?

- ➔ In Belize: Corozal, Orange Walk (Lamanai), Belize City.
- ➔ International destinations closeby: Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras.