



Belizean Country Guide

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Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise a high degree of caution in Belize due to high levels of violent crime. Pay close attention to your personal security at all times.

Belize experiences hurricanes and associated landslides, mudslides and flooding. Follow the advice of local authorities. See Natural disasters. Monitor the media for information about new security or safety risks.

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Belize at www.smartraveller.gov.au.

Passport and Tourist Visa Conditions

Australian ordinary passport holders do not usually require a visa to enter Belize as a tourist for a period of up to 30 days. Passports must be valid for six months beyond the period of intended stay in Belize.

Travellers should also be able to show documentation confirming their ability to financially maintain themselves during their stay, as well as tickets and entry documents for their next destination.

Additional conditions apply to minors. Travellers are recommended to contact a Belizean mission on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible to enter Belize without a visa. Persons travelling via the US are reminded of their obligation to comply with US entry/transit visa requirements.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Belize. Frequent or long stay travellers should consider vaccination against hepatitis B and rabies (particularly if working with animals). Vaccination against typhoid should be considered by travellers to Belize (particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene). There is a low risk of malaria in Belize; dengue fever and the zika virus also occurs, thus insect avoidance measures and anti malarial medication may be necessary depending on a travellers itinerary. Belize is listed as a zika category 1 country. For information on the risks the zika virus poses to pregnancy, including up to 6 months following the exposure of either parent, see www.who.int/csr/disease/zika/en/. Travellers are advised to drink bottled water and avoid ice cubes and raw/undercooked food.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to Belize should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas, the zika virus and other issues please visit www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips.

Belizean Representation in Australia and Abroad

Honorary Consulate of Belize, Sydney

Suite 251, 117 Old Pittwater Road
BROOKVALE, NSW 2100

Tel: (02) 9488 7428
Fax: (02) 9880 7160

Belize Tourism Board, Belize

64 Regent Street
BELIZE CITY

Tel: (+501) 227 2420
Fax: (+501) 227 2423

Web: www.travelbelize.org

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belize

NEMO Building, PO Box 174
BELMOPAN

Tel: (+501) 822 2322
Fax: (+501) 822 2854

Web: www.mfa.gov.bz



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Time Differences between Belize and Australia

Belize is Greenwich Mean Time -6 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone is called Central Standard Time (CST). The following times in Australia are a day ahead of the time in Belize, for instance if it's Sunday afternoon in Belize, it's Monday morning in Australia.

Belize, 12 noon, June = Perth 2am; Adelaide, Darwin 3:30am; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 4am.

Belize, 12 noon, December = Perth 2am; Darwin 3:30am; Brisbane 4am; Adelaide 4:30am; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 5am.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Belize: +501

To Dial Australia Call: 00 61 <City> <Number>

Travelex Card Services:
Call the US on (+1 954) 838 8294

Visa Global Assistance:
Call the US on (+1 303) 967 1090

MasterCard:
Call the US on (+1 636) 722 7111

American Express Travellers Cheques:
Call the US on (+1 801) 964 6665 or Australia on (+61 2) 9271 8664

Operator Assistance: 115

Emergency Services: 911

Decompression Chamber: (+501) 226 2851
San Pedro (Ambergris Caye)

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in Belize

Australian High Commission, Trinidad and Tobago

18 Herbert Street
St Clair
PORT OF SPAIN

Tel: (+1 868) 822 5450
Fax: (+1 868) 822 5490

Web: www.trinidadandtobago.highcommission.gov.au

Australia does not maintain a permanent consular presence in Belize. The Australian High Commission in Trinidad and Tobago is accredited to this country.

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians are encouraged to register their presence in Belize with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade via the on-line registration service at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Page 3 of 5 General Destination Information for Belize Duty Free Allowances for Belize and Australia

Duty Free limits when entering Belize:

Alcohol: 1 litre of wine or spirits.
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250g tobacco.
 Other Goods: Up to a value of BZ\$200 when entering via an airport, BZ\$50 at other entry points.

Duty Free limits when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 litres of alcoholic beverages.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Goods: Up to \$900 (\$450 for minors).

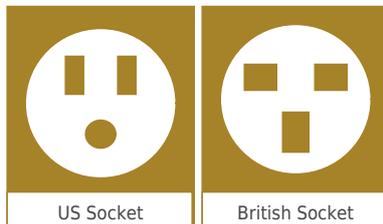
Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting Belize and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For information regarding Belizean customs please visit www.customs.gov.bz, or for information regarding Australian customs please visit www.border.gov.au.

Electrical Adaptors

Electrical Socket type: Both US and British sockets are used.

Voltage: Most outlets are 110 v (different to Australia, travellers will need voltage converters to use appliances designed for Australian voltage). 240 v outlets may also be found in some areas.

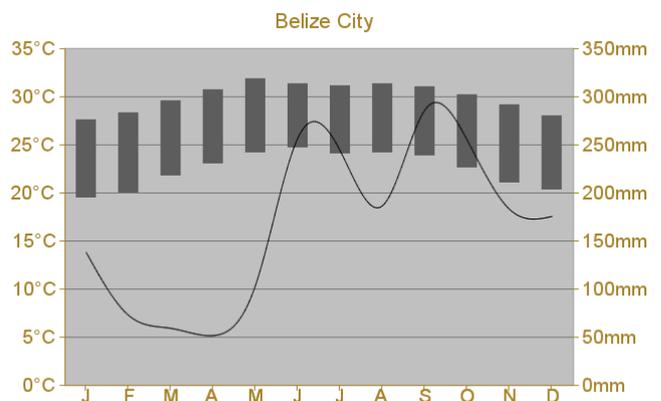
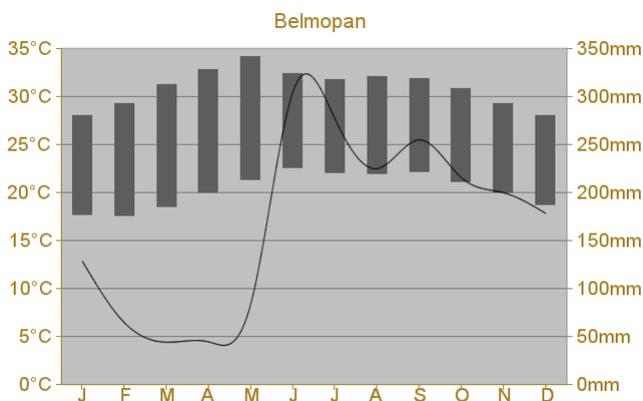
To purchase electrical adaptors, or for further information on travel adaptors, please go to www.korjo.com.au.



Public Holidays 2018

01 Jan:	New Years Day	10 Sep:	St. Georges Caye
12 Mar:	National Heroes Day	21 Sep:	Independence Day
30 Mar:	Good Friday	12 Oct:	Pan American Day
02 Apr:	Easter Monday	19 Nov:	Garifuna Settlement
01 May:	Labour Day	25 Dec:	Christmas Day
21 May:	Sovereign's Day	26 Dec:	Boxing Day

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Belize



Source: National Meteorological Service Belize. For local forecasts please go to www.hydromet.gov.bz.

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Page 4 of 5 Belizean Currency Information and Cheat Sheet Exchange Rate with Belize

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 1.45 Belizean Dollars
 1 Belizean Dollar (BZD) = 0.69 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) buys 1.39 Belizean Dollars
 1 Belizean Dollar (BZD) will cost 0.72 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Currency Cheat Sheet

BZ\$0.50 = \$0.36 AUD		BZ\$10 = \$7.19 AUD		BZ\$100 = \$71.94 AUD	
BZ\$1 = \$0.72 AUD	BZ\$2 = \$1.44 AUD	BZ\$3 = \$2.16 AUD	BZ\$4 = \$2.88 AUD	BZ\$5 = \$3.60 AUD	BZ\$6 = \$4.32 AUD
BZ\$7 = \$5.04 AUD	BZ\$8 = \$5.76 AUD	BZ\$9 = \$6.47 AUD	BZ\$10 = \$7.19 AUD	BZ\$20 = \$14.39 AUD	BZ\$30 = \$21.58 AUD
BZ\$40 = \$28.78 AUD	BZ\$50 = \$35.97 AUD	BZ\$60 = \$43.16 AUD	BZ\$70 = \$50.36 AUD	BZ\$80 = \$57.55 AUD	BZ\$90 = \$64.75 AUD
BZ\$100 = \$71.94 AUD	BZ\$200 = \$143.88 AUD	BZ\$300 = \$215.82 AUD	BZ\$400 = \$287.76 AUD	BZ\$500 = \$359.70 AUD	BZ\$600 = \$431.64 AUD
BZ\$700 = \$503.59 AUD	BZ\$800 = \$575.53 AUD	BZ\$900 = \$647.47 AUD	BZ\$1,000 = \$719.41 AUD		

This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" of exchange listed above.

Banknotes of Belize

The currency of Belize is the Belizean dollar which has the currency code "BZD" and is abbreviated using the symbol "\$" or "BZ\$" to distinguish it from other dollar denominated currencies. The Belizean dollar is pegged to the US dollar at the value of US\$1 to BZ\$2, thus some stores may accept small US bills. The following banknotes are the most common in Belize however other versions and denominations are in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images before travelling.





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About Belize

Former Name: British Honduras

Independence: 1981 (from the UK).

Size: 23,000 sq km (1/3 the size of Tasmania).

Population: 335,000 people.
Belize City 70,000; Belmopan 14,000.

Ethnicity: Mostly mestizo and creole.

Language: English is the official language but is only spoken by 4% of people. Spanish 46% and English Creole 33% are more widely used.

Religion: Catholic 40%, other Christian 33%, other 10%, none 17%.

GDP Per Capita: US\$8,900 (Australia US\$40,800).

Significant Dates:

- 250AD - 900 - Maya civilizations in the area reach their peak.
- 1502 - Columbus sails through parts of the Caribbean.
- 1600's - The area becomes a Spanish possession. British begin to settle around the Belize River.
- 1798 - Battle of St. George's Caye, British control is cemented.
- 1871 - British Honduras is formally declared a British colony.
- 1931 - Belize city is largely destroyed by a hurricane.
- 1964 - Universal suffrage introduced.
- 1970 - Belmopan replaces Belize City as the capital.
- 1973 - British Honduras changes its name to Belize.
- 1981 - Independence from the UK. Guatemala refuses recognition.
- 1992 - Guatemala finally recognises Belize as a sovereign state.

