



## Country Profile: Belize

Belize is a parliamentary democracy and Commonwealth country. Tourist facilities vary in quality, from a limited number of business-class hotels in Belize City and luxury resorts in the offshore cayes (pronounced: "keys") to a range of eco-tourism lodges and very basic accommodations in the countryside. Violent crime, especially in areas of Belize City, remains a serious concern. Read the Department of State's [Background Notes on Belize](#) for additional information.

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### COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Belize
Continent:	Central America
Capital City:	Belmopan
Boundary Countries:	Guatemala, Mexico
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Belize Radiodiagnostic Center (Belize City), Medical Center (Belize City), Universal Health Services Medical Arts & SurgiCenter (Belize City), Dr. Estrella's Orange Walk Medical Center (Orange Walk Town)
Main Cities:	Belmopan, Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize City, Big Creek, Punta Gorda
Country Size:	22,966 sq km
Population:	294,385

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### COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	English (official), Spanish, Mayan, Garifuna (Carib), Creole
Currency:	Belizean Dollar (BZD)
Predominant Religions:	Roman Catholic 49.6%, Protestant 27% (Pentecostal 7.4%, Anglican 5.3%, Seventh-Day Adventist 5.2%, Mennonite 4.1%, Methodist 3.5%, Jehovah's Witnesses 1.5%), other 14%, none 9.4%
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 21 September (1981)
Economic Status:	In this small, essentially private-enterprise economy, tourism is the number one foreign exchange earner followed by exports of marine products, citrus, cane sugar, bananas, and garments. Exploration efforts continue and production increased a small amount in 2009. Major concerns continue to be the sizable trade deficit and sizable foreign debt. A key short-term objective remains the reduction of poverty with the help of international donors.
Security:	Belize Defense Force (BDF): Army, Maritime Wing, Air Wing, and Volunteer Guard
US Presence:	<a href="#">U.S. Embassy Belmopan</a> #4 Floral Park Road Belmopan, Cayo District Belize, Central America Telephone: 011-501-822-4011 Emergency after-hours telephone: 011-501-610-5030 Facsimile: 011-501-822-4012

<b>Major Airports:</b>	Airports: 43, Airports with paved runways: 5  Belize - Phillip S W Goldson Airport (BZE/MZBZ) Belize Airport, Belize, PO Box 1564, Belize City, BELIZE Tel: +501 (0)25 2045 Fax: +501 (0)25 2439 Email: <a href="mailto:bacc@pgiabelize.com">bacc@pgiabelize.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.pgiabelize.com">www.pgiabelize.com</a> Customs Hours:08:00-17:00 Customs Hours:08:00-17:00
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