

Bonus Report: 26 Questions about Living in Belize

By RainforestRealty.com

Why should I move to Belize?

Belize is an ideal choice for expatriates, retirees or those looking to relocate to a peaceful country with no army, moderate year-round temperatures, affordable quality medical and dental care as well as close proximity to the United States. This country is one of the most stable and

peaceful democracies in all of Latin America and is the only country where English is the first language.

How can I restart my life in Belize?

The very first step is to visit the country and see for yourself what it has to offer. You can begin an exciting new stage of your life while making new friends, experiencing a new culture, staying busy and happy and regaining your youthful passions. And best of all, you do not have to learn a new language since English is the first language of Belize. All this can



make you feel better and possibly help you to live longer. Some expatriates remark that living in Belize was like discovering the Fountain of Youth. Truly, Belize can change people's lives for the better.

Why do so many people want to live in Belize?

The best answer to that is Belize is the only Central American country where English is the first language. Additionally, people will state that the ideal weather conditions and close proximity to the United States are important. The climate in Belize is tropical. You will rarely need air conditioning as most rely on fans to move the air and never need to turn on the heat. In most places, no one has a furnace--say goodbye to heating bills forever! There are two seasons in Belize, dry and rainy, both with tons of sunshine. The growing season is year round as opposed to regions where a winter season brings a dormant period.



Where is Belize Located Geographically and what are the natural features of the land?

Some people believe Belize to be an island, however this is not the case at all. Belize borders Mexico to the north and Guatemala to the west and south. The Caribbean shoreline lies on the east and you will find 240 miles of coastal lands of Belize all along the Caribbean Sea. The coastline has an abundance of beautiful beaches. The interior of the country is fashioned by the Maya mountain range. This small country is comparable in size to Massachusetts in the U.S.A.. The capital city of Belmopan is situated roughly in the center of the country.



Is traveling to Belize difficult?

Belize is very accessible from the Americas. You can reach Belize in a short flight on major airlines from Houston, Miami, Dallas, & Charlotte. These flights are direct making the trip in just two hours from most of these cities.



What are the geographical features and divisions of Belize?

Belize has 6 districts. Belize District, Corozal District, Orange Walk District, Cayo District, Stann Creek District, Toledo District. These districts are further broken down into 31 Constituencies. Belize is located on the Caribbean Sea coast of northern Central America and has a vast coastline of 386km or 240 miles in length. Belize shares a border on the north with Mexico and on the west with the Guatemala. The area of Belize is 22,960 square kilometers or 8,865 sq mi, an area just slightly larger than Massachusetts, in the U.S.A. Belize is one of the most diverse countries when it comes to the geography of the land, from having the Belize Barrier Reef (the longest in the Western Hemisphere at approximately 322km or 200 miles), many coral reefs, Maya mountains, jungles and numerous rivers and streams are found in Belize. The geographical features along with the size of Belize makes it one of the most attractive countries for accessing many diverse activities in a single day.



What sets Belize apart from other countries?



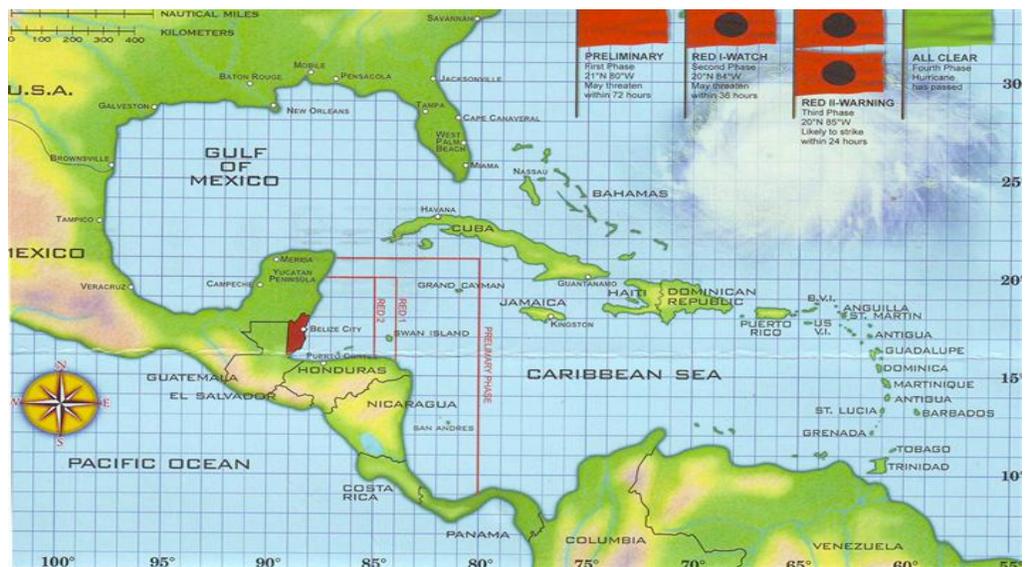
The number 1 reason that most Americans and Canadians like Belize is that English is the first language of Belize. So the everyday activities such as banking and grocery shopping are so much easier. This makes the transition from the North Americas a lateral move. Additionally, Belize has

great off-shore banking opportunities, no capital gains taxes, low property tax, and a low cost of living especially if you buy local goods and services. Belize is a politically stable country without a military presence and the Belize currency is pegged to the US Dollar. Although you will not see the super highways in Belize and other infrastructure alike, you also do not pay for it in your property taxes keeping your taxes manageable in terms of yearly costs.



Are hurricanes a problem in Belize?

There have been several tropical systems that have reached hurricane status since



1931. The Belize National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) has concise plans as how to prepare and ready oneself in the event of a possible storm. Planning is the key to safety. The Belize Barrier Reef acts as a natural barrier for the surges when storms form. In addition to its beauty, the Belize Barrier Reef also adds a layer of protection for Belize. Since Belize is tucked in under Mexico and above Honduras, this location also acts as a nice layer of further protection. Although one must always be vigilant when living on a coastal country, Belize is not as exposed as other countries in the region.

What is the religion of Belize?

Belize is a Country where freedom of religion is guaranteed. The average breakdown is 80% of religions followed in Belize are Christian, with 49.6% of Belizeans being Roman Catholics and 29% Protestants. There are many other different denominations in Belize, some of which include Hinduism, Seventh Day Adventist, Baptist and Buddhist to name a few.



What is the Belizean culture like?

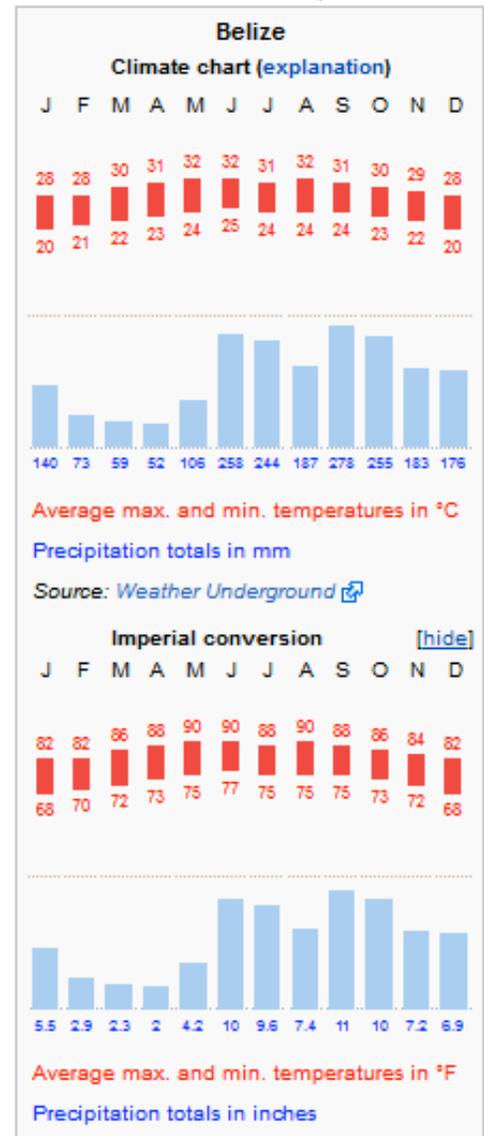
The culture of Belizeans is comprised of influences and people from Kriol, Maya, Garifuna, Mestizo (a mixture of Spanish and Native Americans), Mennonites who are of German descent, with a blend of many other cultures from Lebanese to Chinese. Belizeans are very hospitable and courteous people and will welcome you into their homes and hearts.

How do the locals treat Americans and other Expatriates?

People from the United States and Canada make up a high percentage of tourists in Belize and are very often referred to as "*gringos*," or more formally "North Americans," used to make a clear distinction, since many in Latin America also call themselves Americans. Tourists are almost always well liked and treated with friendly respect. You will vary rarely walk down the street and someone not at least say hello to you. In addition to North Americans, you will meet people from all over the world in Belize. The locals are very friendly to all.

What is the climate like in Belize?

In Belize you will find a climate that is tropical, with weather patterns that change from districts to districts. The temperatures found along the coastal areas of Belize average from 24 °C (75.2 °F) in January to 27 °C (80.6 °F) in July. In the mountainous regions of Belize, it is noticeably cooler all year.



What do I need to know about Belize Immigration information ?

One can enter into Belize with a valid passport and shall be granted a 30 day visitor permit. Visitor's permit entitles a person to remain in Belize for such period as is stated in the permit. If you decide to stay longer, you will need to get an extension for the first 6 months of remaining in Belize, at a cost of \$50.00 BZ per month, and after 6 months of remaining each extension costs \$100.00 BZ per month. After one year, you can apply for residency.



What do I need to bring a pet to Belize?

Dogs and cats must have a health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian dated within two weeks of traveling to Belize. Additionally you shall need to get a permit from BAHA (Belize Agricultural Health Authority) in Belize prior to arriving into Belize. For all other pets or livestock, you must contact BAHA for specific regulations pertaining to the kind of animal you are bringing into the country.



How's the food in Belize?

The cuisine in Belize, is outstanding, with its tremendous variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, with fresh seafood and meats available, one will not be lacking for choices. One of the most popular meals is the "Rice and Beans with Stewed Chicken", which rates high on our list as being the best in the world.



What kind of electrical power does Belize use?

Belize follows the U.S. standards. So you do not need anything special if you are coming from a country that uses these standards. However it is always good to travel with a portable surge protector if you will be using electronics such as computers and other electronics.



What inoculations do I have to get to go to Belize?

If you are North American or European, no vaccines are required to enter Belize unless you are arriving from a specific yellow-fever infected area in Africa or Latin and South America within five days.

What is the currency in Belize?

The currency is called the Belize Dollar (BZE). U.S. dollars and major credit cards are also widely accepted and you will find ATMs distributed throughout the country. The exchange rate is 2 BZE for 1 US Dollar.



How much is the sales tax in Belize?

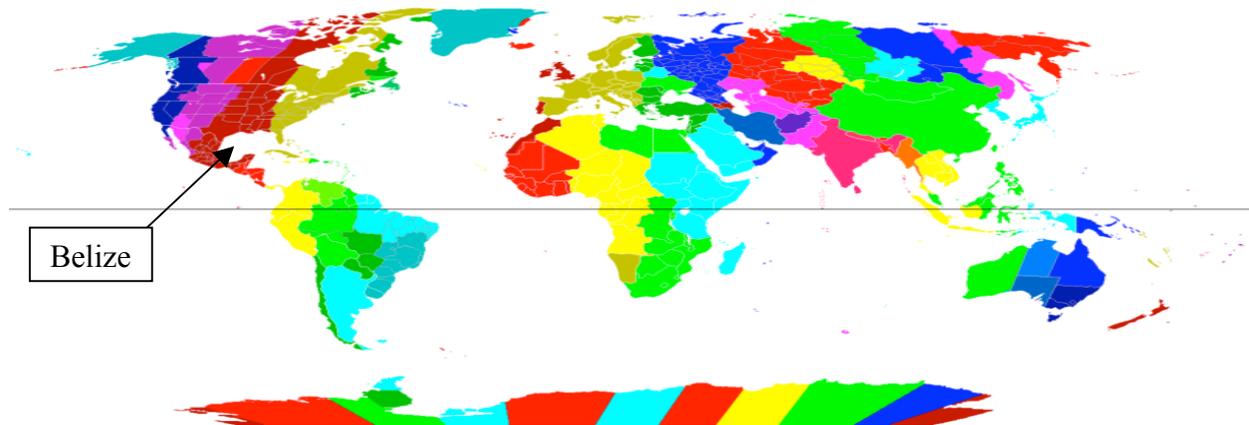
Sales tax is currently 12.5%.

What telephone number should I call in case I have an emergency?

Call 911 for immediate assistance.



What time zone is Belize located in?



Belize is on Central Standard Time UTC-6 (same as Chicago and St. Louis) which is six hours behind Greenwich Mean Time. Belize does not use daylight saving time.

Can I drive in Belize with my regular drivers license from home?

Yes. Your valid license and passport are all that you need to drive in the Belize, for as long as your visa is current.

Can I drink the water in Belize?



Yes, although we recommend drinking bottled water. Bottled water is not expensive in Belize and most expat chose to drink bottled water simply because our digestive systems are not use to drinking water that is not highly filtered. Most restaurants

when offering water will use bottled water for their service or you can buy bottled water off the menu. Be sure to ask to make sure the water they serve is filtered if not purchasing bottled water off the menu.

Can I enter Belize with a one-way airline ticket?

All visitors must have a round trip ticket as a requirement to enter the country.



Can foreigners buy property in Belize?

Yes, non residents are allowed to buy property in Belize. Be aware that it is illegal to purchase leased property. Leased property must first be titled by the lease holder before it can be sold and transferred to a new owner regardless of residency status. In addition, what makes Belize a great place to invest in property is that foreign investors can purchase property anywhere in Belize. There are no restrictions on geographically specified areas such as ocean front property etc. Some countries will not allow a foreign investor to own prime land properties, however Belize is generous in opening the country opportunities to the foreign investor.



Is Belize easy to Navigate as a tourist?

Belize is easy to navigate around. There are many options as to car rentals, bus service, domestic airlines and shuttles. Belize has several main 2 lane highways with many roads that are a combination of all weather roads, asphalt and dirt roads.

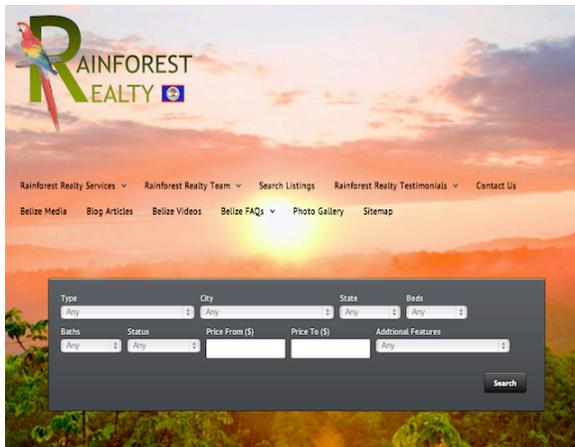
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We wish you a wonderful journey!

