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## Government

Belize is a parliamentary democracy. The government recognizes Queen Elizabeth II as its chief of state. The capital is Belmopan.

## Holidays

The following holidays are observed:  
 New Year's Day; Mar. 9, Baron Bliss Day; Good Friday; Holy Saturday; Easter Monday; May 1, Labor Day; May 24, Commonwealth Day; Sept. 10, National Day; Sept. 21, Independence Day; Oct. 12, Columbus Day; Nov. 19, Carib Settlement Day; and Dec. 25, Christmas Day.

## Industries

The main industries are garment production, food processing, tourism, and construction.

## Languages

English is the official language with Spanish, Mayan, and Garifuna (Carib) in use.

## Signals

The following storm signals are displayed on the coast of Belize:

1. A red flag means a tropical depression, storm, or hurricane has developed or moved into the area S of 21°N, and W of 80°W.

## General

Belize is located in Central America between Guatemala and Mexico. The country borders the Caribbean Sea.

The climate is tropical, very hot, and humid with a rainy season from May to February.

The terrain is flat with a swampy coastal plain. The interior consists of rich grasslands and low mountains rising in the S.

## Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the Belize dollar, consisting of 100 cents.

2. A red flag, with a black center means a storm or hurricane has developed or moved into the area S of 20°N and between the longitudes 83° and 85°W.

3. Two red flags with black centers indicates that a tropical storm or hurricane has developed or moved into the quadrant S of 20°N and W of 85°W.

4. A green flag means that a tropical disturbance has passed and no longer poses a threat to Belize or its coastal waters.

### **Time Zone**

The Time Zone description is SIERRA (+6).

### **U.S. Embassy**

The U.S. embassy is situated at Gabourel Lane and Hutson Street, Belize City.

The mailing address is P.O. Box 286, Unit 7401, APO AA 34025.