



## Belize Information

### Travel documents

U.S. citizens traveling to Belize must have a passport that is valid for six months after their expected return date, as well as proof of return (e-ticket receipts will suffice). No entry visas are required for U.S. citizens. Please check [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) to confirm passport validity requirements prior to your tour. Citizens of all other countries should contact their appropriate embassies to find out what documentation is required for them to travel. All travelers exiting Belize are charged a departure tax. Your Tour Director will give each group cash on tour to cover this cost.

Additionally, all travelers who are minors are required to have a notarized parental authorization form. Full details can be found at [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov). Travelers under the age of 18 will also need a liability waiver signed by their parent or guardian. This allows the Group Leader to assume limited power of attorney and sign liability releases for certain included activities. If the traveler's parent or guardian does not submit the waiver, the traveler cannot participate in those specific activities.

### Vaccinations and health precautions

For information on necessary vaccinations, we recommend you visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or consult your physician for the most updated information.

### Tour Director and bus driver

You will have the same Tour director during the entire tour. Your Tour Director may also be your local guide for certain sightseeing tours. You will have a bus driver for all days in mainland Belize.

### Transportation

No transfers included in the itinerary should take more than three hours, depending on road conditions and the season. Groups going to Ambergris Caye will take a water taxi that lasts about two hours. Those prone to motion sickness or seasickness should consider bringing medication.

## Tipping

It's customary to tip your Tour Director and bus drivers as a token of appreciation at the end of the tour. We recommend:

- \$6–8 per person per day for your Tour Director
- \$3 per person per day for your bus driver
- \$1–2 per person per tour for each guided activity (like zip-lining or visiting Mayan ruins)

We encourage Group Leaders to collect tip money from their travelers before leaving on tour. You can tip in U.S. dollars and present the money to your Tour Director and bus driver at the end of tour in the tip envelopes provided by EF. If you have any questions on tipping, please reach out to your Tour Consultant.

## Currency

Belize's currency is the Belize dollar, but since U.S. dollars are accepted throughout Belize, you do not need to change your money. Visit [xe.com](http://xe.com) for current exchange rates and more information. When you use an ATM, you will be given Belize dollars. We recommend withdrawing money from a bank or ATM machine instead of using credit cards. Although most shops accept credit cards, the phone lines are much slower, which makes using credit cards time-consuming. It may also cause delays in your group's schedule. Something to note: Traveler's checks are usually not accepted in Belize. Be sure to notify your bank or credit card company that you will be traveling abroad, and ask what international fees you may have to pay.

## Accommodations

While in Belize, you will stay in hotels and cabanas which are simple but clean and comfortable. Many hotels have pools, and while in Ambergris Caye, you will have beach access. Be aware that tropical conditions, especially in the San Ignacio region, make insects and other small animals (such as ants, mosquitoes, lizards, spiders, and frogs) more prevalent.

Students under the age of 20 will share rooms with up to four other travelers of the same gender. Rooms will have single or double beds (or a combination of the two). Students may end up sharing double beds. Single accommodations typically include one double bed. Groups may not all be roomed next to each other and may be on different floors, and some hotels can be located outside of the city center. Electrical voltage and outlets in Belize are the same as in the U.S., so you will not need an adapter or converter.

## Phones and internet

It's easy to buy an international phone card in Belize to make phone calls home, and your Tour Director can help you find places to buy them. If you plan to use your personal cell phone on tour, contact your wireless provider to see what fees you may incur for calling, texting, or using data abroad. Wi-Fi may not be available at all hotels in Belize, and may be unreliable when available, even on the road. Travelers should plan to be without Wi-Fi for 1–2 days at a time. Consider buying a phone plan for more consistent and reliable connectivity.

## Local food

All meals are included on tour except for lunches on arrival and departure day. Typical dishes include rice and beans, plantains, vegetables, beef, chicken, pork, fish, and fresh fruit. Some fresh fruit juices will be served with meals. Travelers should not drink the tap water in Belize. Bottled water is available for purchase everywhere for \$1–2.

## Safety

Always inform your Tour Director if you should need to break away from the group at any point. Store valuables in hotel safe deposit boxes and refrain from carrying large sums of money or wearing valuable jewelry.

For those going to Ambergris Caye: we know that golf carts are a popular form of transportation on the island. However, adults and students who travel with EF should not rent golf carts while on tour. The hotels will all be walking distance from any scheduled activities, and EF considers the golf carts an unsafe way to travel. In terms of activities, travelers wishing to zipline must weigh less than 285 lbs or have a waist size below 44 inches. Please read EF's *Travel & Safety Guide* for additional information before going on tour.

## Weather

Belize has a tropical climate with two seasons—wet and dry. The wet season begins in May and lasts through November. During the wet season it will rain every day, and precipitation will be anything from a light rain to a downpour. The dry season begins in December and lasts through April. Temperatures remain fairly constant throughout the year but may vary according to region. Please remember that the sun is extremely strong since you will be closer to the equator. Be sure to check [weather.com](http://weather.com) for your destinations and travel periods.

## Packing

We recommend bringing the following items: a light jacket or windbreaker, rain gear, comfortable walking shoes, bathing suit, water shoes, hat, sunscreen, a beach towel, insect repellent, cotton clothing that can be dirtied, binoculars, and travel-size toilet paper. You may also want to have a small backpack you can bring with you during the day to hold extra clothes or a rain jacket in case it rains or the weather changes. Those prone to motion sickness may also consider bringing medication.

## Luggage

Fees for checking a bag on the international flights between the United States and Belize are not included in the price of your tour. Travelers may pay to check their bag(s) at the airport when checking in or avoid paying any baggage fees by only traveling with carry-on luggage. Please contact the airline for baggage restrictions and regulations.

## Additional Information

During the months of June or July, sargassum (a type of seaweed that's often brown in color) arrives on the beaches of Belize. Due to its arrival and foul-smelling decomposition process, waters off the shoreline of affected areas are closed to swimming (snorkeling is unaffected). Efforts are made in Ambergris Caye to remove it as frequently as possible, but when necessary, we will divert travelers to visit beaches on the bay side of the Ambergris Caye island, which are unaffected by the sargassum.