BELIZE

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State
Queen ELIZABETH II
represented by Governor General Sir Colville Norbert YOUNG, Sr.

Head of Government
Prime Minister Dean Oliver BARROW

Government Type
parliamentary democracy (National Assembly)
under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

Capital
Belmopan

Legislature
bicameral National Assembly consists of the Senate (13 seats) and the House of Representatives (31 seats)

Judiciary
Supreme Court of Judicature (consists of the Court of Appeal with the court president and 3 justices, and the Supreme Court with the chief justice and 2 judges); final appeals in civil and criminal cases are sent to the Caribbean Court of Justice

Ambassador to US
Ambassador Francisco Daniel GUTIEREZ

US Ambassador
Ambassador (vacant); Charge d’Affaires Keith R. GILGES

ECONOMY

Economic Overview
tourism and exports of primary commodities have given Belize a high per capita income relative to other Central American countries; average income masks a huge income disparity between rich and poor

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)
$3.218 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)
$8,300 (2017 est.)

Exports
$457.5 million (2017 est.)
partners: UK 33.9%, US 22%, Jamaica 6.7%, Italy 6.4%, Barbados 5.9%, Ireland 5.5%, Netherlands 4.3% (2017)

Imports
$845.9 million (2017 est.)
partners: US 35.6%, China 11.2%, Mexico 11.2%, Guatemala 6.9% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population
385,850 (July 2018 est.)

Population Growth
1.8% (2018 est.)

Ethnicity
mestizo 52.9%, Creole 25.9%, Maya 11.3%, Garifuna 6.1%, East Indian 3.9%, Mennonite 3.6%, white 1.2%, Asian 1%, other 1.2%, unknown 0.3% (2010 est.)

Language
English 62.9% (official), Spanish 56.6%, Creole 44.6%, Maya 10.5%, German 3.2%, Garifuna 2.9%, other 1.8%, unknown 0.3%, none 0.2% (cannot speak) (2010 est.)

Religion
Roman Catholic 40.1%, Protestant 31.5%, Jehovah’s Witness 1.7%, other 10.5%, unspecified 0.6%, none 15.5% (2010 est.)

Urbanization
urban population: 45.7% of total population (2018)
rate of urbanization: 2.32% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

GEOGRAPHY

Area
Total: 22,966 sq km
Land: 22,806 sq km
Water: 160 sq km

Climate
tropical; very hot and humid; rainy season (May to November); dry season (February to May)

Natural Resources
arable land potential, timber, fish, hydropower

as of February 2019

1 note: percentages total more than 100% because respondents were able to provide more than one answer