**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 (Parliament) under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

**Capital**
Belmopan

**Legislature**
bicameral National Assembly consists of the Senate (12 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 Adrienne GALANEK

**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)**
$3,211 billion (2017 est.)

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

**Exports**
$483.4 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**
$944.4 million (2017 est.)
partners:  US 35.6%, China 11.2%, Mexico 11.2%, Guatemala 6.9% (2017)

**PEOPLE & SOCIETY**

**Population**
360,300 (July 2017 est.)

**Population Growth**
1.8% (2017 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.)¹

**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.)¹

**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.)

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

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**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 September 2018*