

BELIZE



A Pathfinder Report
www.pathfinderinternational.net

Table of Contents

BACKGROUND.....	3
Climate	3
Economy.....	3
Real estate overview.....	4

BACKGROUND

Belize

Capital City: Belmopan

Official Language: English

Population: 307,899

Area: 8,867 sq miles/22,966 sq km

Independence: from United Kingdom, 21 September 1981

Currency: Belize dollar (pegged to the US dollar; \$1USD=2 Belize dollars)

Belize is situated on the Caribbean coast of Central America, bordered by Mexico and Guatemala. It's one of the least densely populated countries on the planet. Originally a British colony until independence in 1981, the official language is English.

From its Caribbean shores to its jungle interior, Belize has great natural beauty—blue water, deserted beaches, rainforest retreats and winding rivers.

For many years, Belize was a Mecca for divers, snorkelers, and fishermen, drawn by the Belize Barrier Reef, second in size only to Australia's Great Barrier Reef. The jewel-like coral atolls here are superb, especially when viewed from the air.

Until recently, exploring the mainland—an unspoiled coast backed by lush rainforest, grand waterfalls, and Mayan ruins—was strictly for the adventurous. The first jungle lodges opened in the remote Cayo district in the 1980s, and now half of Belize's tourists visit Cayo.

Climate

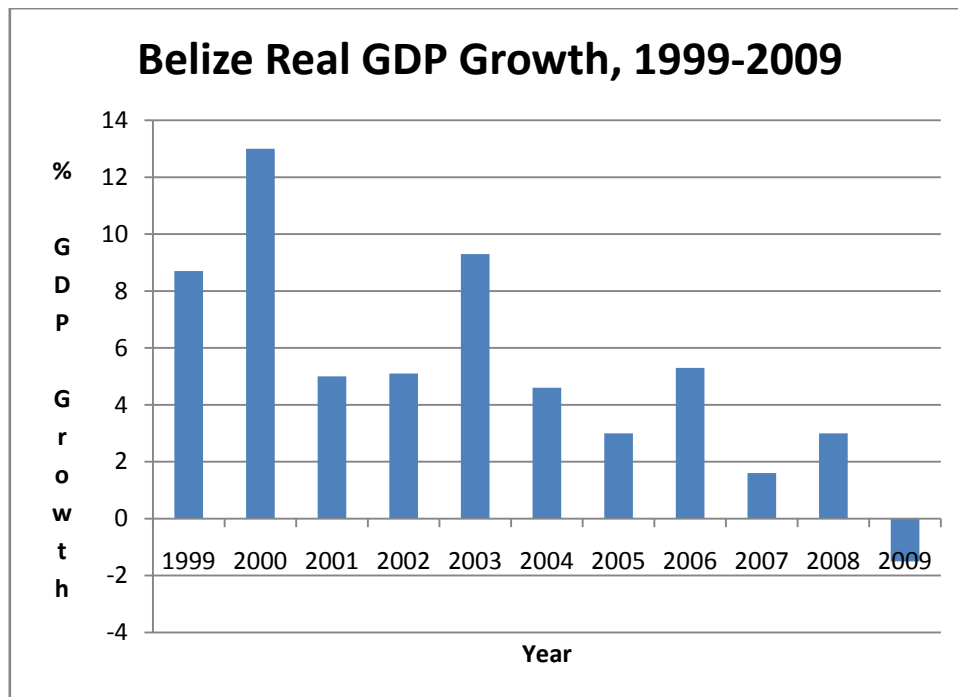
The climate here is tropical and humid, with distinct wet and dry seasons. Coastal temperatures average 61 °F to 90 °F. Rainfall varies by region—northern areas average 50 to 55 inches a year, while the extreme south averages up to 180 inches.

Economy

Until the 20th century, Belize's economy was heavily reliant on forestry. When logwood, used to make dye, fell out of favor with the invention of man-made dyes, mahogany replaced it as the chief export. Easily accessed timber supplies gradually shrank, making logging unprofitable by the 1950s. Cane sugar, citrus bananas, and seafood became the main exports.

Today, services account for more than half of GDP. Tourism is a mainstay, booming since 2000. Another important sector is banking, trusts, and IBCs (International Business Companies). Designed with offshore investors in mind, IBCs allows investors to engage in international financial

transactions, asset protection, ship ownership, brokerage and bank accounts, and a wide range of commercial transactions. Today, 15,000 IBCs are registered in Belize.



Real estate overview

Belize's beachfront properties cost a fraction of what you would pay elsewhere in the Caribbean. Ambergris Caye is the most developed real estate market. San Pedro, the biggest town, has brightly painted wooden houses, packed sand streets, and golf carts as the main method of transport. The shops are mostly mom-and-pop stores, the restaurants quaint, and the opportunities for dining, dancing, and enjoying music, endless.

Only a few hundred yards from the barrier reef, Ambergris was known as a hangout for divers, snorkelers, and backpackers in the 80s and 90s. Then when Fox TV filmed *Temptation Island* on Ambergris in 2000, the world discovered its white-sand beaches and azure waters—and everyone wanted to own a chunk of it. Waterfront property almost doubled in price in a year.



With fashionable resorts, and upscale million-dollar homes, you'd be forgiven for thinking Ambergris no longer has affordable properties. But if you know where to look, you can own an island retreat from as little as \$199,000.

Baymen Garden is a luxury condominium complex that's got just about everything you'd ever want in a vacation or retirement home—including membership of San Pedro Fitness Club and all the development's sports and country club amenities. San Pedro Fitness Club includes a gym, tennis courts, clubhouse and restaurant, and Belize's largest swimming pool, all set on two acres.

In addition, owners at Grand Baymen can use the amenities of Exotic Caye Beach resort, set on a pristine beach just two blocks away. The resort boasts a private boat dock, cafe, and bar. [Read more here.](#)

Corozal, a district in the northern mainland is also gaining the attention of real estate buyers. The area has much in common with the nearby Riviera Maya in Mexico, and lies less than 30 minutes from the Mexican border town of Chetumal, which has a major airport and good medical facilities.

Corozal hasn't attracted the hordes of expats that has driven up prices on Ambergris, so you can still find lots here from \$39,000, and casitas from \$159,000.

Orchid Bay, a resort community in the Corozal district, features 115 acres of exotic hardwood rainforest—with thousands of Belizean orchids, and 1.5 miles of waterfront. It is conveniently located just 10 miles from Belize's Northern Highway, offering easy access to services and activities throughout Southern Mexico and Northern Belize, including the international airport in Belize City. Orchid Bay is secluded, but not isolated.



Designed to be a family-friendly community, Orchid Bay has a wide range of activities for all ages. Swim, sail, dive, snorkel, or boat on the warm Caribbean waters...hike the tropical rainforest...watch the sunset from a palapa at the end of the docks.

With the rolling waves of the turquoise Caribbean lapping up on its white sand shores, Orchid Bay offers a sense of serenity rarely found in today's world. Orchid Bay also promises to be a vibrant and exciting community...a close-knit neighborhood where friends gather for small talk and great times. If you like all the conveniences of the modern era combined with the comforts of a Mayberry on the beach, look no further.

Home lots start at \$39,000. So, if you have ever dreamed of sitting back on the beach, soaking up the Caribbean sun, and enjoying the quiet ambiance of your own exquisite home ...this is your chance to make those dreams come true. [Find out more here.](#)

© Copyright 2010, Pangaea Ltd., trading as Pathfinder, Elysium House, Ballytruckle Road, Waterford, Ireland. All rights reserved. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without the express written consent of the publisher. The information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Registered in Ireland No. 441952.