

Belize

YOUR NATURAL NICHE FOR INVESTMENTS!

Bordered by Mexico in the North, Guatemala in the West, and the Caribbean Sea in the East, Belize is a unique, vibrant country in Central America whose British colonial history strongly links it to the Caribbean. It consists of hard-working, diverse, friendly, bilingual (with English being the official language), and well-educated workforce that bolsters an economy focused on growth. The Government of Belize's commitment to the country's niche-oriented development model has supported the expansion of business in the Tourism, Agribusiness and Agro-processing, Light Manufacturing, Aquaculture, Energy and Offshore Outsourcing sectors amongst others. Both Belize's goods and services sectors continue to grow and diversify and with progressive development policies as this trend is expected to continue into the future.

CAPITAL CITY:	Belmopan
LAND AREA:	8,867 Square Miles
LANGUAGE:	English (official language) / Spanish (commonly used as secondary language)
POPULATION:	408,487 (2019)
LABOR FORCE:	177,915 (2019)
LITERACY RATE:	82.7% (2015)
SEASONS:	Dry season (December to May) Wet season (June to November)
TIME ZONE:	Belize observes Central Standard Time (CST) all year
TEMPERATURE:	Yearly average temperature of 84° F (29°C)
CURRENCY:	Belize Dollar (BZD)
EXCHANGE RATE:	BZD\$2 = USD\$1
GDP GROWTH:	5.26% (Quarter 2, 2019)
INFLATION RATE:	1% (2018)
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:	7.6% (May 2019)



The Belize Trade and Investment Service (BELTRAIDE) is a statutory body operating within the portfolio of the Ministry of Economic Development, Petroleum, Investment, Trade and Commerce mandated to perform duties and functions related to Trade Development and Promotion, Investment Generation and Promotion, Enterprise Development & Facilitation, and Training.

BELTRAIDE has a dedicated Unit, BelizeINVEST, with emphases on:

- Providing establishment compliance guidance and investment packaging support;
- Accessing intellectual capital that is required to make business happen;
- Coordinating and facilitating inbound site visits and investment missions;
- Promoting investment opportunities through investment forums and events;
- Expending recommendations to enhance the ease of doing business in Belize;
- Building long-term, collaborative relationships with concession holders through outreach for continued business growth via Aftercare Services.
- Providing facilitation and tailored services throughout the entire investment experience.

The key to the success of BelizeINVEST depends on keeping investors satisfied and motivated via its unique business development strategies. BELTRAIDE ensures that each investor receives the support from an experienced team that is dedicated to the business growth of Belize's Investment Sectors.

CONTACT US

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Invest in Belize



WHY BELIZE?

- Strategic location
- Bilingual language skills
- Skilled labour force and ease of employment
- Multiple trade agreements
- Availability of high-yield arable land
- Stable currency pegged USD 2:1
- Stable business environment and strong government support

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

The **Fiscal Incentive Program** aims to encourage genuine investment in Belize for both existing and prospective investors through the granting of Customs duty exemptions. The Program provides full Duty Exemption of up to a maximum of 15 years to companies granted an Approved Enterprise Order.

The **Designated Processing Area Program** supports investments that engage in international trade and value addition inclusive of technology transfer, generation of employment and production according to standards of the intended market. The Program provides exemptions on duties and a variety of taxes for up to 10 years with an option to renew.

TRADE AGREEMENTS

- CARICOM & CARICOM Single Market & Economy (CSME) Additional Trade Agreements as a CARICOM Member state include:
 - » Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) with USA
 - » Caribbean-Canada Preferential Arrangement (CARIBCAN)
 - » Bilateral Trade Agreements with Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Cuba, Colombia, Dominican Republic and Venezuela.
- CARIFORUM- European Union/Economic Partnership Agreement (EU)
- Partial Scope Agreement with Guatemala

Investment PRIORITY SECTORS & OPPORTUNITIES

AGRIBUSINESS & AGRO-PROCESSING

Value addition of traditional and non-traditional commodities
Input material production such as organic fertilizer and packaging materials
Storage and export handling facilities
Transportation and delivery of end produce to consumers



OFFSHORE OUTSOURCING SERVICES

Commercial tech parks
Continued Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) establishments
New investments in IT Outsourcing (ITO) and Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO)
Shared Services
Omni Channel Services



LIGHT MANUFACTURING & LOGISTICS

Packaging material: biodegradable bottles, bags, boxes, etc.
Assembly of furniture and garment industry
New flight destinations to Belize
Expansion of existing ports in Belize
New port opportunities
Development of a cruise docking facility



TOURISM & LEISURE

Branded hotel and conference facilities
Luxury boutique hotels
Private island development
Inland adventure eco lodge
Diving and fishing lodge
Cruise tourism
Marina mix development
Medical tourism
Shopping and entertainment



FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

Marine cage farming systems for queen conch and spiny lobster
Fresh water cage farming systems
Raft culture and rope culture for oyster and seaweed farming
Bio prospecting for the cosmetics industry
Produce and export snapper, grouper, red drum and octopus
Production of quality fish feed



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Biomass energy
Solar energy
Hydro power
Biofuels – ethanol, biodiesel, methanol
Waste to energy

