

Frequently Asked Questions...

- Q. What can we import?
A. Approved household items, a motor vehicle, a boat and a plane
- Q. Can we deposit \$24,000USD for the year?
A. Yes, as long as you meet or exceed that amount
- Q. What is the Renewal Process?
A. You must fill out a renewal form and provide a bank statement, passport pages, renewal fee (BZD\$50)
- Q. Do we need to be in Belize yearly to renew?
A. The renewal can be done by providing relevant documents needed via email, or by mail
- Q. What can we NOT import?
A. You can import just about anything; however, some items cannot be duty exempt under the program such as guns, fixtures and foodstuff. Your list must be submitted to the BTB for approval
- Q. Do we need to renew our tourist visas every 30 days?
A. After being accepted into the QRP Program you no longer need to go to immigration to renew your stay
- Q. Will I be able to work?
A. You are allowed to invest in a new company but should not seek gainful employment in Belize. You can also work for a foreign company outside of Belize

Benefits...

- ✓ Great Tax environment, no Capital Gains Tax, nor Inheritance Tax
- ✓ English Speaking
- ✓ Good communication technology
- ✓ Easy access to Land for Development and Construction
- ✓ Close Proximity to the US, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean
- ✓ Strong, stable Belize Dollar
- ✓ Good Educational System
- ✓ Peaceful Nation
- ✓ Political, Social and Economic stability
- ✓ Sub-tropical Climate all Year Long
- ✓ Moderate costs
- ✓ Abundance of Natural Resources
- ✓ Breathtakingly Beautiful
- ✓ Friendly People



BELIZE TOURISM BOARD

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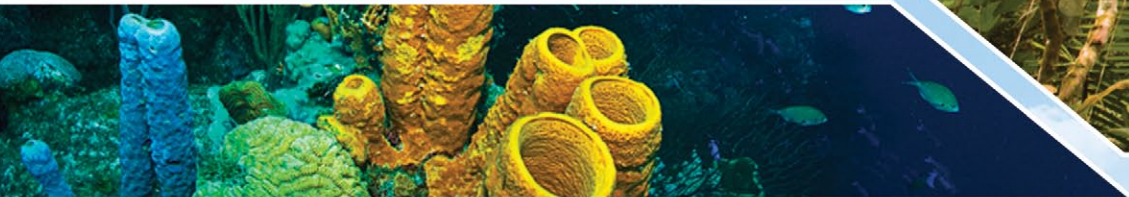
TOLL FREE: 1-800-624-0686

EMAIL: retirement@travelbelize.org

WEB: WWW.RETIREMENTINBELIZE.COM

For more information on the Retirement Program and a downloadable application form, visit our website.

Bordered to the east by the world renowned Caribbean Sea, Belize is truly the quintessence of the perfect getaway. Boasting a rich array of natural wonders; it is home to over ten unique cultures, including Garifuna, Maya, Creole and Mestizo, to name a few. Known for her hospitable people, and the only English-Speaking country in Central America, it's no wonder Belize is called The Jewel.



A Belize experience is nothing short of tropical forests rich with wildlife, majestic mountains, mysterious Maya temples, world-class diving and fishing.

Recognized as a top tourist destination and deemed the perfect vacation spot for a host of celebrities looking for that long-overdue and quiet sabbatical, the inception of the Retired Persons Incentive Program has opened the door for anyone forty-five years or older to retire in this Central American-Caribbean paradise.



Welcome



LOCATION

Belize, previously British Honduras, lies on the east coast of Central America, in the heart of the Caribbean Basin. It is bordered by Mexico to the North, Guatemala to the West and South, and the Caribbean Sea to the East.

CLIMATE

The climate is subtropical, with an annual mean temperature of 79 degrees Fahrenheit. Summer high temperatures are normally around 98 degrees Fahrenheit and winter lows have rarely gone below 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

PEOPLE

The population of approximately 320,000 people consists of a mix of cultures, including Creole, Mestizo, Maya, Garifuna, East Indian, Mennonite, Chinese, Caucasian and more. Belize has gained a widespread reputation for its friendly people.

LANGUAGE

English is the official language of Belize, while Spanish is the second language. Creole is the commonly used dialect you will hear spoken throughout the country.

CURRENCY

The Belize Dollar (BZ\$) has a fixed rate of exchange of BZ\$2 to US\$1. Most hotels, resorts, restaurants, and tour operators will accept U.S. currency, traveler's checks, or credit cards.



WHO QUALIFIES?

Anyone forty-five years and older can qualify for the program. A person who qualifies can also include his or her dependents in the program. Dependents can only include spouses and children under age of eighteen; however, it can include a child up to the

age of twenty-three if enrolled in a university. An applicant must receive a monthly income of no less than US \$2,000 through a pension or annuity that has been generated outside of Belize. In order to qualify for the program, all applicants are subject to a background check to be carried out by the Ministry of National Security.

INCENTIVES & BENEFITS

Any person who has been designated as a Qualified Retired Person is entitled to the following:

- (1) within one year of entering Belize, to import his or her personal effects and an approved means of transportation;
- (2) for his personal use (vehicle, boat and light aircraft) free of all import duties and taxes.

A Qualified Retired Person may also be exempt from the payment of all taxes and duties on all income or receipts, which accrue to him or her from a source outside of Belize whether that income is generated from work performed or from an investment.



APPLICATION PROCESS

A non-refundable application fee of US \$150.00 must be submitted with the application. All payments must be made payable to the Belize Tourism Board and be in the form of US cash, US bank draft or US cashier's cheque. Please note that it is also a requirement that

all dependents should submit all documents listed with the exception of proof of income. Each application for the Qualified Retired Persons Incentives Program will be processed by the Belize Tourism Board and forwarded to the Immigration Department. Persons interested in the program must submit completed applications to the Belize Tourism Board with the following supporting documentation:

Birth Certificate:

A copy of a certificate for the applicant and each dependant.

Marriage Certificate:

Applies if the applicant is married and will be applying for spouse as a dependant.

Authentic Police Record:

An authentic police record from the applicant's last place of residency issued within one month prior to this application.

Passport:

Clear copies of complete passport (including all blank pages) of applicant and all dependents that have been certified by a Notary Public. These copies must have the passport number, name of principal, number of pages and the seal or stamp of the Notary Public.

Proof of Income:

An official statement from a bank or financial institution certifying that the applicant is the recipient of a pension or annuity of a maximum of Two Thousand United States Dollars (US \$2,000) per month must be submitted along with the application.

Medical Examination:

Applicants should undergo a complete medical examination including an HIV test. A copy of the medical certificate along with HIV laboratory results must be attached to the application.

Photos:

Four (front) and four (side) recent passport-size photographs of applicant and dependants.

About Belize

Retiring In Belize