

# FACTS ABOUT CRIME & SAFETY IN BELIZE

Belize is a growing destination for tourism and retirement with its exceptional wildlife, outstanding Mayan ruins and thrilling eco-adventure opportunities in the rainforest. Offshore cays provide access to the world's second largest reef and the Blue Hole, affording unparalleled snorkelling and diving opportunities in this marine paradise.



Unfortunately, many global travelers miss out on these unique experiences due to an unsubstantiated fear of crime or concerns about their personal safety in Belize. Because Belize has such a small population, (estimated 300,000) a lot of the crime figures are misreported or over exaggerated. Let's look at the facts in order to make an informed decision about crime and safety in Belize.



In Belize the majority of crimes are non-violent burglaries and petty theft. Internal corruption (such as the illegal sale of passports by ministerial-level officials) has accounted for some of the high statistics in the past.



Major crime figures in Belize have continued to drop since 2013. Serious crime in Belize is low in tourist destinations, & becomes virtually non-existent in gated ex-pat communities.

The large majority of Belizeans realize that tourism equates to jobs, dollars and a better way of life so the police are highly motivated to prevent all levels of crime. Popular tourist sites and experiences such as diving, zip lining and cave tubing are reported by OSAC to have low crime.



## BELIZE CRIME RATES COMPARED TO MEXICO



To put these vague claims of crime and safety into perspective, Belize compares very favourably against Mexico, where most tourists are happy to visit without any qualms about personal safety. According to statistics compiled by NationMaster, comparative crime rates per **100,000 population** are as follows:

	BELIZE	MEXICO	COMPARISON
RAPE	6.7	13.2	Rape is twice as common in Mexico as in Belize
ROBBERY	182.4	504.7	Robbery is three times as likely in Mexico
VIOLENT GUN CRIME	10	15	Violent crime with guns is 50% more common in Mexico
MURDER RATE	129	25,757	You are 200 times more likely to be murdered in Mexico!
CAR THEFT	21.5	136.8	Car theft is 6 times more likely in Mexico



Leaving aside Central America, how does the Belize crime rate compare to a first-world country such as the USA? According to NationMaster figures, common crime statistics are surprisingly reassuring in Belize, compared to the USA.

	BELIZE	USA	COMPARISON
RAPE	6.7	27.3	Rape is four times more likely in the USA than Belize
ROBBERY	182.4	146.4	Robbery is 25% more likely in Belize than in the USA
VIOLENT GUN CRIME	10	88.8	Violent gun crime is 9 times more likely in the USA
MURDER RATE	129	12,996	Murder in the USA is 101 times more than in Belize
CAR THEFT	21.5	390.2	Car theft is 18 times more likely in the USA



## ZERO TERRORISM ATTACKS IN BELIZE

With a higher police presence in Belize (ranked 10th in the world at 377 per 100,000) compared to the USA (ranked 27th in the world at 243.6 per 100,000) no-one should have any qualms about crime and safety in Belize.

As with every tourist destination, from London to Belmopan, keep your valuables securely on your person, don't leave bags, mobile phones or cameras unattended, lock your car and home securely and beware of anyone trying to distract you.

