



## FESTIVALS + EVENTS

Belize celebrates its fascinating culture and history with an array of festivals throughout the entire year. Planning a journey around one of these vibrant events will give your clients unique insight into Belizean life.

### FEBRUARY

San Pedro Carnival: Three-day carnival to celebrate Easter Season. Begins three days before Ash Wednesday.

» LOCATION: Ambergris Caye

### MARCH

La Ruta Maya Canoe River Challenge Race: Extremely challenging, multi-day canoe race from west to east along the Mocal and Belize Rivers, once the only link between San Ignacio and Belize City. Race is open to everyone, not just professional racers.

» LOCATION: From San Ignacio (Cayo District) to Belize City (Belize District)

Chocolate Week: Hosted by Cotton Tree Lodge in Punta Gorda, the week's activities are centered on the history and cultivation of cacao and its transformation into chocolate.

» LOCATION: Toledo District

Maya Day: Held in the quiet area of Tumul K'in, Blue Creek Village, this day highlights the unique culture being preserved in southern Belize.

» LOCATION: Toledo District

### APRIL

San Pedro Lagoon-Reef Eco-Challenge: A 42-mile, two-day kayak race starting on the lagoon side of Ambergris Caye, up to Bacalar Chico, then down to Robles Point, where all teams camp. Race ends in San Pedro Town.

» LOCATION: Ambergris Caye

### MAY

Cashew Festival: Held in Crooked Tree Village, this festival celebrates the cashew harvest season, with live Punta music, cashew wine, desserts, Caribbean-style dishes and games as the main attractions.

» LOCATION: Belize District

National Agricultural & Trade Show: Highlights agricultural diversity, rodeo, livestock, handicrafts, music, games and food in the capital city of Belmopan.

» LOCATION: Cayo District

Toledo Cacao Festival: Featuring local and international wines and chocolate-based cocktails, as well as chocolate demonstrations and a host of cacao-related activities for young and old alike.

» LOCATION: Toledo District

Monkey River Festival: The country's premier Creole event, this fun festival offers traditional games for adults and children, plus performances by traditional Jankunu dancers who show off their stick-walking skills.

» LOCATION: Toledo District

## JUNE

San Pedro, Placencia and Caye Caulker Lobster Fest: In celebration of the opening of lobster season, these three locations offer a full week of activities.

» LOCATION: San Pedro (Ambergris Caye); Placencia (Stann Creek); Caye Caulker

## JULY

Pibil Fest: The Village of Progresso celebrates the Maya tradition of cooking pork, which involves wrapping the pork in a banana leaf, then burying it in a pit for roasting.

» LOCATION: Corozal District.

Belize International Film Festival: Showcases Central American and Caribbean films in Belize City.

» LOCATION: Belize District

## AUGUST

International Costa Maya Festival: Celebrates Central American and Mexican music groups, as well as cultural dances, international cuisine and arts and crafts.

» LOCATION: Ambergris Caye

## SEPTEMBER

Carnival Road March: Yearly march through the streets of Belize highlights the country's many cultures and history.

» LOCATION: Corozal District, Orange Walk District, Belize City in Belize District

September 10th: Public and bank holiday in honor of the Battle of St. George's Caye Day. Ceremonies, parades and street festivals are held nationwide.

» LOCATION: Throughout Belize

September 21st: Public and bank holiday in honor of Independence Day. Ceremonies, parades, as well as numerous cultural, religious and sporting events are held.

» LOCATION: Throughout Belize

## NOVEMBER

Battle of the Drums: A Punta Gorda celebration of Garifuna music and culture with live performances by some of the foremost musicians at work today. Also a drumming competition.

» LOCATION: Toledo District

Garifuna Settlement Day: November 19th marks the arrival of the Garifuna people to Stann Creek and is mainly celebrated in southern Belize. A reenactment of their arrival is the main attraction, with religious, cultural and parade activities.

» LOCATION: Stann Creek District

## DECEMBER

Holiday Boat Lighting Parade: Decorated boats sail from Boca del Rio to Coconuts Hotel in San Pedro. Prizes are awarded for creativity and overall design.

» LOCATION: Ambergris Caye