

A romantic wedding scene on a boat at sunset. A bride in a white dress and a groom in a white shirt and black vest are kissing on a small white boat with a teal hull. The boat is docked near a sandy shore with mangrove roots. The background shows a vast body of water under a dramatic sky with orange and blue hues.

My Beautiful Belize
VISITOR GUIDE

FREE

| NOVEMBER 2015 | VOL. 03 #09 |

Tying the knot in paradise
Reasons to Belize
Keeping Belize Wild
Celebrating the Garifuna!

Tying the knot in Belize

We all dream of finding our better half to share the rest of our lives with. Once we have found Mr. or Ms. Right, we cement that love by tying the knot. What can make your extra special day better than getting hitched in Belize?

Why Get Hitched Here: Belize offers an incredibly diverse choice of wedding locations: from hidden waterfalls in the jungle to serene sandy beaches and even ancient Maya sites. There is always the dream location for every bride. Our melting pot of cultures is certain to give your destination wedding a unique feel like no other. Belize has the resources to cater to every couple's style and budget. You won't 'Belize' how amazing your wedding can be!

When to Wed: Anytime - year-round, temperatures are in the 80s during the day. With only two seasons, your chances of perfect wedding weather are pretty much guaranteed! If you're watching your budget, plan on tying the knot during the slower tourism months, which is between June and October. Help is always on hand: One of the best ways to decide if Belize is your ideal wedding destination is to take advice from those who have perfected the art of Caribbean nuptials:

"Belize is not only the perfect place to get married; it's also the perfect place to mini-moon while here! Because we are English speaking, every bridal couple, as well as all their guests can feel completely at ease in our laid back Central American country...without the worry of things getting "lost in translation". We offer every visitor to Belize an incredibly diverse wedding venue selection from the Maya Mountains to tranquil beaches, from remote waterfalls to jaguar cages! All those and more are options that will satisfy the most 'chill' or the most adventurous bridal couple. After all the festivities, couples can then enjoy a totally divergent honeymoon right here within the borders of our topographically diverse, micro-climated jewel we call home and that you call paradise," says Lara Goldman, wedding planner for Romantic Travel Belize.

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Esoteric Vision
Photography

Possible Locations: Want to get married by the Caribbean Sea? Belize has your pick of isolated beaches, sandbars, islands or even on board a boat! Maybe you prefer terra firma? We got that covered too, with an array of jungles, waterfalls, archeological sites, caves and orchards.

Intimate or BIG Group: What kind of party you're having can determine what can and cannot be done. Of course, a limitless budget gets you TONS more...but you'd be surprised what can be done with even with a modest budget.

Planning the big day: Do you need every detail planned for you? From officiant to photographer, flowers, food, drinks, location, transport, hair, makeup...etc...? Do the bride and groom want to just show up with clothes and shoes on? Or do you just need a few odds and ends here and there? Do you want to be part of the plans? Your wedding guide can help you as much or as little as you need them.

Hair and Makeup: Your wedding is your



olivera rusu
PHOTOGRAPHY

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chance to be a star for the day, so choosing the right wedding hair and makeup combination is a key part of any bride's big day. Here are a couple suggestions on where to get your hair and makeup done: Makeup – Elida Brown from Styland Beauty Salon, Stephanie Manuel from Makeup by Steff and Alejandra Gomez from Beauty Clinic; Hair – Felix Ayuso from JoSe's Salon, Carole Goudreau from CG Esthetics and Elida Brown from Styland Beauty Salon. Many of these places offer complete packages which can include pampering as well.

Bouquet and Flower arrangements: As a tropical destination, Belize has a wide array of flora for that unique bouquet and flower arrangement. To help you with getting those precious flowers and petals, Barbara Brown from Candle Garden and Dulce Wolfe from Sweet Decorations are on hand to assist.

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Tying the knot in Belize

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LEONARDO MELÉNDEZ PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographers: We all dream of having the perfect wedding photographs, but how do you perfect your pose? Do not fear; Belize has a host of professional photographers that can capture your big day! Top photographers include Olivera Rusu, Maya Papovic of Conch Creative, Leonardo Melendez and Ben Kim from Esoteric Vision. And remember, good photography is more than a fancy camera, so stick to a professional if you want memorable snaps!

Wedding Favors: We have you covered for that too! Unique wedding favors will certainly impress your guests and some of our go to spots to achieve this include Belizean Breezes, 12 Belize, Candle Garden, heck, even throw in some My Beautiful Belize's for reading material! Belize is a wonderful place to make your dream wedding come true. Pick your location, bring that handsome groom or gorgeous bride, take a deep breath and say "I Do!"

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Reasons to BELIZE

With the arrival of Southwest Airlines to Belize (flying direct out of Hobby International in Houston, Texas, USA), there are more ways than ever to get to this Central American/Caribbean nation.

I think we've answered the "WHERE the hell is Belize?" question already, so now, we tell you WHY you should check out the 8,867 square mile beauty, nestled south of Mexico, east of Guatemala and north of Honduras. Her coastline faces the gorgeous and warm Caribbean Sea, and running down its entire length is the second largest barrier reef in the world.

As a visitor, you have all sorts of countries to check out in the world. Your choices are practically unlimited, so why should you consider Belize?



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No theme parks

Disneyland, Sea world, Six Flags...etc...they all sound really fun and exciting. But you know what? We don't have any of that. We do have crazy cool REAL Maya temples – move over 'temple of doom'! We have hiking trails that lead you up peaks and valleys, often landing in the middle of a seemingly magical waterfall, surrounded by the twittering of birds, cascades of butterflies darting to and fro, free in nature, as it should be!

Want to feel the rush of adrenaline in your veins? Zipline through our forest canopies, tube in the dark recesses of our caves, rappel down rushing waterfalls, hike at night while surrounded by the howls of monkeys, screeches of our nightlife, and possibly, just possibly, come close to the elusive jaguar... jump into crystal clear waters and surround yourself with sharks and sting rays, and even the big guys: the whale shark!

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No Chain Restaurants

McDonald's, Taco Bell, Applebee's, etc...they have no place in Belize. What we do have is fresh, delicious Belizean delights! The ubiquitous Rice and Beans finds itself competing with our ceviche, fresh caught fish grilled right on the beach, chased down with our Belikin beer. Top your meals with some spice from Marie Sharp's or any one of the house-made spicy accompaniments available. Stop by the street stands at night, and you'll find yourself salivating as you wait for a quick, yet handmade snack. Our food is king...you just have to try it!

No All-Inclusives

You can pick from a hostel on the beach, to individual cabañas, to three-bedroom condos in a planned development...but there are no all-inclusives. And we'd like to keep it that way. Enjoy privacy, excellent services, fabulous views and relaxation on your terms. Go big...go low-key...go mid-priced – ultimately, you'll have a wonderful, personalized time.



Best of all: Our People

Friendly, smiling people of every race welcome you to our country. We're a melting pot of cultures, and though our primary language is English, you will hear Kriol, Mayan, Garifuna, Spanish, Chinese and even Dutch! This is a place like no other.

We're fiercely proud of our jewel, and you'll be amazed by our experts of the jungle, the birds, the plants and trees, the waters, the corals and our fish. We love a good time, and boy do we enjoy parties! Parades are a must – and every month, we find something to celebrate! Join us any time of the year, and see just how amazing Belize can be! See you soon...



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