The Maine Stay Cabana Suites
Placencia Peninsula, Belize, Central America

INDEX:
Driving Directions
The Maine Stay Cabana Suites Availability Calendars
Phones and Internet
The Maine Stay Cabana Suites Amenities
Immunizations
Water Supply
Sun, Sand and Bugs
Groceries and supplies
Vehicle Rentals
Taxis
Bicycles
Kayaks
Tours and excursions
Overnighting in Belize City Area
Weather
Local Airlines
The Maine Stay Cabana Suites Rates
The Maine Stay Cabana Suites Payment Information
The Maine Stay Cabana Suites Cancellation Policy
Driving Directions

Belize International Airport (BZE) to The Maine Stay (Placencia Peninsula)

Driving Directions to The Maine Stay Cabanas from Belize City and Maps of Belize.

Best printable version of these directions.

From the Belize airport, turn LEFT at the end of the Airport access road. There are two ways to get to Belmopan. The sign at this point may direct you to the RIGHT, but that will take you through Belize City, and you don’t want to do that. So, turn LEFT at the end of the airport access road, and from that point, follow the signs to Belmopan.

Although interesting, this leg of the drive is nothing special. Once you reach the Belmopan outskirts, you will turn left, and in a mile or two, come to a traffic circle... unless your are stopping in Belmopan to grocery shop, go straight through, following the signs to Placencia.

If you want to do some grocery shopping on your way, a good place to stop is Brodie's in Belmopan. When you reach the traffic circle on the outskirts of Belmopan turn left instead of continuing on to Placencia. Follow this "ring road" about a mile till you see the Bull Frog Inn on the right... just beyond that you'll see Brodie's grocery also on the right. Good selection, including beer, wine, etc. Now, retrace your steps back to the rotary and continue on to Placencia.

You are now on the Hummingbird Highway. This is the beautiful part... Lots of small villages to go through with warning "rumble strips" as you approach them and "speed bumps" that really mean it! There will be one or two elevated pedestrian crossing walks in each village to go over as well. All along the Hummingbird Highway are narrow, one lane bridges (they used to be train bridges)... speed bumps will warn you as you approach them.
After about 50 miles on the Hummingbird Highway... Turn RIGHT after the Shell Station (good place for a bathroom stop!). There are very good signs. You are now on the Southern Highway.

- After going through the villages of Silk Grass and Kendall (bridge here), you will eventually come to Maya Center with a sign for the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary as well as a commercial gift shop.

- About 3–4 miles (km 2.4) past that, you will pass through the banana farm company village of Maya King and shortly thereafter see another overhead sign for Placencia, where you will turn LEFT onto a dirt road. This 9 mile stretch of west-to-east road will bring you to the northern end of the Placencia Peninsula.

Keep in mind the sequence of villages on the peninsula—-Maya Beach, Seine Bight (The Maine Stay), then Placencia. So, as you go along, if you see signs for any of these villages, you are fine.

- At mile 1.5 (km 2.4) on the dirt road, you will curve to the RIGHT. Overhead sign here. The road also goes straight, so don’t let that throw you off. There is a sign for Placencia here, guiding you to the RIGHT.
- At mile 5.2 (km 8.32) there is a small one–lane bridge. Be careful of this bridge, particularly if it is after dark.
- At mile 8.9 (km 14.24) you will turn to the RIGHT. There is a sign for Placencia here. Big cell phone tower is visible straight ahead... but that’s not the direction you want to go.
- At mile 10.2 (km 16.32) there is a curve to the LEFT. You won’t actually turn left, it is just a sharp curve.
- At mile 13.4 (km 21.44) you will see the The Placencia Resort. There is a tall wall around the resort. You can’t miss it. Just a landmark to let you know you are on the right road. You will curve to the left and then to the right—–just follow the road. There is only one road.
- At mile 16.4 (km 26.24) you will see Singing Sands resort on your left. You are almost there!
- At mile 18.6 (km 29.26) you will be at the cabanas. Watch for the signs: "The Maine Stay" on the left (beach side) and "Kokomo" (lagoon side). Double red–roofed cabanas on the left,
each connected by a deck surrounded by sandy beach. They are easy to see from the road. We are at the white concrete house just across the road from the cabanas.

Basics for this drive:
• Don’t try to hurry. There are speed bumps and one-lane bridges.
• Try to not do the dirt road after dark. It is basically an ok drive, it is just harder in the dark, and we never know what condition the road will be in, depending on rain, when the grader last went through, etc.
• If it has recently rained, keep in mind that the dirt road is basically clay and can be slippery.
• Don’t pick up hitchhikers, just like you wouldn’t in the states.
• There is only one difference about driving in Belize than in the US. If you are turning left, you put on your blinker, pull to the right, and wait for any cars behind you to pass. Don’t worry about it. Locals forgive tourists. Just don’t let it surprise you if you see someone else do it.

Phones and Internet

Phones


No charge for any incoming calls. You will need a Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL) phone charge pin slip or card to make out-going local calls. These are widely available and we can supply one for you if you wish. A $10 or $20 BZD charge slip (regular not Digi-cell) will give you plenty of minutes to schedule tours, or do other local calls.

Many guests are bringing US cell phones that work on the Belize GSM cell phone system. We also understand that at least one car rental agency at Belize International Airport (Hertz) offers inexpensive ($5/day) cell phone rental with their packages. Be sure to ask about this when arranging your rental vehicle. For listings of the car rental agencies just do a search for "car rental Belize."
Our toll free voice mail number (from anywhere in the US & Canada) is 207–512–2381. Our direct line in Belize is 011–501–523–3507. We are just across the street from the Cabanas, so if family or friends need to reach you in an emergency, they can leave a voice mail message at that number or call the direct line.

**Internet**

For those of you bringing a laptop computer, each of the Cabana Suites has free high-speed DSL internet access providing both wireless and hardwire ethernet connections. If you don't bring a laptop, and there is a need for family to get an urgent email message to you, it can be sent to drewtravers@gmail.com and belizekaren@gmail.com.

**Amenities**

Air Conditioning, Washer, Dryer, Linens provided, Off Street Parking

**Beds**
Both cabana suites have a very comfortable king bed and double bed and two single futon beds. There is also a large futon sofa double bed in each suite. All the sleeping arrangements can be "re-arranged" to accommodate guests needs.

**Entertainment**
Cable TV, DVD Video player, CD Player

**Kitchen**
Full Kitchen
Cooking Utensils Refrigerator
Microwave

**Outdoor Features**
Gas BBQ Grill
Deck/Patio
Balcony
**View/Location**
Beachfront
Oceanfront Gorgeous sunrises
Sunset over the Maya Mountains

**Communications**
Telephone
Broadband Internet
WiFi (Wireless Internet)

**Other Amenities**
bicycles

**Suitability**
Kid & Toddler Friendly

**Activities (on site and nearby)**
Shopping
Sightseeing
Restaurants
Kayaking
Sailing
Boating
Swimming
Snorkeling/Diving
Biking
Hiking
Fishing
Spelunking

**Other Activities**
Cave Tubing
Zip-Line Tours
Immunizations

You should follow your doctor's advice on immunizations... When I first came to Belize and spent 4 months working in a clinic just outside of Punta Gorda, and was in the jungle 2 or 3 times weekly on clinic visits to remote villages, I did take chloroquine (for Malaria). Since then, during our 3 or 4 times yearly visits and during the past 4 years living here full time, we have not done any malaria prophylaxis, nor any Hep A, typhoid immunizations, etc. Maybe we are just lucky, but we also have not heard of a case of malaria here on the Peninsula in a long time. We don't know of any of the expats here (and there are a bunch) who do any differently.

Water Supply

The Maine Stay
We have an excellent water system that feeds the whole Peninsula, and is the envy of the rest of the country. We never drink bottled water... except if we are off the Peninsula and for sure if we are out in the rain forest and go to one of those remote Mayan villages.

Sun, Sand and Bugs

Our ocean breezes are delightful at keeping bothersome things to a minimum. Mosquitoes are rarely an issue. On very calm days, beach sand flies can be irritating. The usual bug repellents are helpful. Hydrocortisone cream helps with itching. When making an excursion in to the rain forest, it is wise to have long pants and long sleeve shirts, as well as hiking/running shoes or boots.

Remember you are coming to a subtropical climate and the sun can be intense. Be sure to bring plenty of sunscreen and a hat. Our sandy beaches and shallow areas around the pier are delightful to enjoy. If you are not used to walking a lot on sand and have "tender feet" having beach sandals and/or water slip-ons is a good idea.
**Groceries and Supplies**

There are several grocery stores in Seine Bight and Placencia. There are also several "veggie trucks" that stop at our place and provide almost everything you might need including, fruits, veggies, meats, chicken, dry goods, cheese, OJ, eggs, milk, yogurt, etc.

As part of your rental, we will stock the Cabanas with a "starter" list of groceries that you send us. No extra charge (except for the groceries). Grocery stores are not open late here. You can shop in Placencia the day after you arrive, but having some basics when you arrive is "a good thing." Let us know. I will need a "grocery list" from you, if you want me to do this. Please check here for a suggested list of "starter" groceries.

Alternatively, if you are renting a car, there are grocery stores in Belize City, as you leave the Airport, or in Belmopan as you pass through on your way here. When you get in to the Belmopan area, you will come to a traffic circle... straight ahead is on to Placencia... to the left is in to the small city of Belmopan. It is circled by a "ring" road. Just a mile or so down this ring road is Brodie's Grocery. It's on the right. Ask anyone if you get turned around. You won't though... it's easy. When you have done your shopping, just go back to the traffic circle and follow the signs to Placencia.

**Vehicle Rentals**

We will meet you when you arrive at The Maine Stay, whether you choose to rent a vehicle in Belize City and drive down, or if you fly, we will meet you at the Placencia Airport. Renting a vehicle in Belize City gives you a lot of flexibility, depending on your plans. Do you want to do Mayan Ruins, the Jaguar Preserve, Cave tubing, and other things? You can do some or all of these yourself or they can be arranged with local tour operators.

The rental vehicle gives you "spur of the moment" or "same day" options, as well as more spontaneous access to local resorts,
shopping and restaurants. If you are a party of four or more, and if you subtract the flight costs from BC to Placencia... It's pretty much a "wash." Plus you get a gorgeous drive down the Hummingbird Highway through the Maya Mountains. It truly is beautiful.

(Do a "google" search for "car rentals Belize.")

View and print driving directions here
You shouldn't have any problems with the drive. There are villages to drive through on the way, so keep your eyes out for speed bumps, narrow bridges and bicycles! Just take your time and enjoy the Hummingbird Highway! BTW, that's the stretch from Belmopan to the Southern Highway. The first leg, from Belize City to Belmopan is nothing special... so don't worry, you will get in to some great scenery.

**Taxis**

Taxis are readily available. Rates are flat, point-to-point and reasonable. We keep a current list of taxi phone numbers. Just ask us. Some of the taxi drivers are available for hire for the day, should you want to design your own exploration excursion.

**Bicycles**

Each cabana suite has 2 bicycles for guest use. Many times they are shared with the other suite.

**Kayaks**

We have a two person clear bottom kayak that is shared between our two cabana units. This can be used on either the ocean or lagoon side of the peninsula.
Tours and excursions

Below is a list of various tours and activities that we are happy to help you arrange...

The Mayan ruins closest to the Placencia Peninsula are Nim Li Punit and Lubantuun. About one and two hours respectively. These are smaller ruins. Your best bets are Xunantunich and Cahal Pech... about a 2.5 hour drive to San Ignacio. Lot's of tour guides do these two as a day trip. Xunantunich (affectionately known as "tuna sandwich") is quite impressive. Cahal Pech is smaller, but still worth doing and they are only 30 minutes apart.

Jaguar Preserve hiking and cave tubing... you can do this yourself if you are renting a vehicle, otherwise it can be arranged through Nitewind Tours... which, in our humble opinion, is well worth doing (see below).

From a visitor review in Yahoo ...
"Doyle Gardiner’s (Nitewind) Cockscomb tour is a must–see if you are in Belize. Licensed and very professional, Doyle is an excellent guide through the Cockscomb Wildlife Sanctuary and Jaguar Preserve. He combines sheer fun with knowledge and respect for the environment in a well–rounded tour that is a very unique and unforgettable experience. The tour includes a nature hike, which Doyle leads with humor and a great deal of knowledge, as well as a lazy cruise down the river in an inner–tube, where you will be surrounded by lush greenery, the call of birds, and a feeling of peace. The finale finds you sliding down a series of waterfalls! It's an exciting, adrenaline rush that people of varied fitness levels can enjoy. If you want to pack what feels like several days of experience into one day, Doyle's tour is it. I walked away from the tour high on the excitement of the waterfall slides and with a feeling of grace for having been shown such a gorgeous environment."

Snorkeling... Laughingbird Caye (and lots of others)
Nite Wind doylegardiner@yahoo.com 523–3487

NextWave Day Sailing on a beautiful catamaran. Great trip.
Mangrove/ Monkey River tour –
Nite Wind doylegardiner@yahoo.com 523–3487

Fishing/ Snorkeling daytrip – Kevin Modera
kevinmodera_bze@yahoo.com 607–0974

Caves Branch Zip – Line and Cave Tubing

Canopy Tours and Zip Line

Bruce & Carolyn Leslie rent kayaks at Placencia Point. Phone is 501–523–3370. Email is bruceleslie@btl.net
Single seat rental is $10 US per half day
Double seat rental is $20 US per half day
Double seat for 4 or more days is $25 US per day.

We are happy to help book any of the tours above or any other interesting things you find to explore!

Overnighting in Belize City Area

If you stay over in Belize City, here are recommended hotels:

Downtown Area
HHHH+ Great House, 13 Cork St.; tel. 501–223–3400, fax 223–3444; www.greathousebelize.com. This small jewel offers spacious and well-equipped air-conditioned rooms in a modernized and expanded private house, originally built in 1927. All 12 rooms, half on the second and half on the third floor, have a balcony, private bathroom, mini-fridge, safe, TV, phone and dedicated fax line. There is also a good, if somewhat pricey, restaurant in the courtyard, the Smoky Mermaid. Owner Steve Maestre, one of Belize’s most experienced hotel proprietors, takes great pride in the personal service here. Doubles around US$110–$130.

HHHH Radisson Fort George, 2 Marine Parade; tel. 501–223–3333, fax 227–3829; www.radissonbelize.com. This is the flagship of the
city’s hotels, and the most expensive, though you can often get substantial reductions from the rack rates. All rooms have cable TV, fridge and minibar, and those in the Club Wing, reached by the only glass elevator in Belize, have unbeatable sea views. Most of the rooms, including those in the villa wing across the street, have been remodeled recently. There’s a good restaurant (you may see Emory King, Belize’s most famous expat, there at breakfast), and the grounds are an oasis of calm on the edge of the sea. The hotel has two pools and a private dock. The marina can take large boats of up to 250 feet in length with a 10-foot draft. The staff is usually friendly and helpful. Rates US$169–189 double, Dec. 20–Apr. 30, about US$10 less the rest of the year. But as noted, rates are often heavily discounted – ask.

HH+ Hotel Mopan. 55 Regent St., Belize City; tel. 501–227–7351, fax 227–5383; www.hotelmopan.com. Character is the Hotel Mopan’s middle name. This hotel in an old wooden Colonial house on the South Side became a well-known meeting place for naturalists, archeologists and backpackers under pioneering tourism operator Jean Shaw, who died in 1999. Her daughter and son, Jeannie and Tomy, operate the hotel today. Don’t expect luxury here, and the neighborhood isn’t exactly grand (walking around at night is iffy at best), but the rooms are bigger than average, they’ve been upgraded, and there’s still lots of atmosphere. All rooms have private baths with plenty of hot water, and A/C is available. Construction next door (mid–2006) may mean some noise. Rates US$50 to $70 double.

Near International Airport

HHH+ D’Nest Inn. 475 Cedar St. tel. 501/223–5416; www.dnestinn.com. (Directions: from the Northern Hwy., turn west on Chetumal St., turn right at the police station, go 1 block and turn left, then turn right on Cedar St.) D’Nest Inn is a B&B run by Gaby and Oty Ake. Gaby is a retired Belize banker, and Oty is originally from Chetumal. The two-story, Caribbean-style house is on a canal 50 feet from the Belize River. It’s in an area called Belama Phase 2, a safe, middle-
class section between the international airport and downtown. Oty’s gardens around the house are filled with hibiscus, roses, and other blossoming plants. The three guest rooms are furnished with antiques such as a hand-carved, four-poster bed, but they also have modcons like wireless internet, air-conditioning, and cable TV. With a private entrance and your own key, you come and go as you like. Rates are US$60 to $70 double and include a delicious full breakfast. Highly recommended.

HH Global Village Hotel. Mile 8 1/2, Northern Hwy.; tel. 501/225–2555; www.globalhotel-bz.com. If you have an early morning flight out or you’re overnighting en route somewhere else, the Global Village Hotel (actually it’s more of a motel than a hotel) is a good new choice near the international airport. The 40 rooms are sparkling clean and modern and are only US$50 double. This Chinese–owned place is located just south of the turnoff to the international airport, and the hotel has a free shuttle to and from the airport. You can also arrange to leave your car in the hotel’s fenced parking lot with 24-hour security.

(information taken from "San Pedro Cool" by Lan Sluder)

Weather

There are so many places to get weather information. One of the ones we check locally is the Belize National Weather Service at Belize Weather

Local Airlines

If you decide to fly down from Belize City, look for Maya Island Air or Tropic Air on the web to book your reservations. Be sure to allow an hour between your arrival at Belize International Airport (BZE) and your departure time to Placencia. We will pick you up at the Placencia Airport. Just let us know your arrival time in Placencia.
Rates

The Maine Stay
Rates are for The Maine Stay I or The Maine Stay II

Each is a double cabana unit)... and includes:
2 bedrooms, 2 baths, full kitchen, large deck, porch and patio right on the beach:

* $995/week (June 1–Oct 31), both cabanas for up to 4 people.
* $1250/week (Nov 1– May 31), both cabanas for up to 4 people.
* $1500/week (Dec 15 – Jan 15), both cabanas for up to 4 people.

* Additional persons (over age 12) are 25% per week each.
* 9% hotel tax. NO SERVICE CHARGE.
* Additional nights or partial weeks are pro-rated.
* 25% (non-refundable) deposit.
* Visa, Mastercard & PayPal accepted.
* Full Payment required 45 days prior to stay.

Cancellation Policy

* Full refund (minus deposit) if cancellation received at least 30 days prior to arrival.
  * If 30 to 15 days prior 50% refund.
  * If 15 days or less, no refund.
* Until confirmed, rates are subject to change without notice.
* The Maine Stay does not accept responsibility or assume any liability for failure to provide services due to delays or changes by airline, illness, weather or any other act over which we have no control.