

### **KREM's New Year's Cycling Classic**

Event Dates: January 1, 2019

Event Description: This is a single-day road cycling race held since 1991 on New Year's Day, January 1, and is thus the first race on Belize's cycling calendar. The usual route is over the Philip Goldson Highway from Corozal District to Belize City, finishing at the corner of Central American Boulevard and Mahogany Street, approximately two blocks from the home of the race's sponsor, Kremandala Ltd.

Call to Action: Facebook

### **Sidewalk Arts and Music Festival, Placencia**

Event Dates: February 9, 2019

Event Description: Every year the small fishing village of Placencia located in the Stann Creek District comes alive as the central sidewalk is transformed into an art gallery and music festival where numerous photographers, painters and sculptors converge to display and sell their products. The event is filled with fun, games, music and poetry readings. Numerous mouth watering foods are also on sale.

Call to Action: BTIA/Placencia Village Council, Tel: 523-3396; <http://bit.ly/2L5goju>

### **Street Art Festival, Belize City**

Event Dates: February 23, 2019

Event Description: This festival is designed to focus not only on the wide range of cultural activities offered through the Bliss Centre but also to showcase Belizean artists in giving them an intimate setting with the Belizean public by creating an environment to honor and celebrate our diverse culture. The Festival takes place on Albert Street in downtown Belize City featuring local artists, fashion shows, a food court, a kid zone and vendor stalls/booths offering a variety of local food.

Call to Action: National Institute for Culture and History. Tel: 501-227-0811.

<http://bit.ly/2W52izO>

### **Belikin La Ruta Maya River Challenge**

Event Dates: March 8-11, 2019

Event Description: La Ruta Maya Belize River Challenge is considered one of the longest canoe races in Central America. The race brings together professional and amateur paddlers from all over the world who take on the four-day grueling challenge of paddling 175 miles on the Belize Old River against rapids and winds all the way from San Ignacio, Cayo District, to the Belcan Bridge in Belize City.

Call to Action: <http://bit.ly/2L1zuaa>



# Belize Calendar of Events

## April- May 2019

### **National Band Fest 2019**

Event Dates: April 19, 2019

Event Description: This is an annual popular event drawing thousands of visitors from all over Belize. The venue is rotated each year and the event captures over 700 band members competing in numerous categories including best wind instruments, best drum corps and most popular band.

Call to Action: <http://bit.ly/2XGi5Wb>

### **Holy Saturday Cycling Classic**

Event Dates: Easter Weekend (April 19 – 22nd) 2019

Event Description: The Holy Saturday Cross Country Cycling Classic is Belize's biggest cycling event held every year during the Easter holidays. The race begins on Holy Saturday morning, near Mile 2 on Belize's George Price Highway. There is a lead-out from inside Belize City at the BTL Park with actual racing beginning on the highway. Cyclists race to the western town of San Ignacio, in the Cayo District, turn at the Hawkesworth Bridge and return to Belize City. The estimated distance of the Classic is some 142.4 miles.

Call to Action: Facebook: <http://bit.ly/2IGbhnV>

Blog: <http://bit.ly/2UERfeX>

### **National Agriculture and Trade Show (NATS), Belmopan**

Event Dates: April 26 – 28, 2019

Event Description: The NATS is the biggest and most attended entertaining and educational annual event celebrated in Belize. The three- day event is organized by the NATS Committee with the objective of educating the larger public about the importance of agriculture, its contribution to the Belizean economy and to food security. The show is held every year during the months of April or May at the National Agriculture Show Grounds in the Capital of Belize, Belmopan.

Call to Action: Ministry of Agriculture, Tel: 822-2241; <http://bit.ly/2IH0uOG>

### **Cashew Festival, Crooked Tree**

Event Dates: May 11 – 12, 2019

Event Description: Crooked Tree is home to a great number of cashew trees and this festival celebrates the cashew harvest in a big way, with music, dancing and lots of cracking, shelling, roasting and stewing of cashews, as well as the making of cashew cake, cashew jelly, cashew ice cream, cashew wine and cashew.

Call to action: <http://bit.ly/2Pt8dw6>



# Belize Calendar of Events

## May-June 2019

### **BTB Love Belize Sea Challenge**

Event Dates: May 22 -27, 2019

Event Description: The BTB Love Belize Sea Challenge is a sea kayak race from Punta Gorda Town to Corozal Town, a grueling six-day adventurous extreme challenge covering over 218 miles of sea paddling. The race is a joint venture between the Belize Tourism Board and Love FM. The race aims to promote Belize as a key tourism destination for paddlers and kayakers; underscore Belize's rich and effervescent culture and history, including food, music and tradition, of the communities along the coastline; create environmental awareness with paddlers and fans on the important of protecting Belize's natural and cultural resources and provide visiting teams with a unique Belizean experience and opportunity to see Belize from a closer and local perspective.

Call to Action: <http://bit.ly/2IJ6ceH>

### **Chocolate Festival, Punta Gorda**

Event Dates: May 24-26, 2019

Event Description: The Festival is a three-day celebration of Belizean chocolate and the cacao-driven culture of the Toledo District. Southern Belize is recognized for its superior cacao beans. These cacao beans are a significant export crop and, within country, are transformed into distinctive and high quality chocolate. Every year Belize celebrates this marvelous food, and many devoted followers return to the Toledo District each year to find out what's new in the world of chocolate making.

Call to Action: <http://bit.ly/2L2x2jS>

### **Mango Fest, Hopkins**

Event Dates: June 8 & 9, 2019

Event Description: The people of Hopkins Village celebrate the opening of mango season with the Hopkins Mango Fest; the best mangoes in Belize can be found in Hopkins in abundance. What better way to celebrate than with a festival? Mango season in Belize usually begins around the end of April/May and runs through the end of June/July. There are over 15 different mango varieties in Belize, and they are eaten and enjoyed throughout the different stages of ripeness.

Call to Action: BTIA, Cell No. (501)-615-9591, [www.btia.org](http://www.btia.org)



# Belize Calendar of Events

## June-July 2019

### **San Pedro Lobster Fest**

Event Dates: June 15 -22, 2019

Event Description: The San Pedro Lobster Festival is an annual event that celebrates the reopening of the lobster season in Belize. The first festival was first held in 2007 with a week of nightly events leading up to one epic block party. Over the past 10 years the festival has evolved into a 10 day festival filled with over 20 great activities and incredible lobster themed foods!

Call to Action: San Pedro Town Council Tel: 226-2198

### **Placencia's Lobster Fest**

Event Dates: June 21-23, 2019

Event Description: The Placencia Lobster Fest began in the summer of 1998. The Placencia Chapter of the Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA) recognized a need to improve the local economy and decided to create an event that would attract visitors from all over the world to Placencia Village. The event was purposely planned to coincide with the start of the Placencia Fisherman's Cooperative annual Fisherman's Day festivities and with the start of lobster season.

Call to Action: Placencia Village Council, Tel: 523-3396

### **Caye Caulker Lobster Fest**

Event Dates: June 28-30, 2019

Event Description: The Festival starts with the crowning of Miss Lobster Fest and lasts for three days with an all-day beach party. The event includes displays of live Lobsters, weighing in of the biggest Lobster for the weekend brought in by the local fishermen, the main dance event hosted on the Saturday night and of course all sorts of delicious and mouth-watering Lobster dishes.

Call to Action: Caye Caulker Village Council, Tel: 226-2198

### **Benque Viejo July Fair**

Event Dates: July 13-15, 2019 (TBC)

Event Description: The Fair is held in honor of Benque Viejo del Carmen's patron saint Nuestra Señora de Monte Carmelo (Our Lady of Mount Carmel). The celebration consists of early morning prayers known as alborada and a novena in honor of the Virgin Mary accompanied by marimba music. Each day of the novena has a sponsor. The Benque Fiesta also includes a feria, a social event that includes the selection of Señorita Flor de la Feria and numerous cultural displays.

Call to Action: Benque Viejo Town Council Tel: 501-803-2020



# Belize Calendar of Events

## August 2019

### **International Costa Maya, San Pedro**

Event Dates: August 1-4, 2019

Event Description: The International Costa Maya is the largest festival in Belize, and dates back to 1991, when it was called the Sea and Air Festival featuring the Mundo Maya countries of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and now Panama. The festival celebrates the dance, sound and cultures of these vibrant countries. The highlight of the event is the selection of the Reina de la Costa Maya Beauty Queen.

Call to Action: San Pedro Town Council, 226-2198

### **Queen of the Bay Pageant**

Event Dates: August 24, 2019 (TBC)

Event Description: This event aims to select the Queen of the Bay, who is crowned on September 10th, the day Belize celebrates the Battle of St. George's Caye. This beauty pageant had its beginning in 1946 and sees six beautiful young women representing their main district towns vying for the prestigious title. The event is held amidst banners and bobbing balloons bearing Belize's national colors, which instill the spirit of patriotism among Belizeans.

Call to Action: National Institute for Culture and History. 501-227-0811;

### **Tourism Expo, Orange Walk**

Event Dates: August 31, 2019

Event Description: The Orange Walk Tourism Expo showcases the various Belizean products and services, which form part of the Tourism Industry in Belize. It highlights Orange Walk through the participation of many out-district businesses as well as businesses and services belonging to Orange Walkers. These include hotels, restaurants, tour guides, tour operators, cultural groups, artisans, and educational institutions. Along with these products and services, the different cultures of Belize are displayed through the traditional cultural dishes, music and presentations.

Call to Action: BTIA Orange Walk Tel: 667-7382



# Belize Calendar of Events

## September 2019

### **Yamaha Saltwater Fishing Tournament, Placencia**

Event Dates: September 8 & 9, 2019

Event Description: Part of the September Celebrations each year, the two-day Placencia Saltwater Fishing Tournament draws anglers from far and near for the two-day competition. The eagerly anticipated event kicks off in the wee hours of Saturday morning, when boats loaded with enthusiastic anglers leave the Placencia Municipal Pier in high hopes of catching the big ones!

Call to Action: <http://bit.ly/2unEhrY>

### **Carnival Jouvert**

Event Dates: September 7, 2019 (TBC)

Event Description: The jouvert is an essential part of celebrating carnival in Belize. It is held in the morning/day break and it involves participants being covered from head to toe in mud, paint, powder or chocolate "baccahanal-ing" through the streets of Belize City. It is part of the celebrations leading up to the commemoration of the Battle of St George's Caye Day, which is celebrated on September 10th each year.

Call to Action: <http://bit.ly/2XCsnwS>; National Institute for Culture and History. 501-227-0811

### **Carnival Road March, Belize City**

Event Dates: September 7, 2019 (TBC)

Event Description: When Belizeans think of the month of September one word resonates in their hearts – "Celebration"! This historical event was adapted in 1975 when five free spirited women got together to "spice up the tenth of September celebrations". Costume bottoms shortened from the modest ankle length to conservative knee length to the provocative bikini length, clearly influenced by the Caribbean, are worn by revelers during the carnival parade through the principal streets of Belize City.

Call to Action: National Institute for Culture and History. 501-227-0811

### **Battle of St. George's Caye**

Event Dates: September 10, 2019

Event Description: The Battle of St. George's Caye was a short military engagement that lasted from the 3rd to the 10th of September 1798, off the coast of what is now Belize. However, the name is typically reserved for the final battle that occurred on the 10th of September. The Spaniards had previously attempted to expel the British settlers and their slaves on six occasions. The 10th of September, 1798 marked the final Spanish attempt to take over the area. In Belize, the Battle of St. George's Caye is a national public and bank holiday.

Call to Action: National Institute for Culture and History. 501-227-0811



# Belize Calendar of Events

## September– November 2019

### **Pan Yaad Steel Band Concert, Belize City**

Event Dates: September 14, 2019 (TBC)

Event Description: One of the most lively musical events in connection with the National Independence Day celebrations in Belize is the Pan Yaad Steel Band Concert. This is an event held at the Marion Jones Sports Complex in Belize City. This event is not only intended to add greater spirit and life to the national celebrations but it also offers Steel Band aficionados the opportunity to enjoy steel band music at its best.

Call to Action: National Institute for History and Culture (NICH).

Tel 501-227-0811

### **Belize Birding Festival**

Event Dates: October 19-20, 2019

Event Description: Home to more than 500 species of birds—including the keel-billed toucan (Belize's national bird), harpy eagle, blue-crowned motmot, and endangered jabiru stork and scarlet macaw—Belize is a bird-watcher's Eden. The festival brings together birders from the region and provides art exhibitions, guided tours and other special events.

Call to Action: BTIA Secretariat, Belize City Tel: 227-1144.

Website: <http://bit.ly/2GCgSbm>

### **Belize International Film Festival, Belize City**

Event Dates: November 6-10, 2019

Event Description: The festival focuses on Central American and Caribbean films, as well as international films from around the world. A recurring theme in the Festival is the highlighting of relevant contemporary issues, such as poverty, abuse and poaching. A distinct award category called "Best Environmental Film" was created to further acknowledge and solidify its commitment to environmental awareness. There are different categories of film presented at the festival.

Call to Action: Belize Film Commission: Tel 501-227-0811; <http://bit.ly/2XKxXqK>

### **Garifuna Settlement Day**

Event Dates: November 19, 2019

Event Description: Garifuna Settlement Day is a public holiday in Belize celebrated each year on November 19. The day was recognized as a public holiday in the southern districts of Belize in 1943, and declared a national holiday in 1977. The holiday celebrates the settlement of the Garinagu in Belize and includes a re-enactment of the arrival of the Garinagu in Dangriga, parades, street music, and traditional mass in Garifuna language and traditional Garifuna drumming and dancing.

Call to Action: <http://bit.ly/2PxAlOu>



# Belize Calendar of Events

## November- December 2019

### **Battle of the Drums, Punta Gorda**

Event Dates: November 19, 2019

Event Description: The Battle of the Drums is a loud and proud celebration of the Garifuna culture. Garifuna dances such as the Punta, Hungu, Paranda, Chumba and Wanaragua dance and drumming styles are displayed. This is an event popular among drumming enthusiasts as well as visitors.

Call to Action: <http://bit.ly/2XRUuG7>

### **Taco Festival, Orange Walk Town**

Event Dates: November 24, 2019

Event Description: This food and music festival is held in Orange Walk Town and attracts thousands of taco enthusiasts from all over Belize. In addition to numerous varieties of tacos, there is live music, a canoe race and games for the entire family.

Call to Action: Dillon Jones, Cell No. 501-626-4882

### **International Yoga Festival,**

Event Dates: December 7, 2019

Event Description: This annual event in December is the first of its kind in the region, designed to bring together people from around the world to enjoy soulful moments of wellness, healing, rejuvenation and reflection. The festival promotes positive interactions, vitally important for the wellbeing of Belize and beyond. International and Belizean presenters come together to share many styles of Yoga, meditation, therapies and workshops. This is a family, alcohol free event.

Call to Action: Website: <http://bit.ly/2DE7of7>

