

Security Message
U.S. Embassy, Belmopan, Belize
March 14, 2012

Criminal Activity in Stann Creek District

This message is to inform U.S. citizens traveling or residing in Belize to an increase in serious crime in the Stann Creek district, particularly in the villages of Sittee River and Seine Bight. Several U.S. citizen residents have been the victim of home invasion robberies and assaults. Mango's Restaurant in Seine Bight, popular with U.S. citizens, was the scene of a recent armed robbery and shooting.

At this time, there is no indication that U.S. citizens are being specifically targeted; the victims appear to be targets of opportunity. We remind travelers and residents to exercise caution when in unfamiliar areas, and encourage you to be aware of your surroundings, and ensure doors and windows are locked in your homes, hotel rooms, and cars. Purses, bags, wallets, and other valuables should be kept secure whether in public, in hotel rooms, or in a home. Residents who return home and believe their house may have been broken into should not enter the home until they are sure the scene is safe.

Report all crimes directly to the local Belize Police Department. U.S. citizens should also report crimes to the U.S. Embassy by calling +501-822-4011 during business hours or calling the duty officer +501-610-5030 outside business hours. Alternatively, U.S. citizens may report crimes via e-mail at ACSBelize@state.gov. The U.S. Embassy may assist victims of crime in navigating the local criminal justice process. Additionally, some victims of crime may be eligible for crime victim assistance in the United States.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet web site at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Alerts, Travel Warnings, and health information resources can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S. and Canada or, for inquirers in other areas, by calling a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00am to 8:00pm Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

U.S. citizens living in or traveling to Belize are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy through the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) website at:

<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

By enrolling, U.S. citizens can obtain updated information on travel and security within Belize, and make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency. U.S. citizens without Internet access may register directly with the embassy.

The U.S. Embassy is located at #4 Floral Park Road, Belmopan City, Belize; Tel: 501-822-4011
8:00am to 5:00pm—or for emergencies after hours, weekends, and holidays at 501-610-5030,
Fax: 501-822-4050; E-mail: ACSBelize@state.gov; Website: <https://Belize.usembassy.state.gov>.