

Note: you may encounter Belize National Police and/or armed Belize Defence Force check points. These are routine and normal. You will be asked to show your driver's license and passport.

Driving Directions - [The Maine Stay](#), Placencia from Belize International Airport (BZE)

Key Points	Explanation
Turn LEFT at the end of the Belize Airport access road Follow the signs to Belmopan	From the Belize airport, turn LEFT at the end of the Airport access road. The sign at this point may direct you to the RIGHT, but that will take you through Belize City you don't want to do that . Turn LEFT at the end of the airport access road, and from that point, follow the signs to Belmopan. Note-- look for a left hand turn in Burrell Boom that isn't terribly well marked. If you pass a police check point, you've missed it.
DO NOT take the "Coastal Route" (sign to Placencia)	<i>Halfway between the Belize Airport and Belmopan there are signs telling you to turn left to Placencia... if you look at a map, you will be tempted to take this "Coastal Route" left turn at La Democracia, since it appears much shorter. DON'T DO THAT. This is an entirely dirt road, with very little traffic and bridges that frequently are impassable!</i>
Pit stop & food at Cheers At the outskirts of Belmopan, you will turn left. Go straight through traffic circle—follow signs to Placencia	Although interesting, the rest of this leg of the drive is nothing special. Depending on time of day, a good place for lunch and a "pit stop" is "Cheers"... on the left, about 30-40 minutes on the way to Belmopan. 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.
Groceries available in Belmopan	If you want to do some grocery shopping on your way, there are good options in Belmopan as you pass through on your way here. You will see "The Mall" grocery on your right. Then you will come to a traffic circle... straight ahead is on to Placencia. There are other grocery choices If you turn left in to the small city of Belmopan... and continue on this "ring" road... after the first curve, and past the Governor General's Cayo Club Cricket Field and just before the next curve, turn left on to Rio Grande road... take your first right and go just a little ways to the Fransico Grocery ... very good selection and prices. Another option is to continue around the curve in this ring road to Brodie's Grocery (just after The Bull Frog Inn). It's on the right.
At Belmopan traffic circle, follow the signs to Placencia—this is now the Hummingbird Highway Watch out for Speed Bumps	When you have done your shopping, just go back to the traffic circle and follow the signs 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... and small villages... speed bumps will usually warn you as you approach them... but sometimes the signs are not easy to see or just absent ... so be cautious and on the alert for the SPEED BUMPS. Recently (July 2012) there are lots of pot holes.
Stay on the Hummingbird Highway for about 50 miles Turn Right after the Shell gas	Be extra careful of pedestrians, folks on bicycles, & speed bumps! After about 50 miles on the Hummingbird Highway... Turn RIGHT

station (last chance for a pit stop)	after the Shell Station (good place for a bathroom stop!). There are very good signs. You are now on the Southern Highway.
Go slow—detour for bridge construction	After going through the villages of Silk Grass and Kendall (bridge and causeway construction here... so slow down), you will shortly come to Maya Center village with a sign for the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary (Jaguar Reserve) as well as a commercial gift shop.
Go past signage for Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary	
About 3-4 miles past Jaguar Reserve, pass by village of Maya King. Look for rotary and the turn for Placencia... Turn Left	About 3-4 miles past that, you will pass through the banana farm company village of Maya King and shortly thereafter come to a rotary (round-about) and here you will turn LEFT . This 9 mile stretch of west-to-east road will bring you to the northern end of the Placencia Peninsula.
You will begin seeing white mile marker posts.	At mile 8.9 (km 14.24) you will curve 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 8.9 (km 14.24) you will curve to the RIGHT—sign for Placencia	Keep in mind the sequence of villages on the peninsula—Maya Beach, Seine Bight (The Maine Stay), Placencia. So, as you go along, if you see signs for any of these villages, you are fine.
At mile 10.2 (km 16.32) curve to the LEFT	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.
Landmarks you will pass—	At mile 13.4 (km 21.44) you will see the The Placencia Resort. There is a tall wall around the resort. And lots of "McMansions." 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.
Watch for "The Maine Stay" sign on the left... "Kokomo" sign on the right.	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" on the right (lagoon side). Concrete fence with red iron gates and double light posts. We are at the white concrete house just across the road from the long fence and cabanas. Front door... sign "Office." Red roof and wrought iron gates. Ring doorbell, HONK. Come find us or look for staff.

Basics for this drive:

- 1 mile = 1.6 kilometers
- Don't try to hurry.
- There are lots of speed bumps, pedestrians, bicycles and funky one-lane bridges.
- Although fine to do at night, it's a much more scenic and enjoyable drive in daylight.
- If it has recently rained, keep in mind that any dirt road can be slippery.
- Don't pick up hitchhikers.
- There are differences about driving in Belize. If someone is turning left, they will put on their blinker, pull to the **right**, and wait for any cars behind them to pass. Don't worry about it. Locals forgive tourists. Just don't let it surprise you.

[Return to The Maine Stay FAQ Pages](#)