



Contact

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Tour Guides: Licensing deadline July 31st 2015

Belize City, Belize- July 30th 2015- Belize Tourism Board sends out the following urgent reminder to all **Tour Guides**.

1. The deadline for renewal of your license is July 31st, 2015. All applications received after August 15th, 2015 will be subjected to a late penalty of BZE\$50.00. Note that enforcement will commence on August 3rd, 2015 with the Tourism Police Unit conducting operations to identify unlicensed guides who are operating illegally.
2. The Belize Tourism Board will be publishing the list of Licensed Guides for 2015-2016 in the week of August 17th, 2015 in local newspapers and on the www.travelbelize.org website.
3. You are required to be employed by a licensed Tour Operator. You cannot operate on your own if you only hold a tour guide license. The marketing, advertising and soliciting of tours is reserved solely for *licensed tour operators*.

The Belize Tourism Board reminds all **TOUR OPERATORS** of the following:

1. You are required to hire only guides who have valid licenses issued by the Belize Tourism Board.
2. You are required to show proof of a valid license upon request. The Belize Tourism Board advises you to issue copies of the license to your guides that work on behalf of your operation.
3. You must adhere to the guide to guest ratios that are prescribed in the Law from the commencement of the tour (first point of embarkation) to the end of the tour (disembarkation). For your reference:
 - a. The Land Based Guide to Guest Ratio is 1:15 (Mayan Templates, Nature Trails, etc.)
 - b. The Water Based Guide to Guest Ratio is 1:8 (Wet Caves, Snorkeling, etc.)
4. **Each and every** vehicle you use for your tours are required to have the following:
 - Registration Certificate
 - Passenger Liability Insurance
 - Fire Extinguisher
 - First Aid Kit
 - Life Jackets
 - Flares/Lights/Reflectors
 - Fire Axe (optional)
 - Communication Device
 - Tow Cable
 - Tool Box



- Flashlight
 - Adequate Sealed Drinking Water
5. All Tour Operator Licenses expire December 31st, 2015.

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About the Belize Tourism Board

The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) is a statutory body within the Belize Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation, and it is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation. The BTB works in conjunction with members of the private sector - including the Belize Hotel Association, Belize Tourism Industry Association and Belize National Tour Operators Association – and is dedicated to building tourism in the most economically and environmentally sustainable manner. As a part of its responsibilities, the BTB promotes Belize as a premier tourism destination to both in-country and international consumers. Among its outreach to the international travel market, the BTB markets the country's unique attractions to travelers, members of the travel trade industry and media outlets in key markets.

The BTB is also dedicated to developing and implementing tourism programs that will help strengthen and grow the Belizean tourism industry; promote good destination stewardship; and instill high quality standards for accommodations and travel experiences. For more information on the BTB and its services, visit www.travelbelize.org.

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