

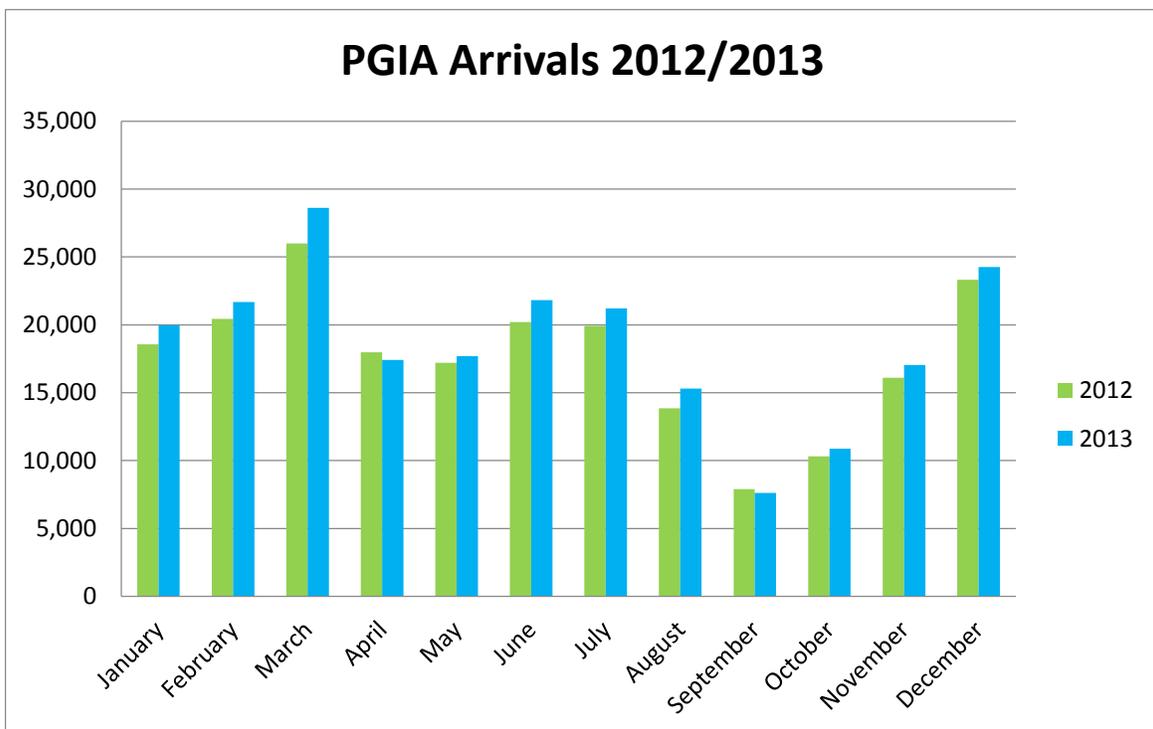


**Contact:**  
Jana Puga  
Media & Public Relations Officer  
Belize Tourism Board  
E-mail: [jpuga@travelbelize.org](mailto:jpuga@travelbelize.org)  
Contact: 227-2488 /227-2420  
Website: [www.travelbelize.org](http://www.travelbelize.org)

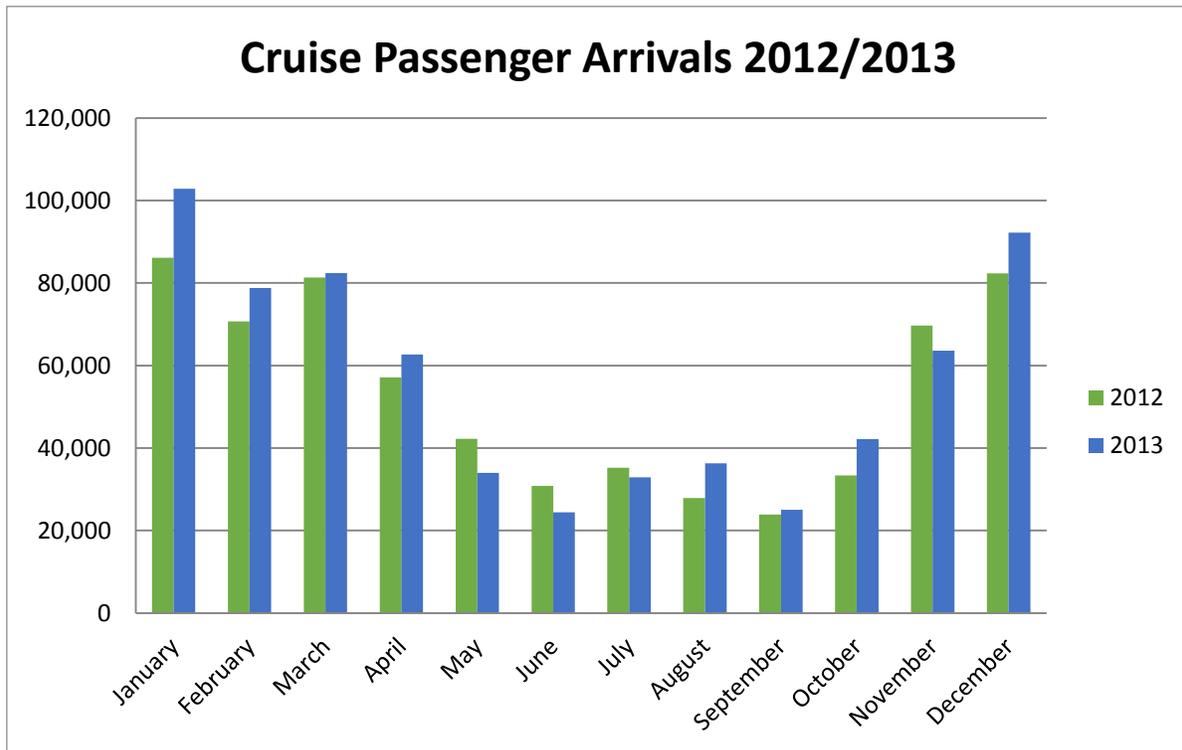
### 2013 Tourism Statistics

**Belize City, Belize – February 27, 2014** – The final figures for the 2013 tourism year are in, and we are happy to report that Belize’s Overnight and Cruise arrivals are up!

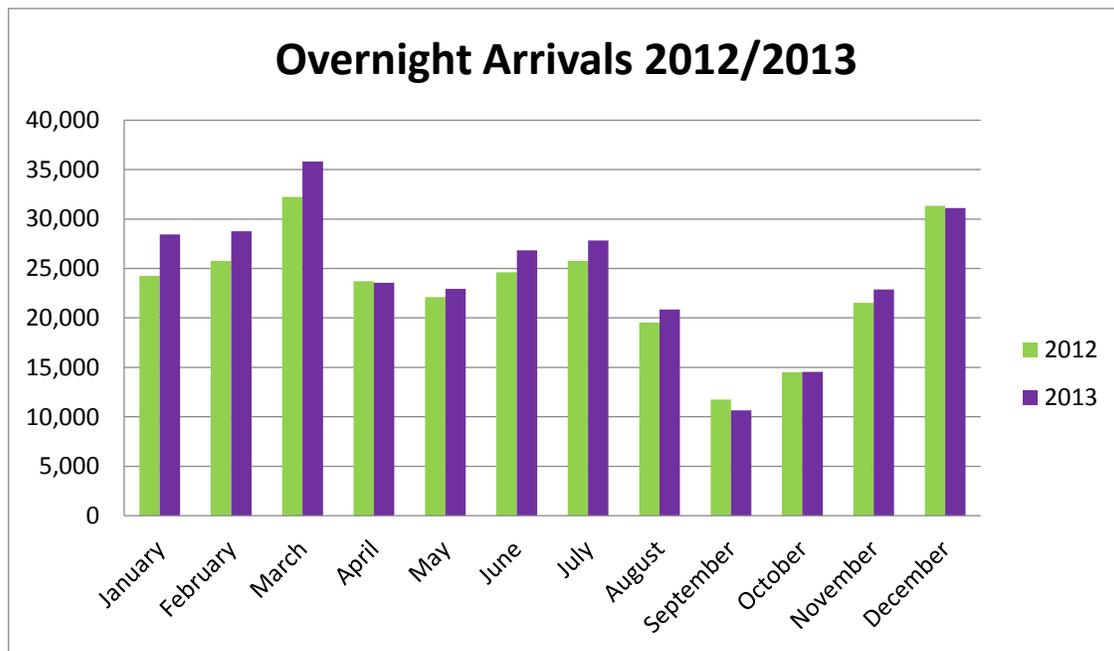
Last year Belize recorded 223,510 in PGIA arrivals. March 2013 saw the highest tourist arrivals at the Philip Goldson International Airport (PGIA) with 28,623 visitors; this is a 10.2% increase in comparison to March 2012. The month with the largest increase in 2013 was August, with a 10.5% increase when compared to August 2012. While there were 3% decreases for April and September, overall PGIA arrivals are up 5.5%.



Preceded by a decrease in cruise arrivals in 2011 and 2012, 2013 saw an increase in cruise visitors to Belize. Overall, Cruise passenger arrivals grew by 5.7%. August 2013 saw the largest increase in cruise arrivals, with a 30.2% increase over August 2012. Belize recorded the highest cruise arrivals in January 2013 with 102,871 visitors, which is a 19.4% increase over January 2012. In 2013, a total of 677,350 cruise passengers visited Belize.



Finally, overall overnight arrivals for 2013 saw a total 6.1% increase, with record high numbers in January, February, March, May, June, July, and August. The month of March saw the most overnight arrivals, with 35,795 arrivals, which is a record high for Belize. March 2013 had an 11% increase over March 2012. The month with the highest increase when compared to 2012 was January 2013. There was a total 17.2% increase. The total number of overnight visitors for 2013 was 294,177.



BTB’s Director of Marketing and Industry Relations, Alyssa Carnegie, says that these numbers are a reason for everyone to celebrate, “We are very happy that 2013 was an outstanding year for Belize’s tourism industry. We congratulate each and every one working in the tourism sector, because this is a direct result of the hard work that we have all put in. As we enjoy the highs of 2013, we anticipate that this year we will see even more growth, not just in the tourist arrivals, but also in the development and investments in Belize. As we move forward, the BTB stands ready to continue working hand in hand with our industry partners and Belize’s citizens to keep developing our destination via a sustainable tourism industry.”

For more information on the 2013 tourism statistics, please contact the Belize Tourism Board at 227-2420.

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**About the Belize Tourism Board**

The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) is a statutory body within the Belize Ministry of Tourism and Culture, and it is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Minister of Tourism and Culture. 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 travellers, 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 instil high quality standards for accommodations and travel experiences. For more information on the BTB and its services, visit [www.travelbelize.org](http://www.travelbelize.org).

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