

# Belize

## *Professional Services Guide 2026*

*The specialist directory of law firms, corporate service providers, trust companies, and professional advisers operating in Belize — for international businesses, UHNW individuals, family offices, and their professional advisers.*

**90**  
PROFILED FIRMS

**5,500+**  
FIRMS ACROSS 30+ JURISDICTIONS

**0%**  
IBC TAX ON OFFSHORE INCOME

**English**  
COMMON LAW LEGAL SYSTEM

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This guide is published by SearchOffshore for general informational purposes only. It does not constitute legal, tax, financial, regulatory, or professional advice of any kind. Always seek qualified professional advice before making any decisions relating to offshore structures or jurisdictional arrangements.

**ABOUT THIS GUIDE**

# The SearchOffshore Belize Guide

SearchOffshore is the specialist directory for offshore and international professional services, connecting UHNW individuals, family offices, international businesses, and professional advisers with profiled firms across 30+ jurisdictions. This guide provides a structured overview of Belize as an established Central American offshore financial centre with a strong corporate formation industry, English common law framework, and growing role in international trade and asset protection structures.

It is designed as a starting point for conversations with qualified advisers — not a substitute for professional advice. All regulated financial services activities in Belize require appropriate licensing from the International Financial Services Commission (IFSC) or relevant domestic regulator.

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## SECTION 1

# Belize: Jurisdiction Overview

Belize is a sovereign nation on the eastern coast of Central America, bordering Mexico, Guatemala, and the Caribbean Sea. The only Central American country with English as its official language, Belize operates under an English common law legal system and is a member of CARICOM and the Commonwealth. With a population of approximately 430,000, Belize has developed an international financial services sector focused primarily on offshore corporate formation, trust services, and international business facilitation.

Belize's International Business Company (IBC) framework — established in the 1990s — made it one of the most prolific offshore company formation jurisdictions in the Western Hemisphere. While the IBC landscape has evolved significantly in response to OECD and FATF requirements, Belize maintains a relevant offshore corporate sector serving international clients seeking a cost-effective, English common law vehicle for legitimate international business and asset holding.

## Key Facts

Status	Independent sovereign nation; CARICOM and Commonwealth member
Capital	Belmopan
Legal System	English Common Law
Currency	Belize Dollar (BZD); pegged 2:1 to USD
IBC Tax	0% on offshore income for qualifying International Business Companies
Personal Income Tax	Applicable to residents on Belize-source income
Capital Gains Tax	None
Regulator	International Financial Services Commission (IFSC)
Time Zone	CST (UTC-6)
Major Legislation	International Business Companies Act, Trusts Act, Money Laundering and Terrorism Prevention Act

*“Belize is selected for cost-effective IBC formation, English common law familiarity, and its established role as a Central American offshore corporate and trust jurisdiction.”*

## SECTION 2

# Legal and Regulatory Framework

Belize operates under an English common law legal system, making it accessible to common law practitioners and familiar to clients from UK, US, Canadian, and other Commonwealth backgrounds. The International Financial Services Commission (IFSC) regulates international financial services, while domestic financial services are regulated by the Central Bank of Belize.

## The IFSC

The IFSC is the regulator for international financial services businesses in Belize, including international banks, insurance companies, and financial services providers. The IFSC applies a risk-based supervisory approach and has worked to align Belize's regulatory framework with FATF and CFATF standards. IFSC-licensed entities are required to apply comprehensive AML/CFT procedures.

## IBC Framework

The International Business Companies Act provides the legal framework for Belize IBCs. IBCs may not conduct business with Belize residents or own real property in Belize. They are exempt from Belize taxes on income derived from outside Belize and benefit from low formation and annual maintenance costs. IBCs must have a registered agent in Belize and maintain a registered office in the jurisdiction.

## Tax Framework

Belize IBCs pay no tax on offshore income. Domestic companies and individuals are subject to Belize income tax on Belize-source income. There is no capital gains tax in Belize. All Belize structures — including IBCs — must comply with OECD CRS reporting requirements and applicable economic substance standards where relevant activities are conducted.

## SECTION 3

# Corporate and Wealth Structures

## International Business Company (IBC)

The Belize IBC is the jurisdiction's flagship offshore corporate vehicle. Key features include exemption from Belize taxes on offshore income, minimal public disclosure requirements (bearer shares were abolished in line with international standards), flexible corporate governance, and low formation and maintenance costs compared to many competing jurisdictions. IBCs are widely used for international trading operations, holding structures, investment vehicles, and as the corporate component of trust structures.

## Trusts

Belize's Trusts Act provides a comprehensive framework for international trusts. Belize trusts may be used for succession planning, asset protection, and international wealth holding. Key features include strong asset protection provisions, spendthrift protection, and the ability to retain certain settlor powers without invalidating the trust. IFSC-licensed trust companies provide trustee services for international clients.

## Private Foundations

Belize recognises private foundation structures for wealth planning purposes. Foundations have legal personality, are governed by their constitutional documents, and can be used for succession planning, philanthropy, and asset protection — providing an alternative for clients from civil law backgrounds who are unfamiliar with trust structures.

## Limited Liability Companies

Belize LLCs provide a flexible vehicle combining features of a company and a partnership. LLCs are used for joint ventures, investment vehicles, and certain holding arrangements where a non-corporate legal form is preferred.

## SECTION 4

# Key Service Categories

## Law Firms

Law firms advising on IBC and trust formation, IFSC licensing, real estate transactions, and private client matters. With 32 profiled law firms, legal services are the largest single category in the Belize directory. Qualified Belize legal counsel is essential for structure formation, IFSC applications, and property transactions.

## Corporate Services

Registered agent and corporate service providers offering IBC formation, registered office, directorship, and ongoing compliance services. Belize law requires IBCs to maintain a licensed registered agent — the 29 profiled corporate service providers represent the backbone of the Belize offshore corporate sector.

## Trusts and Fiduciary Services

IFSC-licensed trust companies and fiduciary providers offering trustee services, foundation administration, and related wealth planning services. 14 fiduciary services firms and 14 trust firms are profiled.

## Notary

Notarial and apostille services for corporate documentation, real estate transactions, and international legal proceedings. 12 notaries are profiled, reflecting the significant role of notarial services in Belize's common law and Central American context.

## Wealth Management

Wealth management and investment advisory services for resident UHNW individuals and international clients. IFSC or Central Bank authorisation is required for regulated investment activities. 15 wealth management firms are profiled.

## Accountancy and Tax Advisory

Audit, tax compliance, and advisory services for IBCs, trusts, and domestic companies. 11 accountancy firms and 11 tax advisory firms are profiled.

## SECTION 5

# The Current Compliance Environment

Belize has worked to align its regulatory framework with FATF and CFATF standards following periods of international scrutiny. The jurisdiction has strengthened its AML/CFT framework, introduced beneficial ownership requirements, and participates in the OECD Common Reporting Standard.

## AML/CFT Framework

Belize's AML/CFT framework is governed by the Money Laundering and Terrorism Prevention Act (MLTPA) and associated regulations, supervised by the IFSC for international financial services entities and the Central Bank for domestic institutions. Regulated entities must apply risk-based customer due diligence, identify beneficial owners, conduct ongoing monitoring, and report suspicious transactions to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

## Beneficial Ownership

Belize has implemented a beneficial ownership register framework requiring IBCs and other legal entities to maintain accurate beneficial ownership records. Registered agents are required to hold beneficial ownership information for their IBC clients and to make it available to the IFSC and competent authorities on request.

## CRS and FATCA

Belize participates in the OECD Common Reporting Standard and exchanges financial account information with partner jurisdictions. FATCA compliance is implemented through a Model 1 IGA with the United States.

## CFATF and FATF Status

2012	CFATF Mutual Evaluation — deficiencies identified; follow-up process begins
2017	Belize added to EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes
2019	Belize removed from EU blacklist following tax reform commitments
2021	CRS fully implemented; beneficial ownership framework strengthened
Current	Not on FATF grey list — verify current EU and OECD status with advisers

Current FATF, CFATF, and EU status should always be verified with qualified advisers at the time of planning.

## SECTION 6

# Regulatory Considerations for 2026

Belize in 2026 is continuing to navigate the balance between maintaining a cost-effective and accessible offshore corporate sector and meeting the international transparency and AML/CFT standards required to avoid grey or blacklisting by the FATF and EU.

## IBC Framework — Substance and Transparency

The OECD's economic substance requirements apply to Belize entities conducting relevant geographically mobile activities. Belize IBCs used purely for passive holding may have limited substance obligations, but IBCs conducting fund management, finance and leasing, banking, insurance, or headquartering activities must demonstrate adequate local substance. All IBCs must have a Belize-registered agent, but substance requirements may demand more significant local presence depending on the activities conducted.

## EU and OECD Blacklist Risk

Belize has previously appeared on EU lists of non-cooperative jurisdictions and CFATF monitoring lists. While the jurisdiction has made significant progress in aligning with international standards, it remains important for advisers and clients to monitor Belize's current standing with the EU, FATF, and OECD at the time of planning. Structures in jurisdictions on international monitoring lists may face banking, counterparty, and reputational challenges.

## Cost and Accessibility

Belize retains a competitive advantage in formation and maintenance costs relative to many offshore jurisdictions. For legitimate international trading, holding, and asset protection purposes — with full CRS compliance and home jurisdiction tax transparency — Belize IBCs and trusts remain a relevant and cost-effective option for advisers and their clients.

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## Key Questions to Explore with a Qualified Adviser

1. Is a Belize IBC, trust, foundation, or LLC the appropriate structure, and does the proposed activity require IFSC licensing?
2. What economic substance requirements apply to the proposed structure, and can they be demonstrated in Belize on an ongoing basis?
3. What are the CRS/FATCA reporting obligations and has the home jurisdiction tax position been confirmed as consistent with the Belize structure?
4. What are the current EU, FATF, and OECD standings of Belize, and are there any banking or counterparty access challenges associated with Belize-incorporated entities?
5. What beneficial ownership disclosure obligations apply in Belize and in the beneficial owner's home jurisdiction?
6. Has qualified tax advice been obtained in the beneficial owner's home jurisdiction regarding the treatment of the Belize structure?
7. For trust structures, what asset protection features are available under Belize trust law and how do they interact with the settlor's home jurisdiction legal system?

## SECTION 7

# SearchOffshore Directory

SearchOffshore profiles 90 professional firms across 9 service categories in Belize. All profiled firms are either self-registered or sourced from public professional registers.

SERVICE CATEGORY	FIRMS	DIRECTORY
Law Firms	32	<a href="#">View Listings</a>
Corporate Services	29	<a href="#">View Listings</a>
Wealth Management	15	<a href="#">View Listings</a>
Fiduciary Services	14	<a href="#">View Listings</a>
Trusts	14	<a href="#">View Listings</a>
Notary	12	<a href="#">View Listings</a>
Accountancy Firms	11	<a href="#">View Listings</a>
Tax Advisors	11	<a href="#">View Listings</a>
Property Services	6	<a href="#">View Listings</a>



Browse all Belize professionals at [searchoffshore.com](https://searchoffshore.com)

Scan to view the live directory · 90 firms · Updated 2026

SearchOffshore is the specialist directory connecting UHNW individuals, family offices and their advisers with professional firms across 30+ offshore jurisdictions.

[Browse the Belize Directory](#)

[List Your Firm](#)

## SECTION 8

# Important Notices and Disclaimer

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## General Disclaimer

This guide is published by SearchOffshore for general informational purposes only. Nothing in this guide constitutes legal, tax, financial, regulatory, investment, fiduciary, or professional advice of any kind. SearchOffshore does not provide legal, tax, investment, fiduciary, or regulatory advice and does not act as an intermediary in any transaction. SearchOffshore is a directory and media platform connecting businesses and individuals with professional service providers.

## Accuracy and Currency

The offshore regulatory environment changes frequently. Information reflects the position as understood at the time of publication in May 2026 and may become outdated. Information should not be relied upon without independent professional verification. Always seek advice from qualified legal, tax, and financial professionals in all relevant jurisdictions before making any decisions relating to offshore structures, trusts, or jurisdictional choices.

## No Endorsement or Verification

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## No Solicitation

Nothing in this guide constitutes a solicitation or recommendation to establish any offshore structure, invest in any jurisdiction, or engage any particular service provider. Offshore and international financial structures involve complex legal, tax, and regulatory considerations that vary significantly by jurisdiction and individual circumstance. The consequences of incorrectly structured arrangements can be severe. SearchOffshore strongly encourages all users to obtain qualified professional advice in all relevant jurisdictions.

## No Warranty

SearchOffshore makes no warranty, express or implied, as to the completeness, accuracy, or fitness for any purpose of the information contained in this guide. Users are solely responsible for independent verification of all information before reliance.

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