

**VISITOR INFORMATION****Currency**

The national currency in Belize is the Belize dollar; in Costa Rica it is the colon; in Nicaragua it is the Cordoba; Panama uses the Balboa and also accepts U.S. dollars as legal tender. U.S. dollars and travelers cheques can be exchanged at banks and hotels and are accepted virtually everywhere, especially in the resort areas. Major credit cards are accepted in most larger hotels, stores and restaurants; local currency is suggested at smaller establishments.

**Tipping**

Tipping is not only customary throughout Central America, it is appreciated in return for good service. Service employees rely heavily on tips as their wages are very low. Tipping guidelines are: \$1 – \$2 (USD) per bag for porters and \$2 – \$5 per day (based on room type) for housekeeping staff. Usually a tip is not included in your restaurant bill in Belize; a customary amount to tip is 15%. By law, tipping is included in any restaurant bill in Costa Rica, but additional gratuities for good service are welcomed. The standard tipping rate in Panama is around 10% of the bill, though in small cafés and more casual places, tipping is not necessary. In Nicaragua, some but not all restaurants add a service charge to the bill, so it's advisable to check your bill for a charge. While tipping is not expected, it's appreciated in return for good service, and 10% is a customary amount for a restaurant server.

**Water**

All major hotels and restaurants use purified water throughout. Most hotels provide bottled water in all rooms, and many hotels now have potable water delivered through their taps using an on-site purification system; there should be a note in your room if this is the case.

**Electricity**

The standard electrical service in Central America is 110 volts (same as the United States and Canada). Some electrical sockets do not accept three-prong or polarized plugs so it is recommended that you bring your own adapter.

**THANK YOU FOR TRAVELING WITH PLEASANT HOLIDAYS**

We look forward to serving you again during your next vacation to Central America; the Caribbean; Europe; Hawaii; Mexico; the South Pacific and U.S. Cities.

**IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION****Prior to Departure**

For general assistance call 1-800-448-3333.

**Day of Travel**

For assistance call Pleasant Holidays at 1-800-247-4958.

**During Your Stay**

For changes in your travel plans or to schedule activities and excursions, please send us an email or call:

**BELIZE****Discovery Expeditions Belize • [info@discoverybelize.com](mailto:info@discoverybelize.com)**

Monday - Friday 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Saturday & Sunday 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. .... 671-0748

After hours/emergency ..... 672-1910

**COSTA RICA****Central American Tours (CAT) • [cservice@catours.net](mailto:cservice@catours.net)****Guanacaste**

Daily 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. .... 4010-1004

After hours/emergency ..... 8703-7522

**San José**

Monday - Friday 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Saturday 8:00 A.M. - NOON ..... 4010-1004

After hours/emergency ..... 8881-9114

(for all other Costa Rica destinations please call San José)

**NICARAGUA****Mukul Beach, Golf & Spa Resort**

Daily 24/7 ..... 2563-7100

**PANAMA****Gamboa Tours • [lcarrera@gamboatours.com](mailto:lcarrera@gamboatours.com)**

Monday - Friday 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. .... 269-1262

After hours/emergency ..... 6981-4549



## TRAVEL WISELY

### U.S. Citizens

A valid U.S. passport is required for people of all ages who travel to Belize, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama. Please visit [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) for more details.

Any person younger than 18 is considered a minor for travel purposes. Minors traveling with only one parent must have a notarized written permission statement from the other parent. In the case of deceased or divorced parents, legal proof of custody must be carried to accept just one signature on the letter. Minors traveling unaccompanied or with anyone other than their legal parents or guardians must obtain an original notarized letter of permission signed by both parents. Airlines will also require the name, address and phone number of the person meeting the unaccompanied minor upon arrival.

### Non-U.S. Citizens

A valid passport is required. Green cards are not acceptable as a sole means of identification. Citizens of some countries may require a Tourist VISA. Check with your local consulate or go online to [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for more details.

### Airport Check-in

Arrive at the airport at least three hours prior to departure to ensure a smooth check-in.

### Immigration Processing

You will be given a customs declaration form during your flight to complete before you exit the airplane. When you arrive at your destination you will first process through Immigration Control where your paperwork will be inspected and stamped. Next, continue to baggage claim to get your luggage, then proceed through customs where your luggage will be scanned and a customs officer will obtain your customs declaration form. Once you have cleared customs, proceed to the exit.

## DURING YOUR STAY

### Your Pleasant Holidays Representative

As you exit the airport, look for your representative, who will be holding a "Pleasant Holidays" sign. Your representative will assist you with your luggage, ground transportation and any other needs you may have, as well as confirm the pick-up time for your next destination or return transfer to the airport.

### Checking Into Your Hotel

Your accommodations are pre-paid. Please show your itinerary to the front desk. No hotel voucher is required. You will be asked to provide a credit card or cash deposit to cover any personal charges.

## RETURNING HOME

Each United States citizen returning from Central America is required to go through U.S. Customs when re-entering the country. **There is a \$29 per person, non-ticketable departure tax, payable to an airport representative upon your departure from Costa Rica.** It is payable in U.S. dollars or in colones, and credit cards are accepted. There is a small additional fee to pay this tax on your credit card. For Belize, Nicaragua and Panama, this departure tax is already included in your airline ticket.

