

Information for Travelers and Residents
Warden Message
U.S. Embassy Belmopan, Belize
September 16, 2009

The U.S. Embassy in Belmopan alerts U.S. citizens to information regarding recent armed robberies occurring in Belize, especially in areas frequented by tourists. There is no current information available to suggest the alleged perpetrators were attempting to target tourists of any specific nationality and the victims appear to have been targets of opportunity.

On August 12, 2009 at approximately 8:50pm, a masked male entered a rental home in Placencia with six tourists inside and robbed them of various personal belongings and cash. He was armed with a sawed-off shotgun. Police stated this is the first reported incidence of an *armed* home invasion robbery in Placencia. The tourists were not physically harmed.

On September 15, 2009 at approximately 12:45pm, two tourists were the victims of a robbery at Blue Hole National Park in Cayo District. The robbery was committed by two males wearing masks and carrying knives. The two tourists were unharmed but were robbed of personal belongings and cash. Two suspects were arrested by the police and remanded and are awaiting trial.

U.S. citizens who are travelers or residents of Belize are reminded to exercise caution when in unfamiliar areas, and are encouraged to be aware of their surroundings, as well as ensuring doors and windows are locked in their homes, hotel rooms, and cars. Additionally, purses, wallets, and other valuables should be kept secure whether in public, in hotel rooms, or in a home.

For the latest security information, Americans living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet web site at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Alerts, Travel Warnings, and health information resources can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S. and Canada or, for inquirers in other areas, by calling a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00am to 8:00pm Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

Americans living in or traveling to Belize are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy through the State Department's travel registration website at:
<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

By registering Americans Citizens can obtain updated information on travel and security within Belize, and make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the U.S. Embassy.

The U.S. Embassy is located at #4 Floral Park Road, Belmopan City, Belize; Tel: 501-822-4011 8:00am to 5:00pm—or for emergencies after hours, weekends, and holidays at 501-610-5030, Fax: 501-822-4050; E-mail: ACSBelize@state.gov; Website: Belize.usembassy.state.gov.