

Punta Gorda, Toledo District, Belize

Belize's southernmost town offers an unhurried, authentic Caribbean experience — Maya ruins rising from jungle, pristine caye snorkeling, and a Garifuna culture alive with drumming and chocolate traditions.

Tender port

Typical call: 7–9 hrs

Belize Dollar (BZD) & USD accepted

English (official), Garifuna, Kekchi Maya

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Ships anchor offshore; passengers tender to the Fort Street pier

Best For: Maya ruins, jungle adventures, snorkeling, Garifuna culture

Walk to center: Town center is steps from the tender dock — flat and walkable

Don't Miss: Lubaantun or Nim Li Punit Maya ruins; Sapodilla Cayes snorkeling

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ BZD \$5–10 (~\$3–5 USD) · 🚗 **Rideshare** ❌ not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Lubaantun Maya Ruins** — The largest Maya site in southern Belize, Lubaantun ('Place of Fallen Stones') features precisely cut stone structures built without mortar.
- Nim Li Punit Stelae Site** — This compact Maya site holds 26 stelae — including the longest carved stela in all of Belize — and sweeping views south to the Caribbean on clear days.
- Sapodilla Cayes Snorkel & Beach** — A remote group of shallow cayes on the southern edge of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef.
- Monkey River Wildlife Boat Tour** — Cruise the Monkey River by boat through dense jungle to spot howler monkeys, crocodiles, manatees, turtles, and abundant birdlife.
- Garifuna Drumming, Dancing & Dinner** — Experience the living Garifuna culture with traditional drumming lessons, dance performances, and an authentic dinner.

BEST WALKS

- Town Center & Market Stroll** 45–60 min | Flat | Easy — A gentle loop from the pier through town, covering the main market (busiest Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat), the Fajina Craft Center for Maya bags and souvenirs, and the seafront...
- Cerro Hill Viewpoint** 1–1.5 hrs | Easy climb | Good views — A short walk to the top of Cerro Hill gives panoramic views over Punta Gorda town and the Caribbean Sea — worth it on a clear day for photos before or after heading out...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		85°	66°	9d
Jun		88°	74°	23d
Aug		89°	76°	26d
Sep		88°	75°	22d
Oct		85°	70°	10d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 7:04AM–7:52PM · Jun 6:34AM–8:23PM · Aug 7:00AM–8:04PM · Sep 7:14AM–7:32PM · Oct 7:28AM–6:59PM

Belize Dollar (BZD) & USD accepted

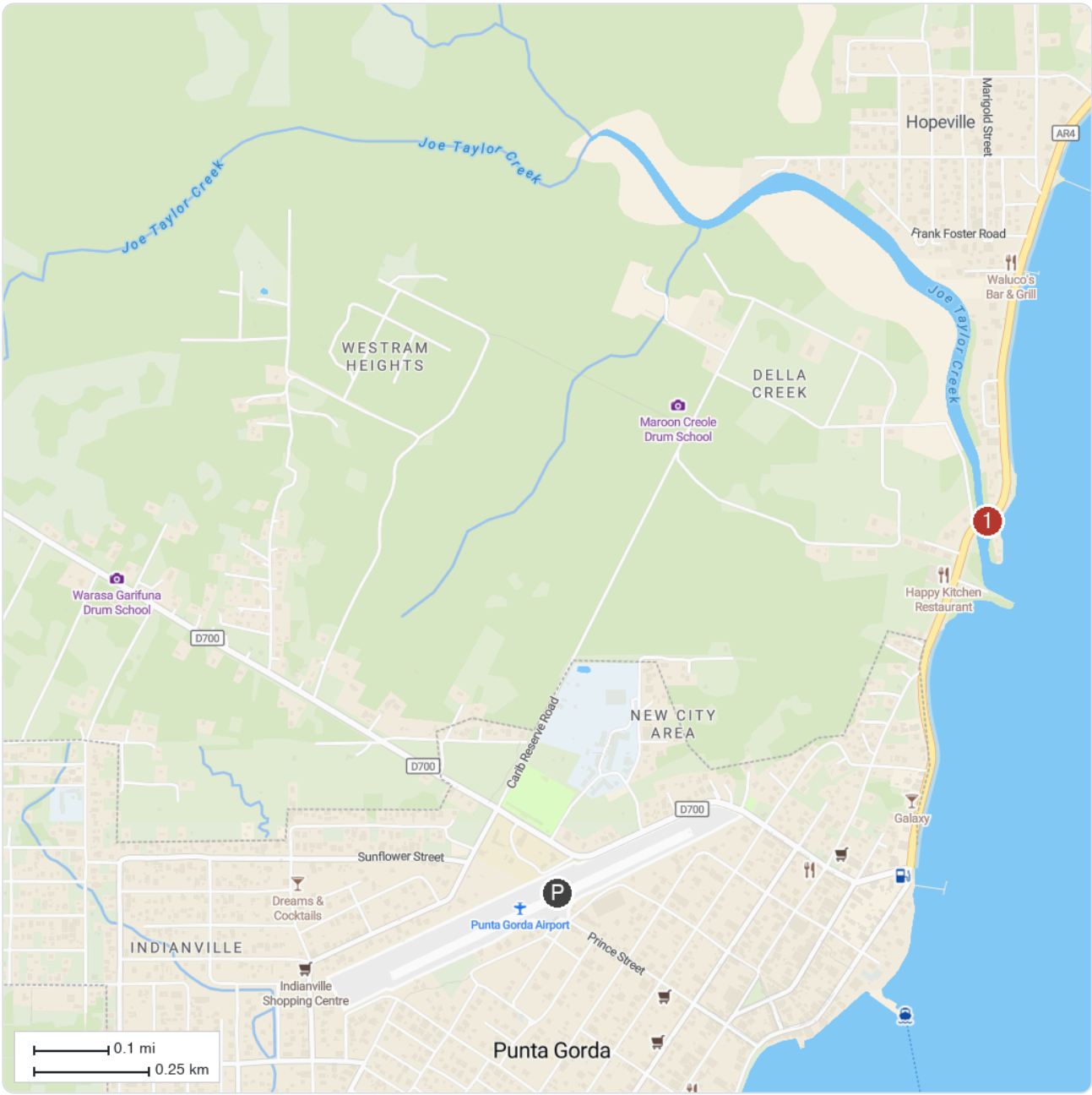
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Plan for tender time. Tenders can back up in the morning rush — go early for full-day excursions, or wait 30–45 min after all-aboard announcements for the pier to clear.
- USD is widely accepted. The Belize Dollar is fixed at 2 BZD = 1 USD, so change is sometimes given in BZD. ATMs are available in town but can be unreliable — bring USD cash.
- Toledo is wet. Southern Belize gets the most rainfall in the country — a light rain jacket or poncho is worth packing even in the dry season.
- Cayes tours are a long ride. The Sapodilla Cayes are roughly 1.5–2 hours offshore by boat (40+ miles east). Book through a reputable operator and confirm safety gear is on board.
- Buy local chocolate. Punta Gorda is the heart of Belizean single-origin chocolate. Pick up bars from the market or a farm tour — far better than airport chocolate and supports Maya farmers directly.
- Maya ruins need a full day. Lubaantun and Nim Li Punit are each roughly 45 min–1 hr by road from town. Don't attempt both in a single port call — pick one and do it properly.

Punta Gorda, Toledo District, Belize — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Garbutt's Fishing Lodge

Premier lodge for guided fishing adventures.

P Cruise port / terminal