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BELIZE



FIELD INTEL

BELIZE RESIDENCY FIELD GUIDE

THE QRP PATHWAY, PERMANENT RESIDENCE,
AND THE ROUTES WORTH KNOWING

- QRP or Long Stay
- Income proof ready
- Verify tax exit file
- Health insurance
- Belize certificate
- Belize bank account
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Belize Residency Field Guide

The QRP Pathway, Permanent Residence, and the Routes Worth Knowing

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Read This First

Belize sits a little outside the usual Latin America Plan B conversation.

It is English-speaking, set along the Caribbean coast, part of the Commonwealth, and familiar in some ways to Canadians, Americans, and British readers. For the right applicant, especially someone over 40 with stable foreign-source retirement-style income, it also offers one of the cleaner retirement-style residency routes in the region.

That route is the **Qualified Retirement Program**, usually called **QRP**.

QRP is a structured program. It has annual renewal, presence requirements, fees, documentation, security clearance, and a defined government process. It is not ordinary permanent residence, and it should not be treated as automatic citizenship planning. But for someone who wants a practical Belize option without pretending to be a local employee or a major investor, QRP is the first route to understand.

The familiar feel of Belize can be misleading. This is not simply a Spanish-speaking residency country translated into English. Its immigration structure has its own lanes. QRP is administered through the Belize Tourism Board. Permanent residence, temporary residence, work permits, and citizenship are handled through Belize's immigration and labour systems.

That distinction changes the file.

This guide is a practical starting point. It is not legal, tax, immigration, financial, or customs advice. Rules, fees, forms, document windows, and official interpretation can change. Before spending money, shipping goods, importing a vehicle, filing an application, buying land, or planning tax life around Belize, verify the current official rules and get professional help where your facts are not clean.

Mounty's Read: Belize can be a useful Plan B file for applicants over 40 with qualifying foreign-source retirement-style income. But do not confuse "English-speaking" with "friction-free." Belize may spare you some language problems. It will not spare you from paperwork.

1. Belize Residency at a Glance

Belize has several pathways worth knowing, but they are built for different people.

Qualified Retirement Program / QRP The main focus of this guide. QRP is for qualifying applicants age 40 or older who can document retirement-style income from outside Belize. It is administered by the Belize Tourism Board and gives

approved participants a QRP resident card, multiple-entry benefit, annual renewal, and certain import and tax incentives. It is not the same as ordinary permanent residence.

Long Stay Visitor Permit Not residency, but highly relevant for remote-employed or foreign-employed readers. Belize Immigration lists a Long Stay Visitor Permit for citizens or permanent residents of the European Union, United Kingdom, United States, or Canada who are employed outside Belize and meet the income threshold. It can allow a stay of up to six months in a calendar year, with no Belize employment.

Ordinary permanent residence A physical-presence route through Belize Immigration. The official Immigration page says applicants must have legally resided in Belize for at least one year before applying and, during that year, must not have left the country for more than 14 days in total. It is more of a "live there first" route than a light Plan B paper option.

Temporary residence by investment A one-year renewable status for people who have made, or are making, a substantial commercial investment in Belize. The official Immigration page lists an investment threshold of at least BZ\$500,000. This is not the casual retiree lane.

Work permits and self-employment For people who intend to work in Belize. The official work-permit page says applications are submitted through the Labour Department, with employer-sponsored and self-employed categories, followed by Immigration processing if approved.

Citizenship Belize citizenship can come through naturalization after permanent residence, marriage, or descent. It belongs in the long-term planning category, not the quick-residency category. QRP should not be sold as automatic citizenship planning.

For many Exiled Mounty readers, QRP is the first route to study because it matches a common profile: retirement-style foreign income, no immediate need for a Belize job, interest in a practical foothold, and a desire to avoid forcing the wrong category.

2. Why QRP Is the Main Route for Most Readers

Most people reading a Plan B guide are not trying to get hired at a Belize resort, open a local payroll file next week, or run a Belize construction company on day one.

They may have a pension, investment income, savings, retirement accounts, or another documented source of foreign retirement-style income. They may want a lawful way to spend time in Belize, rent or buy a home, and keep their financial life mostly outside the local employment system.

For readers with retirement-style foreign income, this is where QRP becomes relevant.

For active remote workers, the Long Stay Visitor Permit may be the cleaner tool. That distinction is important because QRP is a retirement-style program, not a casual remote-worker category.

QRP is not "better" for everyone. It is better for a certain applicant profile:

- age 40 or older;
- from a qualifying country;
- able to document the required foreign-source retirement income;
- not trying to take local employment;
- comfortable with annual renewal;
- willing to spend at least 30 consecutive days in Belize each year;
- clear-eyed about the fact that QRP is not ordinary permanent residence.

For that person, QRP can be a cleaner route for the right applicant than trying to force a work permit, invent an investment story, or treat ordinary permanent residence as a casual side project.

The keyword is "right." If you are under 40, need local employment, want to operate a Belize business, or have citizenship as your main goal, QRP may be the wrong starting box.

3. Who Qualifies for QRP

The official Belize Tourism Board QRP page lists the core eligibility requirements.

The applicant must be **40 years or older**.

Dependents can include a spouse and children under 18 years old. If you are building a family file, verify the exact dependent evidence before relying on assumptions from other countries. Custody documents, civil-status records, name differences, ages, and passport details are often where a simple-looking file becomes more complicated.

The applicant must be the beneficial recipient of retirement income of at least **US\$2,000 monthly** or **US\$24,000 annually**, generated from a source outside Belize in an approved foreign currency. BTB lists approved foreign currencies as U.S. dollars, pound sterling, euros, and Canadian dollars.

The applicant must be able to provide a written undertaking to deposit the required amount in a bank, credit union, or licensed financial institution in Belize.

The applicant must pass a security clearance check carried out by Belize's Ministry of National Security.

The applicant must be able to remain in Belize for at least **30 consecutive days annually**.

BTB lists qualifying countries and regions including:

- Commonwealth countries excluding Belize;
- United States of America;
- European Union member states;
- listed Asia-Pacific countries, including Australia, New Zealand, India, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, and others named on the official page;
- all South American countries.

If your citizenship is not clearly inside BTB's listed qualifying countries, verify before building the file.

QRP is administered through the **Belize Tourism Board**, not ordinary Immigration residence processing. That is one reason this route is unusual. It sits beside the immigration structure rather than inside the normal permanent-residence path.

And this is the part to keep repeating: QRP status is **not the same as permanent residence**.

4. What Income Counts for QRP

BTB uses the term "retirement income," but the official page lists a broader set of income categories than many people expect.

The listed categories include:

- pension;
- annuity;
- Social Security-style benefits;
- investment account;
- inheritance;
- reverse mortgage;
- personal savings;
- retirement contribution plans;
- other means of retirement income.

That broader wording is useful for readers who are not traditional old-age retirees. A 42-year-old with documented investment income, personal savings, an annuity, or another stable non-employment income source may have a different file than someone living on a government pension, but the category may still deserve review.

Do not overread that into a guarantee. "Retirement" may be broader than readers assume, but the evidence still has to fit the program. The package has to show the source, amount, ownership, reliability, currency, and foreign-source nature of the income clearly enough for BTB and related authorities to assess it.

If your income is messy, business-derived, crypto-heavy, cash-based, recently transferred, undocumented, or spread across accounts with name mismatches, that changes the file.

For QRP, the income story should be boring in the best possible way: clear source, clear amount, clear account trail, clear applicant name, clear foreign origin, and clear compliance with the current BTB checklist.

5. QRP Benefits: Residency, Tax, Duty, and Land

Approved QRP participants and dependents receive a **QRP resident card**. BTB says the card allows residence in Belize and multiple entries without a visa. The card must be renewed annually.

The QRP card is also described by BTB as a form of identification or immigration status while moving within Belize. BTB warns that it cannot be used alone at border points; it must be used with the applicant's national passport. Your passport is still stamped when travelling in and out.

QRP also comes with import benefits. Under the official BTB page, accepted participants may be entitled to duty and tax exemptions for personal-use goods within the first year of acceptance into the program. The listed categories include household and personal effects, a motor vehicle, a light aircraft, and a motor boat.

For household and personal effects, BTB says multiple entries are allowed within the first year and the master shipping list must be presented to BTB three weeks before importation for approval and preparation of the duty exemption letter. This is not "ship now and sort it out later" territory.

For a motor vehicle, BTB says the vehicle model can be no older than five years to qualify for duty and tax exemption. The page contains language in one section about replacing a vehicle every three years and, in the procedure section, every four years after proper disposal of the previous means of transportation. That inconsistency should be verified before importing or planning a replacement timeline.

BTB also lists a light aircraft under 17,000 kg and a motor boat, with title, bill of sale, or certificate of registration to be submitted to BTB three weeks before importation for the exemption letter.

For tax, BTB states that QRPs are exempt from all taxes and duties on income received from a source outside Belize, capital gains tax, and inheritance tax.

Slow down before you get excited.

This does not mean your home country stops caring about your income. Canadians, Americans, and British citizens still need to understand their own tax residence, reporting obligations, pensions, accounts, and source-country rules before treating Belize as a tax solution.

The U.S. taxes citizens and certain residents on worldwide income. Canada and the United Kingdom have their own tax-residence and reporting systems. Belize QRP can affect the Belize side of the file. It does not erase the home-country side by magic, paperwork, or wishful thinking.

BTB also says QRPs are entitled to purchase land for construction of a home or purchase a home for residential use. That is useful context, but buying property is a separate due-diligence file: title, access, surveys, utilities, zoning, local counsel, taxes, insurance, flood risk, hurricane exposure, and resale realities all count.

Rent first if you do not know Belize. The country will still be there after you have learned where the water goes when it rains.

6. What QRP Does Not Do

This section may save more money than the optimistic parts.

QRP is not ordinary permanent residence. It gives a QRP status and resident card under the program, with annual renewal and program conditions. Ordinary permanent residence is a separate Immigration route.

QRP is not automatic citizenship planning. If your real goal is a Belize passport, you need to verify the bridge from QRP status to permanent residence and from permanent residence to citizenship before relying on any timeline.

QRP does not automatically mean you can work locally. It is also not a casual remote-worker category. It is cleanest when the applicant wants to live, retire, spend, own a home, and keep qualifying foreign retirement-style income flowing.

QRP still requires annual renewal.

QRP has presence rules. BTB lists a minimum of 30 consecutive days in Belize annually.

QRP requires qualifying foreign-source retirement income. If the money is unclear, unstable, or poorly documented, the file weakens.

QRP is not the right route for someone under 40.

QRP is not the right route for someone trying to build a local Belize business. There is a QRP business/investment angle, but it is an advanced file, not the normal QRP use case.

The practical read is simple: QRP can be a strong Plan B route for the right foreign-source retirement-style income applicant. It is not a universal fix.

7. Long Stay Visitor Permit

Belize's Long Stay Visitor Permit deserves a place in this guide because it is directly relevant to remote-employed or foreign-employed readers.

This is **not residency** and should not be presented as residency. It is a visitor permit for a longer stay.

Belize Immigration says a Long Stay Visitor Permit can be granted to a person who intends to stay in Belize for a period not exceeding six months. The permit is valid for six months after the date issued, and a person issued the permit may enter and remain in Belize with dependents for a period not exceeding six months in any calendar year, as stated in the permit.

The official Immigration page says applicants can apply if:

- the applicant is a citizen or permanent resident of the European Union, United Kingdom, United States of America, or Canada;
- the applicant is employed outside Belize;
- the applicant has minimum annual income of **US\$75,000** if applying alone;
- the applicant has minimum annual income of **US\$100,000** if applying with dependents;
- the applicant and dependents do not engage in employment in Belize.

Immigration also states that the permit is not extended.

Required documents listed by Immigration include a job letter issued within 30 days if employed by another person, business registration and annual tax return if self-employed, proof of annual income, notarized banking reference and statement of account, police record from the country of residence issued within six months, certified passport bio-data pages for applicant and dependents, proof of residence if nationality is outside the approved list but residence is inside it, and travel insurance with minimum health coverage of US\$50,000.

Fees listed by Immigration are **US\$500 per adult** and **US\$200 per child**, applying to the applicant and accompanying dependents.

This route can be a practical testing lane for someone employed outside Belize who wants time on the ground but does not fit QRP, is not ready for QRP, or does not want to claim a retirement-style file. It does not create ordinary permanent residence, and it does not authorize Belize employment.

Mouny's Read: For a remote worker, the Long Stay Visitor Permit may be the cleaner short-stay tool. QRP is a retirement-style program. Permanent residence is a physical-presence file. Those are different tools. Use the one that matches the job.

8. Documents to Prepare

Use this as a preparation checklist, not a final filing list. Always work from the current BTB forms and checklist before paying for documents.

BTB's current QRP application requirements include:

- completed, signed, and dated application form for the applicant and each dependent;
- birth certificate, notarized or certified copy, for applicant and each dependent;
- marriage certificate, notarized or certified copy, if applicable;
- original police record or certificate, no older than six months, from the last place of residency for applicant and each dependent;
- notarized or certified copy of the complete valid passport, including blank pages, for applicant and each dependent;
- proof of income showing the applicant as recipient of qualifying retirement income of at least US\$2,000 monthly or US\$24,000 annually in an approved foreign currency;
- original or certified international financial statements showing the required deposit/income evidence;
- written undertaking to deposit the required funds into a Belize bank, credit union, or licensed financial institution;
- original medical certificate or lab report of a complete physical medical examination including HIV test results, no older than three months, for applicant and each dependent;
- two 2-by-2-inch frontal passport photos for applicant and each dependent, with BTB specifying one notarized/certified photo and one uncertified photo of the same image.

That list sounds manageable until you get into timing, certification, document format, and family-file details. The problem is rarely the number of documents, but getting the right documents in the right form before anything expires.

Before collecting time-sensitive documents, verify:

- whether your police record must be national, state/provincial, local, or from last country of residence;
- whether an apostille or authentication is required for your civil documents;
- whether documents must be notarized, certified, original, or copied in a specific way;
- whether any translation is needed for non-English documents;
- how long each document remains valid;
- whether dependents need the same police and medical documents;
- whether your passport validity is sufficient;
- whether BTB has updated the application form or undertaking format.

The enemy here is not paperwork. The enemy is collecting the right-looking paperwork in the wrong format.

9. Step-by-Step QRP Application Plan

Start with eligibility. Confirm age, citizenship, income source, dependents, presence ability, and whether QRP actually fits what you want to do in Belize.

Confirm the income source. Build the income section around BTB's current income categories and the evidence you can actually document. Do not assume that an account screenshot or vague accountant letter will carry the file.

Gather civil and identity documents. That means passport, birth certificate, marriage certificate if applicable, and dependent records.

Prepare police and medical documents close enough to filing that they do not expire before submission. BTB lists police records as no older than six months and medical/HIV documents as no older than three months.

Certify, notarize, apostille, authenticate, or translate documents where required. Verify before acting, especially if your documents come from Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, or a third country.

Complete the QRP forms using the current Belize Tourism Board versions. Do not reuse an old PDF from a forum or agent unless it matches the current official version.

Submit the package to the Belize Tourism Board according to current BTB instructions.

Wait for review and security clearance. BTB says the Ministry of National Security carries out the security clearance check.

Pay the required fees after approval according to BTB's instructions. Keep proof of payment.

Receive the QRP card and understand how it is used with your passport.

Track renewal and annual presence. Calendar the 30 consecutive days in Belize, renewal date, passport expiry, card expiry, and any dependent renewals.

If you plan to import household goods or a vehicle, handle that as a separate approval sequence before shipping anything.

10. Fees and Renewal

BTB's official QRP page lists the following QRP fees in U.S. dollars:

- Application Program Fee: **US\$150** per application.
- Applicant Fee: **US\$1,000**.
- Dependent Fee: **US\$750**.
- QRP ID Card Fee: **US\$200** per card.
- QRP ID Card Renewal Fee: **US\$25** annually.

BTB states that all application fees must be paid in U.S. currency and are non-refundable.

BTB's QRP page lists the QRP ID Card Renewal Fee as US\$25 annually. BTB forms may also show this as BZ\$50. Treat the amount and currency format as something to verify at renewal.

For ordinary permanent residence, Belize Immigration lists nationality-based fees in Belize dollars. As of the official-source check for this guide, examples include BZ\$3,000 for Commonwealth countries, BZ\$4,000 for the United States, and BZ\$6,000 for European countries, with minors at 50% of the adult fee. That is a separate Immigration fee schedule, not the QRP fee schedule.

Belize uses Belize dollars and U.S. dollars in different contexts. Do not mix them up. A BZ\$500,000 investment threshold is not the same as US\$500,000. A U.S.-dollar QRP fee is not a Belize-dollar fee. That sounds obvious until somebody reads quickly and wires money slowly.

Verify the current fee schedule before applying.

11. Bringing Household Goods or a Vehicle

The import benefits are one of the reasons QRP gets attention. They can be useful. They can also become expensive if you treat them casually.

BTB says QRP participants may receive duty and tax exemption for household and personal effects for personal use within the first year of acceptance into the program. Multiple entries are allowed within that first year, and BTB says there is no dollar-value limit on household and personal effects.

But the goods have to go through the process. BTB says a master shipping list must be presented to BTB three weeks before importation for approval and preparation of the duty exemption letter. Household and personal effects are determined by Belize Customs and Excise.

For a motor vehicle, BTB says the model must be within the last five years to qualify. The title, bill of sale, or certificate of registration must be presented to BTB three weeks before importation for approval and preparation of the duty exemption letter.

BTB also lists a motor boat and light aircraft. For vessel and light aircraft imports, the certificate of registration, title, or bill of sale must be presented to BTB three weeks before importation.

Do not ship a container, buy a vehicle, or put a boat on a transport plan before verifying the current exemption process with BTB, Customs, and a competent shipper or broker.

Also verify the vehicle replacement interval. BTB's page contains both three-year and four-year language in different sections. That is not something to guess on.

12. QRP for Investors and Business Owners

QRP is cleanest when the applicant wants to live, retire, spend, own a home, and keep foreign income flowing. It becomes more complicated when the applicant wants to operate a Belize business, hire locally, or treat the country as an active commercial base.

BTB's QRP page includes a business/investment angle. A Qualified Retired Person who wants to carry on business in Belize must apply in writing to BTB for approval.

BTB lists the application requirements as:

- a business plan, including employment of five Belizean citizens;
- proof of investment capital of at least **one million Belize dollars**, described by BTB as **US\$500,000**;
- proof that the applicant has resided in Belize for at least 90 non-consecutive days.

BTB also states that a QRP granted approval to carry on business in Belize must employ at least five Belizean citizens, submit proof of Belizean employment within 12 months of approval, submit proof of business operation within 18 months, and pay full duties and taxes on any business carried on in Belize.

That is not the normal retiree file. That is a business file with immigration, tax, employment, licensing, and operating consequences.

If your plan is to invest seriously, compare this QRP business option against Belize's temporary residence by investment route and ordinary business/work-permit structures before choosing the lane.

13. Ordinary Permanent Residence

Ordinary permanent residence is the route for people who want to make Belize their home and stay in the country for a long period of time.

Belize Immigration says permanent residence applicants must have legally resided in Belize for at least one year at the time of application. During that year, the applicant must not have left Belize for more than 14 days in total.

Immigration also says the applicant must prove financial stability and must not have been convicted by a competent court in any country of a criminal offence for which the applicant may have been liable to imprisonment of twelve months or more, unless pardoned.

The permanent-residence document page lists core document categories including passport, medical certificate and tests, police record, proof of financial stability, photographs, and spouse/child documentation where applicable.

The passport must show an arrival stamp at least one year prior to application. If the current passport does not have it, previous passport evidence may be needed.

The medical examination is done by a licensed medical practitioner in Belize. Immigration lists HIV, VDRL, and TB tests for the applicant and accompanying dependents aged 12 and above, and individual preliminary medical examination forms for applicants and dependents aged 16 and above.

The police record for this PR process is a Belize police record and is valid for six months from the date of issue.

Proof of financial stability can involve employment, foreign income, self-employment, retirement, sponsorship, bank statements, tax documents, trade licenses, social security records, or other evidence depending on the applicant's situation.

Plain English: ordinary permanent residence is more of a physical-presence route. QRP is more of a foreign-income lifestyle route.

Do not confuse them.

14. Temporary Residence by Investment

Belize Immigration describes temporary residence as a status for persons who have made, or are in the process of making, a substantial commercial investment in Belize but cannot meet the ordinary permanent-residence restrictions due to commitments outside Belize.

Temporary residence is granted for one year and is renewable.

The official Immigration page says temporary residence applicants must show evidence of investments in Belize valued at not less than **BZ\$500,000**.

The document list includes:

- passport;
- police record from the last country of residence, valid for six months from the date of application;
- letter to the Director of Nationality and Passports Department explaining the reason for requesting temporary residency;
- evidence of residence in Belize, such as rental/lease agreement and utility bill, or property title and municipal property tax assessment;
- evidence of investment in Belize.

Immigration lists investment evidence such as real-estate title, business or personal bank statements, company registration certificate or other proof of controlling interest, trade license, social security registration or card, general sales tax returns, and income tax returns.

This route may fit someone making a serious commercial investment who needs a renewable status but cannot sit physically in Belize long enough for ordinary PR. It is not the casual retiree route, and it should not be used as a costume for someone whose real file is foreign income and lifestyle residence.

15. Work Permits and Self-Employment

If you intend to work in Belize, the official Immigration page says you must apply for a Temporary Employment Permit and must be residing in Belize.

Applications are submitted at a Labour Department office. If you are employed, the employer submits the application on your behalf. If you are self-employed, you submit the application.

The official process described by Immigration is:

1. Submit the application at Labour.
2. Receive application-status notification from Labour within 30 days.
3. If approved, take the approval letter to Immigration.
4. Pay the temporary employment permit fee at Immigration.
5. Go to the Belize Tax Service for an Income Tax Letter.
6. Present passport, proof of payment, and Income Tax Letter to Immigration.
7. After the permit is issued, proceed to Social Security to apply for the card.

Temporary Employment Permits may be issued for one week or less, one crop season, or one year, depending on the category.

Official fee examples listed by Immigration include:

- BZ\$3,000 for professional workers with a university degree;
- BZ\$3,000 for technical workers;
- BZ\$1,500 for certain general workers in banana, sugar, and citrus industries;
- BZ\$750 for general workers in other industries;
- BZ\$3,000 for self-employed workers in industries outside the agricultural category;
- BZ\$2,000 for self-employed workers in agriculture;
- BZ\$200 for religious, cultural, educational, and voluntary workers;
- other category-specific fees for seasonal agricultural workers, entertainers, import/export traders, peddlers, waitresses, and domestics.

This is a work/livelihood route. It is not a retirement route.

If you need to earn locally, study the work permit system early. If you do not need local income, do not drag yourself into a work-permit file just because you dislike the word retirement.

16. Citizenship: The Long Road

Belize citizenship has several pathways, but this guide only gives the field-level map.

For citizenship by registration as a permanent-residence holder, Belize Immigration says the applicant must have held permanent residence for at least five years. It also says the person must have been resident continuously in Belize after being granted permanent residence, meaning the person has not resided outside Belize for periods exceeding 30 consecutive days or accumulating to a total of three months in any twelve-month period, subject to certain considerations such as Belize employment or medical/health reasons.

For citizenship through marriage, Immigration says the applicant must be married to a Belizean national for at least one year, whether the spouse was born in Belize or acquired citizenship before the marriage.

For citizenship by descent, Immigration lists people born outside Belize with a Belizean citizen parent, and certain pre-Independence Day grandparent or marriage situations.

QRP should not be sold as automatic citizenship planning. Anyone whose real goal is a Belize passport needs to verify the bridge from QRP status to permanent residence and from permanent residence to citizenship before relying on that timeline.

If the passport is the mission, do not start with a slogan. Start with the legal chain.

17. Which Belize Pathway Fits You?

If you are 40 or older with reliable foreign-source retirement-style income, start by studying QRP. It may be the cleanest first route because the file is built around qualifying income rather than local work.

If you are employed outside Belize and want a longer short stay without claiming residency, study the Long Stay Visitor Permit. It may fit remote-employed or foreign-employed people who do not fit QRP or do not want to pursue QRP yet.

If you want to live in Belize full-time and eventually pursue permanent residence or citizenship, study ordinary permanent residence. The one-year residence period and 14-day absence limit change the practical plan.

If you are making a serious commercial investment, study temporary residence by investment and the QRP business/investment option. Do not assume they are interchangeable.

If you need to work locally, study the Temporary Employment Permit route. Local employment, self-employment, tax registration, and Social Security steps have consequences.

If you have Belizean family connections, study marriage, descent, and family-related citizenship or residence routes with proper documents.

If your main goal is a passport, do not assume QRP alone gets you there. Build the timeline from permanent residence and citizenship rules, then test whether QRP helps or sits off to the side.

If your main goal is a comfortable English-speaking base with foreign income and limited need for local work, QRP deserves a serious look.

18. Common Mistakes

The first mistake is assuming QRP is permanent residence. It is not.

The second is assuming QRP leads automatically to citizenship. It does not.

The third is assuming foreign income is free from tax everywhere because Belize offers QRP tax treatment on foreign-source income. Your home country may disagree, and it has more lawyers than your favorite expat forum.

Another mistake is assuming all income types qualify without evidence. BTB's categories are broad, but the proof still has to work.

People also assume local work or business activity is automatically allowed. QRP is not a local employment permission slip.

Some assume remote employment belongs inside QRP. It may not. Active employment outside Belize may point toward the Long Stay Visitor Permit, depending on the facts.

Some ignore the annual presence requirement. BTB lists 30 consecutive days in Belize annually. Calendar it.

Some ship household goods or a vehicle before verifying exemption rules. That is how a benefit becomes a bill.

Some let police records or medical documents expire. BTB lists six months for police records and three months for medical/HIV documents.

Some confuse Belize dollars and U.S. dollars. This is especially dangerous when comparing QRP fees, investment thresholds, and official fee tables.

Some rely on old fee schedules. Belize official pages change, and third-party summaries often outlive their usefulness.

Some buy property too early. Belize may fit you. Your first rental contract is still cheaper than discovering the wrong district through a deed.

19. Final Checklist

Use this before you build the file:

- I am at least 40, or I understand QRP is not my route.
- I am from a country or region BTB currently treats as qualifying.
- I can document qualifying foreign-source retirement income.
- If I am actively employed outside Belize, I have compared QRP against the Long Stay Visitor Permit.
- I understand QRP is not ordinary PR.
- I know whether I want to retire, invest, work, or pursue long-term citizenship.
- I have checked current official requirements with BTB and Belize Immigration.
- I understand my home-country tax obligations.
- I have not imported goods or vehicles before confirming the rules.
- I know what documents need certification, notarization, apostille, authentication, or translation.
- I understand police-record and medical-document validity windows.
- I have a renewal and annual-presence plan.
- I know which route I am studying first and why.

If that checklist feels annoying, good. It is cheaper to be annoyed before filing than after.

Plain-English Bottom Line

For many applicants with foreign-source retirement-style income, Belize starts with one question:

Are you 40 or older, from a qualifying country, and able to document stable foreign-source retirement-style income?

If yes, QRP is the first route to study.

Not because it is perfect. Not because it solves every tax, work, property, or passport question. It does not.

But for the right applicant, QRP is a cleaner route than pretending to be a local worker, forcing an investment file, or assuming ordinary permanent residence works like a low-presence backup card.

If QRP fits, build the file around BTB's current checklist, clean income proof, valid police and medical documents, annual renewal, and the 30-consecutive-day presence rule.

If QRP does not fit, do not force it. Study ordinary permanent residence, investment residence, work permits, or citizenship/family routes based on what you are actually trying to do.

Belize can work as a Plan B file. It just needs to be treated like a country with rules, not a fantasy with a beach.

Next Steps from Exiled Mounty

Starting from zero? Download the [Plan B Starter Pack](#) first. It gives you the broader framework for comparing countries, residency routes, documents, banking, taxes, and exit timing before you commit to one destination.

Want help narrowing the route? Use [Watch Commander](#) for a personalized residency assessment based on your citizenship, income, timeline, family situation, work plans, and relocation goals.

Leaving Canada? Read the [Canada Exit Guide](#) before treating Belize, Paraguay, Mexico, or any other country as a complete solution. The destination is only half the file. Canada has its own tax-residence, documentation, banking, and timing issues to review before you act.

20. Official Sources to Verify Before Applying

Official sources should lead the file. Professional summaries can help you orient yourself, but they are not the authority.

Verify current rules, fees, forms, document windows, and procedures before acting.

Belize Tourism Board - Qualified Retirement Program <https://www.belizeboard.org/programs-events/retirement-program/>

Use this for QRP eligibility, qualifying income categories, dependents, annual presence, benefits, QRP fees, renewal, QRP cards, import procedures, and QRP business/investment requirements.

Belize Tourism Board - QRP Member Application Form https://www.belizeboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2022-BTB-QUALIFIED-RETIREMENT-PROGRAM-APPLICATION-FORM-Member_new.pdf

Belize Tourism Board - QRP Dependent Application Form https://www.belizeboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2022-BTB-QUALIFIED-RETIREMENT-PROGRAM-APPLICATION-FORM-Dependent_new.pdf

Belize Immigration - Residence Overview / Do You Qualify <https://immigration.gov.bz/residence/residence-qualify/>

Use this for the difference between ordinary permanent residence and temporary residence by investment, including the one-year residence rule, 14-day absence limit, and BZ\$500,000 temporary-residence investment threshold.

Belize Immigration - Permanent Residence Requirements <https://immigration.gov.bz/residence/permanent-residence-requirements/>

Use this for PR documents, passport arrival-stamp evidence, Belize medical exam, HIV/VDRL/TB tests, Belize police record, proof of financial stability, and dependent documents.

Belize Immigration - Long Stay Visitor Permit <https://immigration.gov.bz/permits/long-stay-permit/>

Use this for the six-month Long Stay Visitor Permit, outside-Belize employment requirement, US\$75,000 / US\$100,000 income thresholds, no-Belize-employment rule, non-extension rule, fees, documents, dependents, and travel-insurance requirement.

Belize Immigration - Temporary Residence Requirements <https://immigration.gov.bz/residence/temporary-residence/>

Use this for investment-residence documents, police-record timing, evidence of residence in Belize, and investment evidence.

Belize Immigration - Residence Fees <https://immigration.gov.bz/residence/residence-fees/>

Use this for ordinary permanent-residence fees by nationality. These are not the QRP fees.

Belize Immigration - Temporary Employment Permit / Work Permit <https://immigration.gov.bz/permits/work-permit/>

Use this for the work-permit process, employer versus self-employed submission, Labour Department sequence, Immigration processing, Belize Tax Service letter, Social Security step, and official fee examples.

Belize Immigration - Citizenship: Do You Qualify <https://immigration.gov.bz/citizenship/citizenship-do-i-qualify/>

Use this for citizenship by permanent residence, marriage, and descent, including the five-year permanent-residence pathway and continuous-residence limits after PR.

Belize Tax Service <https://bts.gov.bz/>

Use this when your file touches Belize tax registration, income tax letters, business tax, GST, filings, or Social Security/tax steps connected to work or business activity.

Belize Labour / Ministry verification point <https://www.mlgrd.gov.bz/>

Use this to verify current Labour Department contacts and Temporary Employment Permit submission details. The Immigration work-permit page links to a Labour employment-unit page that returned a 404 during this draft check, so verify the current Labour URL directly before relying on it.

Last official-source check for this version: 2026-06-29.

Final field note: Belize can be a clean Plan B file for the right person, but the right route depends on what you are actually trying to do: retire, test the country, work, invest, or pursue long-term residence.