

PEOPLE, PORTS AND PASSENGERS:

PUTTING COMMUNITIES AT THE
CENTER OF CRUISE PORT OPERATIONS

Belize

OUR PORTS. OUR PEOPLE. OUR FUTURE.



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Belize



**OAS INTER-AMERICAN
COMMITTEE ON PORTS WEBINAR**



THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026
12:00 P.M. WASHINGTON D.C. TIME



OAS

More rights
for more people

Rethinking What Makes a Successful Cruise Port

TRADITIONAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS



Cruise calls



Passenger volumes



Port revenue



Operational efficiency



Safety and security

THE MODERN MEASURE



Ports must create value for passengers **AND** communities.



**A CRUISE PORT MUST BE MORE THAN A GATEWAY FOR PASSENGERS;
IT MUST BE A PARTNER TO ITS COMMUNITY.**



BELIZE: WHY THIS MATTERS



CRUISE TOURISM IS
SIGNIFICANT TO BELIZE



2025 projected cruise arrivals:
~967,000 PASSENGERS

Cruise tourism supports:



Tour guides and tour operators



Tender and marine transportation



Taxi and ground transportation



Restaurants and vendors



Artisans and cultural enterprises



Attractions and communities



**BUT GROWTH MUST BE
MANAGED RESPONSIBLY.**

PRINCIPLE 1



LOCAL COMMUNITIES MUST SHARE THE BENEFITS

FROM PASSENGER VOLUME → LOCAL VALUE

Cruise activity should create opportunities for:



LOCAL
BUSINESSES



WORKERS



ENTREPRENEURS



COMMUNITIES

KEY APPROACHES

- ✓ Local procurement
- ✓ Local tour operators and guides
- ✓ SMEs and artisans
- ✓ Cultural and community tourism
- ✓ Skills development
- ✓ Wider distribution of visitor spending



A CRUISE PASSENGER
SHOULD EXPERIENCE
THE **DESTINATION**—
NOT ONLY THE TERMINAL.



STRONGER COMMUNITIES.
STRONGER DESTINATION.

When local communities prosper,
Belize thrives.



PROTECT THE COMMUNITY AND DESTINATION

GROWTH MUST RESPECT CARRYING CAPACITY

Cruise activity can create pressure on:



Roads and public infrastructure



Heritage and cultural sites



Coastal communities



Marine ecosystems



Waste-management systems



Popular visitor attractions



MORE PASSENGERS



AUTOMATICALLY
MORE VALUE



RESPONSIBLE GROWTH =



CAPACITY



MANAGEMENT



PROTECTION

PRINCIPLE 3



PORTS MUST BE GOOD NEIGHBOURS

THE PORT-COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIP

A socially responsible port should:



LISTEN

Community consultation



COMMUNICATE

Transparent information



RESPOND

Address legitimate concerns



INVEST

Support community development



MEASURE

Track social impact



Community engagement should be **continuous**—not only when a project is proposed.





DON'T FORGET THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE PORTS WORK

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY STARTS WITH WORKERS



SAFE WORK

- Occupational safety
- Safe marine operations
- Emergency preparedness



DECENT WORK

- Fair treatment
- Appropriate working conditions



SKILLED WORK

- Training
- Certification
- Career development



INCLUSIVE WORK

- Youth
- Women
- Persons with disabilities
- Local communities



WHEN WE INVEST IN WORKERS,
WE BUILD STRONGER PORTS AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES.



THE PASSENGER IS ALSO PART OF THE EQUATION



RESPONSIBLE PORTS +
RESPONSIBLE PASSENGERS



Ports can help passengers:



Understand the destination



Respect local culture



Support legitimate local businesses



Use licensed operators



Respect environmental rules



Travel safely and responsibly



UNDERSTAND
THE DESTINATION



RESPECT
LOCAL CULTURE



SUPPORT
LOCAL BUSINESSES



USE LICENSED
OPERATORS



RESPECT
ENVIRONMENTAL
RULES



TRAVEL SAFELY
AND RESPONSIBLY



EVERY PASSENGER INTERACTION
CAN CREATE **POSITIVE LOCAL IMPACT.**



THE FUTURE: PORTS AS PLATFORMS FOR SHARED VALUE

THE CRUISE PORT OF THE FUTURE



SAFE

Protect passengers
and workers



SUSTAINABLE

Protect natural and
cultural assets



INCLUSIVE

Expand local
participation



RESILIENT

Prepare for climate
and operational risks



CONNECTED

Engage surrounding
communities



ACCOUNTABLE

Measure and
communicate impacts



SUCCESSFUL PORTS



SUCCESSFUL
COMMUNITIES



SUCCESSFUL
DESTINATIONS

THANK YOU

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD
STRONGER PORTS, STRONGER COMMUNITIES
AND SUSTAINABLE DESTINATIONS.



COLLABORATE

Work together
for shared success.



ENGAGE

Listen, communicate
and act together.



CREATE VALUE

For people,
places and the planet.

*Thank you
for listening!*



**BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE—
TOGETHER.**

