

A stylized illustration of a hiker with a large backpack standing on a wooden pier, looking out over a body of water towards a tropical island with palm trees. The scene is rendered in a soft, painterly style with a color palette of greens, blues, and yellows.

Crossing to Guatemala: The Real Route

Guatemala Transit: Livingston & Puerto Barrios

Backpack Belize | Travel the Real Way 2026



The "Backpack Belize" Way

There's no shortcut from Placencia to Guatemala. You have to bus to Punta Gorda or take the *Hokey Pokey* to Independence and bus from there. Once you hit Punta Gorda, it's a ferry across the border. It's a full day of travel, so plan for it. Don't pay extra for "help"—just go to the pier, find the official office, and buy your ticket there.

Punta Gorda → Livingston

 **9:30 AM**

 **2:30 PM**

 **17** Monday–Friday

 *Some boats continue onward to Puerto Barrios depending on the operator and day. Always confirm at the Punta Gorda customs dock the day before travel.*

Travel Time: ~1–1.5 hours

Punta Gorda → Puerto Barrios

 **9:30 AM**

 **2:30 PM**

 **17** Monday–Friday

 *Schedules in Belize and Guatemala change constantly due to weather, sea conditions, passenger numbers, and “Caribbean time.” Confirm locally before traveling.*

Travel Time: ~1–1.5 hours

Typical Water Taxi Fare:

Expect around **BZ\$100–BZ\$140 one-way** depending on the operator, season, fuel prices, luggage, and where exactly you're heading in Guatemala.

 Prices change often, so always confirm directly with the operator before travel.

Belize Exit Fee

 Expect to pay around **BZ\$40 cash** when leaving Belize for Guatemala by boat.

 Fees and procedures can occasionally change, so bring extra cash just in case.

Main Operator **Requena's Charter Service**

 Belize Office: **+501 722-2070**

 WhatsApp: **+501 602-0807**

 WhatsApp usually works better than calling.