

Hunting seasons for game meat in Belize

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If stewed Gibnut is favorite meal for you, make the most of it this month in December because come Jan 1st the season to hunt and eat it is closed until June 1st when season reopens. Be responsible and only buy your game meat from licensed hunters or licensed game meat dealers, these people PAY Forestry for a license to legally hunt, don't undermine their responsible hunting practices by buying meat from unlicensed hunters or out of season. Below is the seasons for game meat in Belize and requirements for hunting or dealing/selling game meat license.



BELIZE FOREST DEPARTMENT

HUNTING:

- There are two types of licenses available to Belizeans:
 - Local - Hunters License: \$10.00 (1 day)
 - Annual - Hunters License: \$100.00
- Hunting licenses are for personal consumption only and must not be sold without a valid Dealer's License.
- The following must be presented when applying for a hunting license:
 - Completed application form
 - valid gun license
 - a valid ID such as a social security or passport.
 - Payment for permit

- The closed season for game species are below:

GAME SPECIES

CLOSED SEASON

- | | |
|---|---|
| • DEER (<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>) | 1ST JULY—30TH SEPTEMBER FOR MALES;
1ST JULY—29TH FEBRUARY OF NEXT YEAR FOR FEMALES |
| • GIBNUT (<i>Cuniculus paca</i>) | 1ST JANUARY—31ST MAY |
| • ARMADILLO (<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>) | 1ST FEBRUARY—1ST JUNE |
| • PECCARY (<i>Tayassu pecari</i>) | 1ST JUNE—30TH NOVEMBER |
| • IGUANA (<i>Iguana iguana</i>) | 1ST FEBRUARY—30TH JUNE |
| • GAME BIRDS | 1ST FEBRUARY—15TH JULY |

(Chachalaca, Black-throated bobwhite, Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup)

- Hunting Licenses can be obtained from the Forest Department offices in: Orange Walk, Belmopan, San Ignacio, Independence and Punta Gorda.

DEALING:

- The Wildlife Protection Act defines a dealer as any person who, in the course of business or trade, imports, exports, processes, buys or sells and wildlife or any part or product thereof.
- All commercial hunters must in possession of valid Dealer's License.
- Applications for Dealer's Licenses can be obtained from the Forest Department Website at: www.forestdepartment.gov.bz.
- Any questions can be forwarded to email: wildlife.fd@ffsd.gov.bz
- Dealer's License
 - 1-3 Days: \$100.00
 - 1 year: \$2,000.00

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