



**MEMBER FIRST<sup>SM</sup>**

# Central & South America

## TRAVEL TIPS



Thank you for booking your vacation with Member First. This guide contains helpful information and answers to many of the questions you may have as you prepare to travel. Enjoy your Member First vacation!

### IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Member First Customer Service  
866-602-8631  
Or email [last.minute@memberfirsttravel.com](mailto:last.minute@memberfirsttravel.com)

### DURING YOUR STAY

For assistance with excursions or transfers, please call:

#### CENTRAL AMERICA

##### BELIZE

**Muy-Ono Management** ... 011- (501) 822-1020  
Mon – Fri 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
Sat and Sun 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
After hours/emergency Call/WhatsApp at 011- (501) 672-4741

##### COSTA RICA

##### Guanacaste

##### Central American

**Tours (CAT)** ..... 506 40101004  
8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
After hours/emergency: 506 88819096

##### San José

##### Central American

**Tours (CAT)** ..... 506 40101004  
Mon – Fri 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. | Sat 8:00 A.M. – NOON  
After hours emergency 506 88819096 (for all other Costa Rica destinations please call San José)

#### HONDURAS

Contact your hotel for assistance

#### PANAMA

**Panamazing** ..... 507 340-9875 & 206-8876  
Mon – Fri 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
After hours/emergency 507 6981-4549

#### SOUTH AMERICA

##### ARGENTINA

**Eurotur Argentina** ..... 54 1143126077  
9:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.  
After hours/emergency 54 91168781562  
247@eurotur.tur.ar

##### COLOMBIA

##### Metropolitan Touring

**Colombia** ..... 800-557-4096  
Sat – Thurs 8:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. | Fri 8:00 A.M. – NOON  
After hours/emergency: 3214528268  
24hourscolombia@metropolitan-touring.com

##### PERU

##### Metropolitan Touring

**Peru** ..... 863 328 4049  
Mon – Fri 9:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.  
After hours/emergency: 51 989 258 179/51 984 765 296  
24h@metropolitan-touring.com.pe  
All times noted are local to the destination.

### TRAVEL WISELY

#### U.S. Citizens

A valid U.S. passport is required for people of all ages who travel to Central and South America. Please visit [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) for more details.

Any person younger than 18 is considered a minor for travel purposes. Minors traveling with only one parent must have a notarized written permission statement from the other parent. In the case of deceased or divorced parents, legal proof of custody must be carried to accept just one signature on the letter. Minors traveling unaccompanied or with anyone other than their legal parents or guardians must obtain an original notarized letter of permission signed by both parents. Airlines will also require the name, address and phone number of the person meeting the unaccompanied minor upon arrival.

#### Non-U.S. Citizens

A valid passport is required. Green cards are not acceptable as a sole means of identification. Citizens of some countries may require a tourist visa. Check with your local consulate or go online to [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) for more details.



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# Central & South America Travel Tips

## TRAVEL WISELY (CONTINUED)

### Flight Times - Day of Departure

Please confirm your flights at least 24 hours prior to departure by contacting your airline directly. Many airlines offer check-in within 24 hours of departure through their websites and mobile apps.

### Airport Check-In

Arrive at the airport at least three hours prior to departure to facilitate check-in.

## DURING YOUR STAY

### Immigration Processing

You will be given a customs declaration form during your flight to complete before you exit the airplane. Visitors to Belize can visit [ideclare.gov.bz/Belize\\_Digital\\_Forms/](http://ideclare.gov.bz/Belize_Digital_Forms/) to complete their customs declaration form. Visitors to Honduras can complete the customs declaration form at [sisglobal.aduanas.gob.hn/Pech/#/plataforma/otra\\_gestiones/formularioDJRV](http://sisglobal.aduanas.gob.hn/Pech/#/plataforma/otra_gestiones/formularioDJRV). When you arrive, go through Immigration Control where your paperwork will be inspected and stamped, then baggage claim and through customs where your luggage will be scanned and a customs officer will obtain your customs declaration form.

### Your Local Representative

If your vacation package includes transfers, look for your representative, who will be holding a "Member First" sign. Your representative will assist you with your luggage, ground transportation and any other needs you may have, as well as confirm the pick-up time for your next destination or return transfer to the airport. In Peru, a Member First representative will require ID to issue train tickets to Machu Picchu.

### Checking In to Your Hotel

Your accommodations are pre-paid. Please show your itinerary to the front desk representative. No hotel voucher is required. You will be asked to provide a credit card or cash deposit to cover any personal charges. The hotel check-in representative will ask to see and/or copy your passport at check-in.

## RETURNING HOME

Each United States citizen returning from Central or South America is required to go through U.S. Customs when re-entering the country. The departure tax per person for Costa Rica, Belize, Panama, Argentina, Colombia and Peru is included in your airline ticket.

## VISITOR INFORMATION

### Currency

In Belize, the national currency is the Belize dollar; in Costa Rica, it is the colon; in Panama, U.S. dollars are the standard currency; in Argentina, it is the Argentinian peso; in Colombia, it is the Colombian peso; and in Peru, it's the sol. U.S. dollars can be exchanged at banks and hotels. Major credit cards are accepted in most larger establishments and using local currency is suggested at smaller establishments.

### Tipping

Tipping is not only customary throughout Central & South America, it is appreciated in return for good service. Service employees rely heavily on tips as their wages are very low. Tipping guidelines are: \$1 – \$2 (USD) per bag for porters and \$2 – \$5 per day (based on room type) for housekeeping staff. Usually a tip is not included in your restaurant bill in Belize; a customary amount to tip is 15%. By law, tipping is included in any restaurant bill in Costa Rica, but additional gratuities for good service are welcomed. The standard tipping rate in Panama is around 10% of the bill, though in small cafés and more casual places, tipping is not necessary. Tipping is not mandatory in Argentina, but 10% – 20% is customary. Most restaurants in Colombia include a 10% voluntary gratuity on the bill.

While you are not required to pay it, your server or manager should ask if you want this amount added to the bill. Tipping guidelines for Peru are 10% when dining out; \$5 – \$10 (USD) per day for tour guides; and \$3 – \$5 per day for porters, cooks and the like.

## Water

All major hotels and restaurants use purified water throughout. Most hotels provide bottled water in all rooms, and many hotels now have potable water delivered through their taps using an on-site purification system; there should be a note in your room if this is the case.

## Electricity

Electrical voltage in Belize, Panama and Colombia is 110; Costa Rica is 120 (same as in the United States). Some electrical sockets do not accept three-prong or polarized plugs, so it is recommended that you travel with an adapter. Electricity is 220 volts in Argentina and Peru; converters are required for appliances and electronics.

## THANK YOU FOR TRAVELING WITH MEMBER FIRST

We look forward to serving you again during your next vacation to Central & South America. We also provide complete vacation packages for Asia, Australia, Canada, Caribbean, Europe, Hawaii, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, South Pacific (Tahiti, Fiji & Cook Islands), United Arab Emirates, the United States and cruise vacations worldwide.