

THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR GUIDE

The Island Newspaper
Ambergris Caye, Belize
Central America

January 6, 2005



FREE



Something for Everyone

Whether it is the annual crab races at Journey's End Resort, or the debut of "Faces of Belize" at the art gallery, it does not take long to find something fun and different to do on Ambergris Caye.



The Belize Airline

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Who is this man on Ambergris Caye?



Eliot Spitzer

The beauty and tranquility of Belize has drawn many famous people to this isolated getaway. The latest may possibly be the next Governor of the State of New York. Eliot Spitzer is currently the Attorney General for New York State and recently announced that he is running for Governor of that state in 2006. He was joined by his wife and three daughters over the Christmas and New Year Holidays. They stayed at Maruba Resort Jungle Spa for a few days before venturing out to “La Isla Bonita” where they stayed at Journey’s End Resort.

Spitzer told *The San Pedro Sun* that this may be one of the last chances for a true family vacation while they focus on his race for Governor. Read the entire story in this week’s *San Pedro Sun*.

Greetings to my visiting friends

The Mayor, Councilors and people of San Pedro Town take this opportunity to welcome you with open arms to this beautiful jewel of ours.

May your stay here with us be a pleasant one, filled with enjoyment and delightful memories.

May you experience the best of what San Pedro has to offer. We hope that during your stay you’ll find San Pedro to be your home away from home. Feel free to explore “La Isla Bonita” and see the genuine beauty and warm hospitality we have to offer.

We are more than happy to have you visiting us, may the memory you will hold of this place be an everlasting and cherishable one.

Once again welcome and please enjoy your stay.

Elsa Paz, Mayor, San Pedro Town



Mayor Elsa Paz

The San Pedro Sun & Visitor Guide

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Main Office#1 Fire Coral Street, San Pedro

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Government

Belize has been an independent nation since 1981. It is a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Ambergris Caye

Ambergris Caye is twenty-five miles long; its width ranges from a few hundred feet to over four miles. Northern Ambergris Caye is separated from the southernmost tip of Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula by a small channel. After arriving in Belize City, a short fifteen minute airplane ride gets you to San Pedro, or if you would rather take the scenic route, an hour’s boat ride will get you there as well.

Language

English is the official language and is widely spoken, as is Spanish. Other languages include Creole, Garifuna, Mayan and German.

Climate

Belize weather is characterized by two seasons: a rainy and a dry season. Most of the year’s rainfall occurs during the period of June to November, that is, the rainy season. The average temperature varies from 81°F/ 27°C along the coast to 69°F/21°C in the hills. The coldest month is January while the highest temperatures are experienced during the month of May.

Cash & Currency

U.S. dollars are accepted as currency countrywide. The common exchange ratio is \$2BZ/\$1 U.S. Licensed moneychangers offer a slightly higher exchange rate, ranging from \$2.05BZ to \$2.12BZ, depending on the current market.

Nearly all hotels, restaurants and shops accept Visa, Master Card and travelers’ checks. Street vendors and smaller establishments in remote areas may accept only cash or travelers’ checks.

Sales Taxes

Belize’s sales tax is set at 9% and it is applied to all goods and services, except for telecommunications. There is a 7% hotel tax. Some hotels also add a 10-15% “service charge” to the bill; inquire about this when checking hotel prices.

Transportation

The streets are sand, which is great for walking or bike riding. There are few cars; instead, the vehicles of choice are electric golf carts, which are available for rent. As tempting as it may be to have your child drive, please remember that all golf cart drivers MUST have a valid drivers license. Drive with caution, there are many speed bumps around the downtown area that are not marked and always be on the lookout for potholes. Taxi service is available everywhere south of Boca del Rio. Around town the average fee is \$7BZ. Some local business, as well as resorts, rent bicycles.

Telecommunications

All telecommunications services (direct dial phones, fax, telex, cable) are available. There are several “Internet Cafe’s” on the island where you can access the internet through high-speed internet or satellite connections.



Evening Dinner

*Our Award-Winning Restaurant invites
you to Enjoy a Masterful Blend of
European, Mediterranean & Caribbean Cuisine*
RSVP 220-5010

*Some of our Specialties: Caramelized Char-Grilled Shrimp,
Fish Carpaccio, Bruschetta, Shrimp Paté and Fried Calamari,
Jerk-Seared Scallops served in a citrus beurre-blanc
Mambo Combo - Snapper Fillet topped with Shrimp and a Papaya Salsa
Mesquite Grilled Seafood Plate - Lobster, Snap Grouper, Calamari,
Shrimp and Scallops with Fresh Vegetables*

Try our “Decadent” Chocolate Soufflé

**Take a short ride
under the stars**

**Pick-up by Island Ferry on
Fido’s Dock at 7:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
\$20 BZ roundtrip per person**



**New
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Age of Technology
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favorite martini.

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during a game of
pool in our
Twilight Billiards
Room!



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Package Includes:

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Via our Mambo Boat - US\$130

Fido’s Dock 10:45 a.m. -

Returns 3 p.m. or 5 p.m.

Also Available:

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Clay Body Mask Massage

Energy Work

RSVP 220-5011



**At Journey’s End Resort
Reservations: 226-2173**



Faces of Belize showcases Belize's diversity

On Saturday, January first, the Ambergris Jade Museum hosted an exhibit opening and reception for local artist and author, Chris Emmanuel. Mr. Emmanuel premiered his new collection of portraits titled *Faces of Belize*, which showcases the ethnic groups that make up Belize. The exhibit celebrates the beauty of each culture as well as the melding of these cultures.

When you first enter the exhibit gallery a wall of life-like faces greet you. Some of these faces you immediately

recognize, while others look as familiar as the girl next door. They are faces of all colors, genders and ages. These portraits are the *Faces of Belize*, and they represent the people who make up our widely diverse country. Below each portrait the caption "I AM BELIZEAN...my family lineage is..." is displayed. Many of the portraits reflect the melding of the many cultures that make up Belize, and many of the subjects display predominant features that are characteristic of their distinct

ancestry. The beauty is in the marriage of these features that make up each unique individual. All of the portraits are the same size, and in the center of the exhibit is a like-size mirror. As you gaze into the mirror you notice the plaque below that asks, "ARE YOU THE NEXT BELIZEAN? My lineage is..." At that moment you are as much a part of the exhibit as the painted faces that look back at you.

In an interview with *The San Pedro Sun*, Mr. Emmanuel spoke of how he drew his inspiration from the vast diversity of cultures that are represented in Belize. He considers each portrait a "reflection" of a people who together, make up the population of Belize. A total of seventeen portraits display the unique features and characteristics of Chinese, Syrian, Lebanese, Mayan, Creole, Mennonite, East Indian, Garifuna, British, and American people.

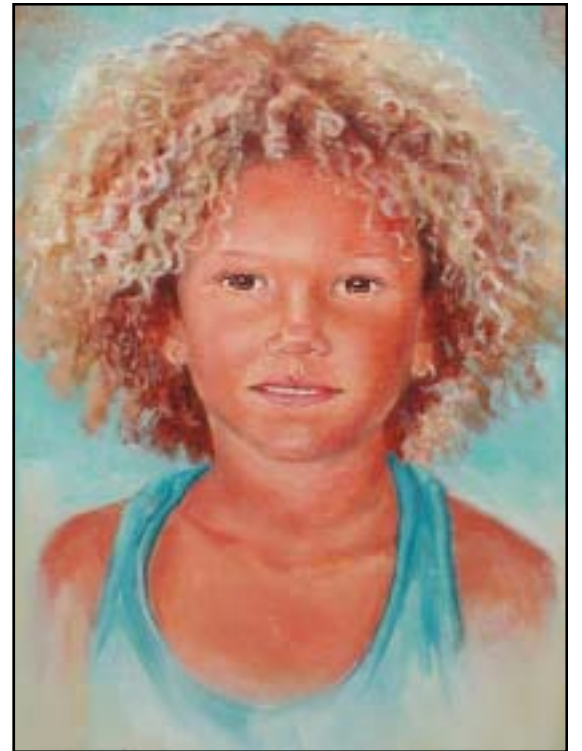
According to Mr. Emmanuel, the collection is designed to educate and bring awareness to Belizeans and Tourists of the unified cultures in Belize. He stated that 30% of proceeds received on the sale of paintings, t-shirts and booklets will be do-

nated to the AIDS RESEARCH FOUNDATION.

The exhibit will run at the Ambergris Jade Museum until January 12th. It will then be on exhibit in Belize City at the House of Culture during the month of February. Mr. Manuel hopes that it will then tour the entire country. His artwork is also on display at the Art of Touch Massage Studio and The Art Gallery located at the Sun Breeze Hotel.



Chris Emmanuel explains his new collection of portraits titled *Faces of Belize*.



I AM BELIZEAN

My lineage is Creole, German and Mestizo

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Kick Back & Enjoy a Truly Divine Lounge Atmosphere!

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Oceanaire Condominiums -- \$319,000/\$379,000 US – Large new condos just north of San Pedro. These units have 1400 + sq. feet of living space and up to 450 sq. feet of verandas. Cart parking, pool and pier are a few of the amenities!

Perla Escondida Condominiums -- \$169,000/\$210,000 US – These 2 bedroom/ 2 bath condos are located only a mile south of San Pedro Town.

Club Caribbean Home Sites - \$14,950/\$80,000 US – Beachfront and interior home sites located south of San Pedro on Ambergris Caye. Selling fast!

Captain Morgan Villas -- \$150,000 US/each – We currently have four separate one bedroom / one bathroom units available for sale at this prestigious resort. Each unit is 740 square feet in size and has wonderful income potential!

Tenampa Bar and Property - \$425,000 US – This San Pedro Bar, Home and Property is currently available for sale. Price is negotiable with possible terms.

Multi Unit Apartment Building - \$525,000 US – This large apartment building is located in the Escalante Subdivision of San Pedro, very near the medical school. Great income potential and a beautiful 3rd floor owner's suite!

Reef Village Condominiums -- \$99,500 - \$149,900 US - Comfortable new one and two bedroom condos with both ocean and lagoon access. Just north of town!

Tres Cocos Home Sites - \$320,000 US – 50' beachfront lots North of San Pedro. These 4 available lots are some of the finest home sites around.

Casa Cayo Estates - \$240,000 US - 60 acres in Cayo District, water & elec.

Numerous Lagoon Properties – Casa Cayo has many lots and acreage sites located west of San Pedro on the beautiful blue waters of the San Pedro Lagoon. Call our offices for additional details and pricing!

Pelican Reef Villas - \$285,000 - \$355,000 US – These extra large beachfront condos are located South of San Pedro and offer tremendous pre-construction pricing. A magnificent pier, beautiful pool, bar and restaurant will compliment your purchase!

3 Downtown Commercial Properties – These income producing properties are all located on highly visible corner lots. Pricing from \$1 million US and up!

Casa Cayo has numerous listings available both in San Pedro and on the Mainland. Visit our website or call our offices for details and pricing.

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Q&A Buying Belize Property

Question: Are most purchases consummated in US Dollars?

Answer: The majority of properties on Ambergris Caye are bought and sold in US Dollars.

Question: Is local financing available?

Answer: Yes, however most non-residents will balk at the interest rates. Effective local interest rates are currently in the range of 12-16% with fixed terms of only 12 months. At the end of every year, the loan is closed out and then renewed at the current lending rate. Local borrowing is only permitted in Belize dollars and thus is not applicable under most property purchasing scenarios.

Question: What are the procedures for seller financing and how am I protected?

Answer: Most people are familiar with a Contract for Deed and the Belizean equivalent is called an Agreement For Sale or Memorandum of Sale. An Agreement or Memorandum, under Belize law, is a valid and binding contract that vests the purchaser with an equitable interest in the property concerned. Once such an agreement has been registered or recorded at the Land Registry, it constitutes notice of that person's interest as 'Equitable Estate.' The 'Legal Estate' does not pass to the purchaser at this point but the registered Agreement or Memorandum acts as a lien and security for such title being eventually transferred. The titleholder can no longer enter into any other contract on the property or mortgage the property without the express written permission of the lien holder. Legal Estate will be passed at such time when the purchaser satisfies all conditions of the agreement, which is when full payment has been made to the seller. When an Agreement or Memorandum is associated with property falling under the New Registration Act, an additional document called a 'Caution' is lodged in the property's register to act as a similar lien in the Registered Lands Department.

Papi's Diner

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Boca del Rio
Phone 226-2047

The San Pedro Sun's Virtual Taste Trip

Caribbean Jerk Chicken Skewers

This week, try a taste of the Caribbean. A smidge of flavor from this side of the world. Enjoy!!!

Caribbean Jerk Chicken Skewers
Prep Time: 20 min **Total Time:** 1 hr 40 min **Makes:** 6 servings, 2 skewers each

PREHEAT grill to medium-high heat. Mix salad dressing mix, brown sugar, oil, soy sauce, cinnamon, thyme and ground red pepper until well blended. Pour into large resealable plastic bag. Add chicken; seal bag. Turn bag over several times to coat chicken evenly. Refrigerate 30

minutes to marinate. Drain; discard marinade.

THREAD chicken onto skewers alternately with bell peppers and pineapple.

Place on grill grate or rack of broiler pan.

GRILL 15 minutes or until chicken is cooked through, turning frequently

- 1 envelope GOOD SEASONS Italian Salad Dressing & Recipe Mix
 - 2 Tbsp. brown sugar
 - 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
 - 2 Tbsp. soy sauce
 - 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
 - 1 tsp. ground thyme
 - 1/2 tsp. ground red pepper
 - 1-1/2 lb. boneless skinless chicken breast halves, cut into chunks
 - 3 red or green bell peppers, cut into 1-1/2 inch pieces
 - 1 fresh pineapple, cut into 1-1/2-inch chunks
 - 12 wooden skewers, soaked in water

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www.ambergris caye.com/birdsbelize by Elbert Greer

'Tito' one of my favorite bird watching tour guides recently discovered Boat-billed Herons amongst the mangrove in the back of Ambergris. I had only seen Boat-bills in estuary habitat (the wide low course of a river into which the tides flow) and was excited because its daytime sighting could mean a colony on Ambergris.

Bubba said that the single species of Boat-bill Heron is divided into five races and there are questions concerning whether to include it in the family *Ardeidae* (herons and bitterns) or to give it its own family. Its largest differences are in its specialized feeding niche and corresponding adaptations (its bill). This bird is distinctly different in appearance than other Heron in that its look is almost comical. It struck me at first sight to be wearing a cheap wig along with its dark round eyes above its extremely broad dark bill; you might expect to laugh at your first notice. Bubba's excitement is that the Boat-bill remains a poorly known bird and somewhat mysterious. The label given to this rare bird's existence in the world is *retiring*. There is a list of words that describe the population status of a species, retiring is just above endangered and extinct is of course at the bottom of the list.

Boat-billed Heron inhabit all of Belize but are more strictly nocturnal than the Night Heron, unlikely to be seen in daylight away from roosts or colonies. It nests in trees but deeper in the mangrove than the Night Heron, in more dense cover.

A non-migratory bird, Boat-bills inhabit both fresh and salt-water areas throughout Belize. They are found often in thickly vegetated rivers but are also known to hunt along beaches.

Boat-billed Herons seem to be strongly nocturnal in their hunting behavior. By day, they preen and roost quietly in mangrove thickets near feeding areas, venturing forth at dusk to forage. Although Boat-bills can hunt in the wade-and-stab manner of other herons, there is reason to believe that they switch to touch-feeding like the spoonbills during the breeding season when they consume shrimp

and other mud dwelling prey that cannot be located except by dwelling. Frogs, snakes, lizards and mice are also in their diet.

Bubba said, "Birds often communicate with social signals. The Boat-billed Heron have developed most signals different from other heron; only two of the twelve most common displays in the Boat-bills repertoire are like that of the heron. Instead of the visual signals, characteristic of most heron communication, the Boat-billed heron relies more on acoustic signals, both vocal and mechanical, that penetrate the mangrove tangle more efficiently. The large bill also serves as a resonator, producing single and multiple bill-pops that resemble loud human handclaps.

The postures and movements used in the displays are generally simple and slow. Many are enhanced by the erecting of the broad crown plumes, which produces a highly conspicuous black array above the white forehead. Between members of a mated pair, there is a great deal of ritualized mutual preening behavior (called bill-clapping) that probably serves to strengthen the pair bond.

It is not known whether the Boat-billed herons form new pair bonds each year or retain the previous year's mate. Both sexes share in nest building, incubating, and feeding the chicks. Three or four pale greenish-blue eggs sometimes bearing small red flecks are laid at roughly two-day intervals. Incubation commences with the first egg. They produce an asynchronous hatch. This means the egg laying is staggered and this results in chicks of different ages in the same nest competing for the parents' ability to provide food. Later, if the chick's total energy demands exceed the supply, only the youngest chick starves. As in other herons, chicks are fed through regurgitation by the parents." Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a colony on Ambergris to watch all this at close quarters. If it's found and we respect it with quiet undisturbing visits, it will be a unique attraction for our bird watching tourist visitors.



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THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR'S GUIDE



Dining Out...



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ROJO LOUNGE - Enjoy tropical lounge cuisine in one of the most beautiful beachfront settings in all of Belize - Azul Resort. 226-4012.

CELI'S RESTAURANT ON THE BEACH - At the San Pedro Holiday Hotel, open 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Beach BBQ every Wednesday night.

LILY'S TREASURE CHEST RESTAURANT - On the beach behind Lily's Hotel. Join us for a cool breeze and the best seafood or USDA beef on our veranda by the sea. 226-2650.

JADE GARDEN RESTAURANT - Delicious Cantonese cuisine, steaks, seafood and vegetarian dishes. 226-2506. Coconut Drive. Take-out available. Closed Tuesday.

SWEET BASIL GOURMET CAFÉ - Fabulous salads & sandwiches, imported wines & cheeses, fresh baked breads. Just across the river cut. Phone 226-3870.

RAMON'S VILLAGE - Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner in a Mayan atmosphere or on the veranda overlooking the Caribbean Sea. Coconut Drive. Phone 226-2071.

LUNA at Journey's End Resort - Experience fine dining on the beach north of San Pedro. Visit our tropical bar featuring karaoke, dance and fun music. Phone 226-2173.

STAINED GLASS PUB - Only British-American Pub in Belize! Home-cooked and gourmet specials. Serving lunch and dinner Mon. - Sat. starting at 11 a.m. Closed on Sundays. Phone 226-4147.

RICO'S SURFSIDE RESTAURANT - A truly unique dining experience on the beach at Ban-yan Bay. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Phone 226-3739 ext. 135.

MICKEY'S PLACE - Open daily 6:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. for breakfast, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. for lunch and 6 - 10 p.m. for dinner. Burritos on Wednesdays. Pescador Drive. Call 226-2223.

BLUE WATER GRILL - Island cuisine with a twist! Wood-fired Oven Pizzas, Sushi & more! Open daily. Happy Hour 4 to 6 p.m. 226-3347.

EL DIVINO RESTAURANT at BANANA BEACH - Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner from 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. Book your party or banquet today! Phone 226-2444.

CASA PICASSO - Tapa Bar - Classic Pastas - After Dinner Desserts. Open at 5:30 p.m. Martini Lounge is open until 11 p.m. Call 226-4507.

PORTOFINO'S own "LE BISTRO" - One of the newest & most talked about restaurants on the island. Meet our boat at 6:30 p.m. at Fido's Dock for a complimentary ride to one of the best culinary experiences you will have while in paradise. For reservations, call 220-5096.

OVA DI WATA RESTAURANT - At Caribe Island Resort. Fine dining on the sea. The best Seafood & USDA Beef. 3 miles south of San Pedro. FREE transportation for 6 or more. Phone 226-3635.

CARAMBA RESTAURANT - Local Mexican & Caribbean dishes. Located on Pescador Dr. Phone 226-4321. Closed Wednesday.

CAPRICORN RESTAURANT & BAR - Enjoy our magical menu by sun or starlight. Brunch & lunch 10 a.m.-2 p.m. dinner 6-9 p.m. Reservations suggested. 226-2809. Closed Wednesdays.

GEORGE'S KITCHEN - Breakfast Served Anytime! Scrumptious Steaks & Seafood. Open 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. & 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Coconut Drive. Call 226-2974.

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FIDO'S - Newly renovated it is set on the beach under a giant palapa with a spectacular view of the Caribbean Sea. Enjoy your favorite drink or cocktail in this unique setting. Open seven days a week for lunch and dinner.

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VICTORIA HOUSE - International and Island-Style cuisine by Executive Chef Amy Knox. Open for breakfast, lunch & dinner. Reservations recommended, call 226 2067.

Party...Party...Party

THE HOLIDAY HOTEL - Every Wednesday, live music and a fabulous Beach Barbeque 6:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. Barrier Reef Dr. 226-2014.

THE HAMMOCK HOUSE - is the perfect "hangout." Live music, barbeques and more. Just north of the cut. 226-2940

PIER LOUNGE - Home of the "World Famous Chicken Drop" every Wednesday. Daily drink specials and two-for-one happy hour. Located beachfront in the Spindrift Hotel. Phone 226-2002.

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CAYE COFFEE - Take a taste of our local ground fresh coffee back home. A wonderful cup of coffee makes such a great difference in your day. Try it and ask for more. 226-3568.

DALIA'S STORE - Fresh meats, and vegetables, groceries, liquors, and hardware items. Boca del Rio Area. Phone: 226-3286 Fax: 226-4074

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JUBILAND GIFTS & PARTY SHOP - Party Favors, Invitations, Piñatas, Holiday Decorations & More! Barrier Reef Drive - Phone 226-3400.

THE GREENHOUSE - Offering quality Belizean & imported fresh produce. A/C locale on Barrier Reef Drive. Phone 226-2084.

THE SAUSAGE FACTORY - Largest selection of smoked meats and sausage on the island. One mile south of town. 226-2655.

CAYE INTERNATIONAL BANK - Offering Demand Deposit Accounts, Loans, Savings Accounts, etc. cibl@btl.net or phone 226-2388.

Pan Dulce - A delightful way to start your day. Our fresh sweet breads and wonderful cakes make you want more. Call 226-3242.

ISLAND INTERNET CAFE - Write home, browse the web, or simply call your friends and relatives. Visit us. 226-3777.

TROPICAL TOUCH DAY MASSAGE - Relax and let the vacation begin. For appointments call us at 226-4666.

PROVIDENT BANK & TRUST - Offering a full range of International Banking Services. phone 223-5698 services@prov identbank.bz

OSCAR'S GYM - Free-weights, Pilates, basic Yoga, Balance Ball, Tae Bo and more. Affordable daily, weekly and monthly fees. Located in Boca del Rio 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily 226-2239.

Note to Advertisers

We hope that you will agree that this revised Visitor Guide is a great way to reach those visiting "La Isla Bonita." Free copies of the Visitor Guide will be offered to guests arriving to the island through the airlines and the resorts. Of course it will also be included in The San Pedro Sun. We will be contacting you to provide additional information about advertising, or feel free to contact us. This section will continue to grow and improve, thank you for your support and patience.

Be part of the
San Pedro Sun
Visitor Guide

Contact The San Pedro Sun
226-2070 spsun@sanpedrosun.net
for ad rates and availability



Reef Brief

by Green Reef Peace Corp
Volunteer, Kristen Stelljes



Sunscreen for Corals

We've all seen what happens when fair skinned people get a sunburn. There's a reason the Gumbo Limbo Tree is also known as the "Tourist Tree!" To prevent the painful red, peeling skin, people put on lots of sunscreen to protect themselves.

We've all also heard about the harmful effects of getting too much sun. Did you ever think that coral reefs need protection from the sun too?

You know that when the sea gets too warm, corals can bleach, but corals also need protection from the long-term effect of the sun's rays. Since corals like to live in clear, shallow waters, they are exposed to a lot of ultra-violet light over their lifetime. Corals also have to deal with the stress of having a lot of oxygen in the water that comes from the respiration of algae (including zooxanthellae!) and other sea plants. The combination of oxygen and intense sunrays can turn into a toxic combination for reefs. But, don't worry; the corals have a defense against these stressors.

Coral polyps produce Mycosporine-like Amino Acids (MMAs) that can absorb ultraviolet light. Polyps either get enough of these MMAs by making them by themselves or by getting them from their food. Either way, it makes an effective way to protect them against the strong tropical rays of the sun here in Belize. Scientists are even looking into MMAs to see if they can use them to make a new type of sunscreen for people.



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Government

Belize has been an independent nation since 1981. It is a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Ambergris Caye

Ambergris Caye is twenty-five miles long; its width ranges from a few hundred feet to over four miles. Northern Ambergris Caye is separated from the southernmost tip of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula by a small channel. After arriving in Belize City, a short fifteen minute airplane ride gets you to San Pedro, or if you would rather take the scenic route, an hour's boat ride will get you there as well.

Language

English is the official language and is widely spoken, as is Spanish. Other languages include Creole, Garifuna, Mayan and German.

Climate

Belize weather is characterized by two seasons: a rainy and a dry season. Most of the year's rainfall occurs during the period of June to November, that is, the rainy season. The average temperature varies from 81°F/ 27°C along the coast to 69°F/21°C in the hills. The coldest month is January while the highest temperatures are experienced during the month of May.

Cash & Currency

U.S. dollars are accepted as currency countrywide. The common exchange ratio is \$2BZ/\$1 U.S. Licensed moneychangers offer a slightly higher exchange rate, ranging from \$2.05BZ to \$2.12BZ, depending on the current market.

Nearly all hotels, restaurants and shops accept Visa, Master Card and travelers' checks. Street vendors and smaller establishments in remote areas may accept only cash or travelers' checks.

Sales Taxes

Belize's sales tax is set at 9% and it is applied to all goods and services, except for telecommunications. There is a 7% hotel tax. Some hotels also add a 10-15% "service charge" to the bill; inquire about this when checking hotel prices.

Transportation

The streets are sand, which is great for walking or bike riding. There are few cars; instead, the vehicles of choice are electric golf carts, which are available for rent. As tempting as it may be to have your child drive, please remember that all golf cart drivers MUST have a valid drivers license. Drive with caution, there are many speed bumps around the downtown area that are not marked and always be on the lookout for potholes. Taxi service is available everywhere south of Boca del Rio. Around town the average fee is \$7BZ. Some local business, as well as resorts, rent bicycles.

Telecommunications

All telecommunications services (direct dial phones, fax, telex, cable) are available. There are several "Internet Cafe's" on the island where you can access the internet through high-speed internet or satellite connections.



TAXI Tips

If you are need of a cab but all the vans look the same . . . then try looking at their license plates.

License plates are of different colors . . .

Green – cabs; Blue – government vehicles; and White – private. So, the next time you need a cab just look for the green plates!!!



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 ☐ Incredible View of The Beach From Your Table



The Phoenix – Bold in Design, Perfect Location, Endless Possibilities

Rising from the ruins of what was once The Paradise Resort Hotel, is one family's dream come true—The Phoenix. Located in the heart of "La Isla Bonita," this prime location has long been associated with the McDermott family. Often recognized as one of the pioneers of tourism in Ambergris Caye, Jerry McDermott arrived in Belize in the late 1960s. With the help of his wife, Linda, Jerry built The Paradise Resort Hotel, which was the second hotel on Ambergris Caye. The Paradise's dock and bar became a favorite among locals and tourists for the next 20 years. Visitors to the island enjoyed the rustic getaway that the thatched cabañas provided. In the late 1980s, in order to pursue other business opportunities and interests, the McDermotts sold The Paradise Resort Hotel. However, after several years, the desire to once again breathe life into their first business in Belize and bring it back to its original distinction grew stronger and stronger. Once the opportunity arose in 2004, Linda and Jerry proudly reclaimed The Paradise Resort Hotel.

During the past 20 years, the type of vacation experience that the McDermotts wanted to provide to visitors of the island has changed a great deal, much like the island itself. Borne from these years of planning is their next resort – The Phoenix, a luxurious condominium beachfront community and a one of a kind addition to Ambergris Caye. Assembling a team of trusted family members and friends, including their daughter Kelly, co-owner of the Blue Water Grill, the McDermotts began designing an unforgettable vacation experience, and ended up with a layout of 30 spacious condominiums spread across four residential buildings, nestled among lush green landscaping and many fountains and pools, that, in their own words, "...combines the privacy of an exclusive resort with proximity to charming San Pedro."

The Phoenix will bring a Central American flavor and feel to "La Isla Bonita." Inspired by the designs of Mexican architects Luis Barragan and Ricardo Legorreta, and designed by world-renowned industrial engineer and architect Guillermo Trotti, The Phoenix captures an architectural elegance never before seen in Ambergris Caye. "It was our dream, not only to create something beautiful but something that had never been done before," explained Kelly McDermott in an interview with *The San Pedro Sun*, "and having the opportunity to build something as beautiful as The Phoenix is a dream come true for all of us."

The design of the buildings of the resort utilizes strong, modern, geometric forms to create magnificent buildings. The exterior walls of the buildings will be 14-inches thick, and inset within these walls are deeply recessed windows, creating buildings with great presence that will resemble beautiful sculptures. Extremely large private verandas, extending from between eight feet to 17 feet from each residence towards the gardens and pools, will provide an exceptional opportunity to bask in the Caribbean getaway found in San Pedro. Meanwhile, innovative fountains will flow from each building into reflecting pools. "We thought we could use the island's occasional rainfall to our advantage by collecting rainwater and channeling it into mini-waterfalls throughout the property, creating pleasant sounds and a peaceful environment" stated Miss McDermott. The elegant beachfront resort will also have a circular main pool, a longer lap pool for visitors wanting exercise, and an additional children's pool for the younger guests. "We designed it in a way so that both adults and children will find comfort in their vacation," explained Miss McDermott.

The Phoenix will offer 30 residences and a variety floor plans, ranging from

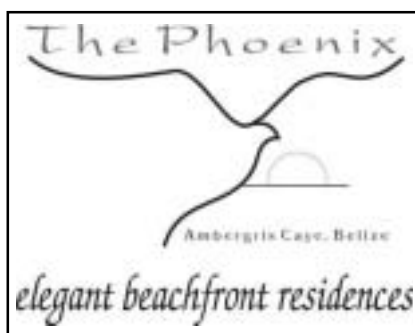


one to three bedroom condominiums. "Our floor plans are very different than most other condominiums found here on the island. First of all, they are much larger and each provides ample private balconies. Secondly, we placed all of the bedrooms in the front of the residences, rather than in the back. It is a little different than what people are used to in their home, but when guests wake up in the morning to the views and breezes of the Caribbean, they can enjoy the beautiful scenery that they came to find on Ambergris Caye," explained Kelly. Each residence is also designed to bring the outdoors "inside" through large floor-to-ceiling glass windows. "We did a tremendous amount of research not only to find well-built, beautiful windows that would provide the best views, but also to ensure they would be absolutely safe. We are using laminated glass in all of our windows, similar to the type used in car windshields. These are shatter proof and can withstand the strong winds and occasional flying objects in the case of a tropical storm or hurricane."

The Phoenix has been elegantly designed to provide residences with amazing amenities, such as ten foot ceilings, central air, Mexican travertine floors, granite kitchen countertops, marble bathroom countertops, Jacuzzi and separate shower in Master Baths, double vanities in Master Bath, hand crafted wood cabinetry and all interiors are fully furnished by experienced interior designers.

A resort boldly designed, situated in a perfection location, that offers visitors endless possibilities – all of this can now be found in the paradisaic settings of The Phoenix, making it one of the most impressive additions to "La Isla Bonita."

Construction of the resort is underway and the first group of condominiums will be complete in 2005, while the entire project is scheduled for completion in 2007. For further information on The Phoenix, kindly call (501) 226-2083, E-mail info@thephoenixbelize.com or visit their website at www.thephoenixbelize.com



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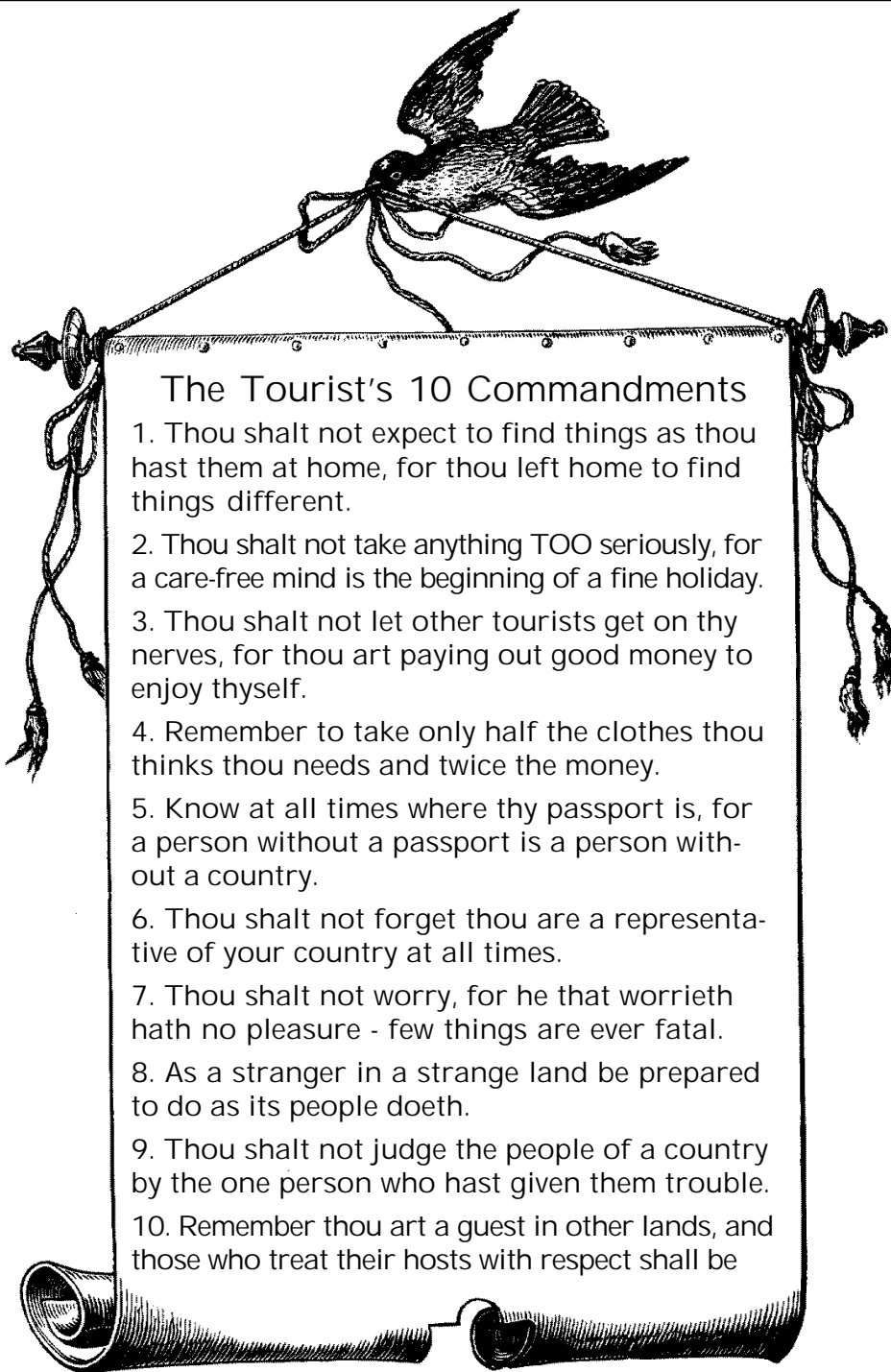
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The Tourist's 10 Commandments

1. Thou shalt not expect to find things as thou hast them at home, for thou left home to find things different.
2. Thou shalt not take anything TOO seriously, for a care-free mind is the beginning of a fine holiday.
3. Thou shalt not let other tourists get on thy nerves, for thou art paying out good money to enjoy thyself.
4. Remember to take only half the clothes thou thinks thou needs and twice the money.
5. Know at all times where thy passport is, for a person without a passport is a person without a country.
6. Thou shalt not forget thou are a representative of your country at all times.
7. Thou shalt not worry, for he that worrieth hath no pleasure - few things are ever fatal.
8. As a stranger in a strange land be prepared to do as its people doeth.
9. Thou shalt not judge the people of a country by the one person who hast given them trouble.
10. Remember thou art a guest in other lands, and those who treat their hosts with respect shall be



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Coco Beach Resort – Beachfront condos from \$290,000 US; 1 bed/1 bath off beach condos from \$145,000 US. A great opportunity to get into a project at ground level!

Belizean Shores – Located 3.5 miles north of San Pedro Town Center – beautiful resort – great investment! All units fully furnished. Upper and Lower units available. Price starting from \$185,000 US

Beachfront Home (A10) 1st level – 6 apts. 1 bdrm/1bath; 2nd level – 3 bdrm/1-1/2 bath; 3rd level – 2 bdrm/1 bath penthouse apt. Enjoy your view of the reef & the ocean breezes from your own palapa or snorkel & sun off your 100' dock. \$825,000 US.

Thunderbolt (R37) Well established water taxi service to Belize & Corozal. 2 boats, office, 2 houses, dock, large parcel, prime location & much more. \$800,000 US.

Resort/Apartments/Bar (S38) 17 split palm cabañas set in a lush tropical paradise with pool and bar offers endless opportunities for an income investment. \$429,000 US.

Raw Land

Palm Bay Club (M49) Lot #94 – 3rd row lot, 100' x 90'. \$16,000 US.

Punta Bajo (J24) 2.5 acres with 280' of beach front, western coast of Ambergris Caye. \$150,000 US.

Robles – Beachfront lots starting at \$39,900US.

Spanish Reef – lots off the beach starting at \$13,000 US.

Club Caribbean – beachfront lots starting at \$60,000 US.

Club Caribbean – off the beach lots starting at \$18,000 US.

Escalante – lots, approx 50' x 75'. Starting at \$30,000 US.

Eliey's Subdivision (F14) 4 adjacent lots each 60' x 80'. \$70,000 US for all four!

Caye Caulker (J25) 4 acres with 240' of beachfront, beautiful cleared and filled land. \$425,000 US.



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Dinner Reservations Recommended



Kids go crazy for crabs

As if swimming, snorkeling, sailing, sea kayaking and beach combing wasn't enough entertainment for a family vacationing on Ambergris Caye, children of all ages recently had the unique opportunity to participate in a series of Hermit Crab races. The annual races, held on New Years Day, took place at the lovely beachside resort, Journey's End.

Roger Cuss, activity director for the resort, told *The San Pedro Sun* that he first thought of the idea last year, when a little friendly wagering took place amongst the adults during the races. This year the event was strictly for kids, with prizes going to the winners of four separate races.

Each crab was identified with a sticker that had a number on it, and each child received a sticker with a corresponding number. Using a broom, Mr. Cuss drew a circular "race track" in the sand. The crabs were gathered up and then dispersed all at once in the center of the circle. The first crab to reach the outer circle won.

Children young and old, cheered for their designated crab while parents looked on and photographed the memorable moment. Everyone enjoyed the festive "Caribbean Kentucky Derby!"

The winners were Christian Bradey, age 10 from San Diego, CA, Elyssa Spitzer, age 15 from NY, NY, Chelsea Munoz, age 6 from San Pedro Town and Ben Fox, age 8 from Greenwich, CT. The *San Pedro Sun* congratulates all of the winners!

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★ restaurant ★

Guests will find a variety of selections, including such features as local giant stone crab claws, fresh fish from local fisherman, filet mignon with red wine and portabella mushroom sauce, and *The Stuffed Grouper*, homemade baked breads, and desserts such as key lime pie. So come, relax, and enjoy yourselves as the table, under that stars, is yours for the entire evening.

★ cabanas ★

While the focus at Capricorn is its fine food and good spirits Capricorn also features *only 3* cozy, private, air-conditioned cabanas right on the beach. Each cabana is complete with high ceilings, large private bath, shower made for 2, and a porch with its own hammock for relaxing! Any and all tours can be arranged! Breakfast is included. Beach bar is open all day everyday!

★ gift shop ★

Capricorn has expanded to include a uniquely distinctive gift shop, featuring original designed one of a kind jewelry made with stones from all over the world as well as local artists' jewelry and unique gifts.

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'Anytime' bar snacks served all day everyday ★ Closed Wednesday Nights Only
Reservations suggested 226-2809





Wolfe's Woofers by Dennis Wolfe

Where Are We?

"Caye Caulker sure is a pretty place," the tourist lady said to her husband. "Oh, it's a lovely little island," her husband said. "I don't think you're saying the name right, though. You are saying Caulker so that it sounds like c-a-u-l-k. I've heard that it's pronounced Caye Corker."

"Well, that's silly," the lady said. "Why would they spell it one way and pronounce it another?"

"I don't know," her husband said. "But at that real estate office we went to they had an old map on the wall and it was actually spelled Caye Corker. C-o-r-k-e-r."

I hunched over my book and sipped my coffee, pretending not to hear the conversation at the next table. One reason I like the Sandbox Restaurant is because it's a nice quiet place to enjoy my coffee before catching the water taxi back to San Pedro.

"Excuse me, sir," the lady said, catching my attention. "How do you say the name of this island?"

Since I had been disturbed, I decided to go ahead and mess with their brains a little bit.

"The real name of the island is Cayo Hicaco," I told them. "Hicaco means coco plum in Spanish."

"Now, I'm really confused," the lady said.

"Ah, I don't believe him anyway," the man said. "He looks like a natural born liar."

George Miller, the owner of the Sandbox, came strolling by as he made the rounds of his domain.

"Excuse me, sir," the lady said as she stopped him.

"Yes?" George said. "Can I help you?"

"Can you tell us exactly where we are?" she asked.

"Of course," George said. "You are. . ."

"Stop for a moment," the husband said. "Would you spell it out for us?"

George looked at the husband, then at the wife and looked at them again as if they were perhaps slightly touched.

"Sure," he said, finally. "T-h-e S-a-n-d-b-o-x."



Trivia Tidbits

Did you know that lobsters . . .

- Live in neighborhoods – and love to remodel their homes?
- Fight constantly – and play a deadly game of chicken called “claw lock”?
- Grow by ripping off their own skeletons – including the lining of their stomachs?
- Employ 20,000 eyes for detecting light – but still have terrible vision?
- Flirt with each other – by urinating in each other's faces?
- Dance during courtship – and make love in the missionary position?
- Hatch babies called “Super lobsters” – because they can fly underwater?
- Were once despised by humans as junk food?



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- ❖ **The Villa Turquesa at Mata Grande** designer 3 bedroom beach home with pier and optional adjoining beach lot \$975,000.
- ❖ **Caye Villas** – Beach villas with pool.
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 2 beds, 3 baths, fully furnished \$395,000.
- ❖ **Beach Cabin** on 60ft x 106ft lot, 5 miles north - \$199,000 – under contract.
- ❖ **Casa Flores** Income producing triplex on double lot. \$395,000.

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- ❖ **IN TOWN BEACH LOT!** Commercial or residential, \$490,000.
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- ❖ **Mata Chica area** 2 acres on the beach, 132 ft frontage \$396,000.
- ❖ **Mata Grande** 100ft x 200ft beachfront, \$225,000 – under contract.
- ❖ **Boca Ciega** beach lot, 75ft x 130 ft, \$150,000.
- ❖ **Punta Arenas** 200ft beachfront, 3 acres, \$425,000 – under contract.
- ❖ **Mata Chica area** 132 ft beachfront, \$396,000.
- ❖ **Playa Blanca** beach lot, 60ft x 106ft, \$140,000.
- ❖ **Rocky Point** 2 x 1250ft, 15-acre, beachfront parcels.
- ❖ **Boca Ciega 4.5 acres** 170ft beachfront. \$350,000.
- ❖ **Buena Vista Point** ocean view, 75ft x 150ft, \$94,000.
- ❖ **Palm Bay Club** beach lot, 50ft x 100ft. \$35,000 terms.
- ❖ **Laguna Estates** Oceanfront, 60ft x 100ft, terms.
- ❖ **Laguna Estates** Ocean view lots from \$20,000.
- ❖ **Caribbean Coves** 300ft Oceanfront \$50,000.
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