

THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR GUIDE

The Island Newspaper
Ambergris Caye, Belize
Central America

January 13, 2005



FREE



Let the wind set your course

Let the sails catch the wind and take you away on any number of adventures from the shores of Ambergris Caye. The steady breeze combined with abundant sunshine and water offers the visitor countless opportunities for fun and relaxation.

This week, we'll take you on a day-trip aboard a luxurious catamaran to where the reef meets the shore. We'll also arouse your appetite as we enjoy the ancient Mayan recipes offered in one of San Pedro's most unique settings.

This Visitor Guide will provide you information so that you will have the best experience possible while visiting "La Isla Bonita."



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Where did you read your San Pedro Sun?



Jeanette Meyers took her *San Pedro Sun* to Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles while she was on a diving trip over the Christmas holiday.

Where did you take your *San Pedro Sun & Visitor Guide*? Take a photo of you and the paper and send it to us at: spsun@sanpedrosun.net. Photos taken in unique and unusual places are preferred. Be sure to identify who is in the photo and where the photo was taken.

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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Good Things To Know About San Pedro Town & Belize

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. 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.

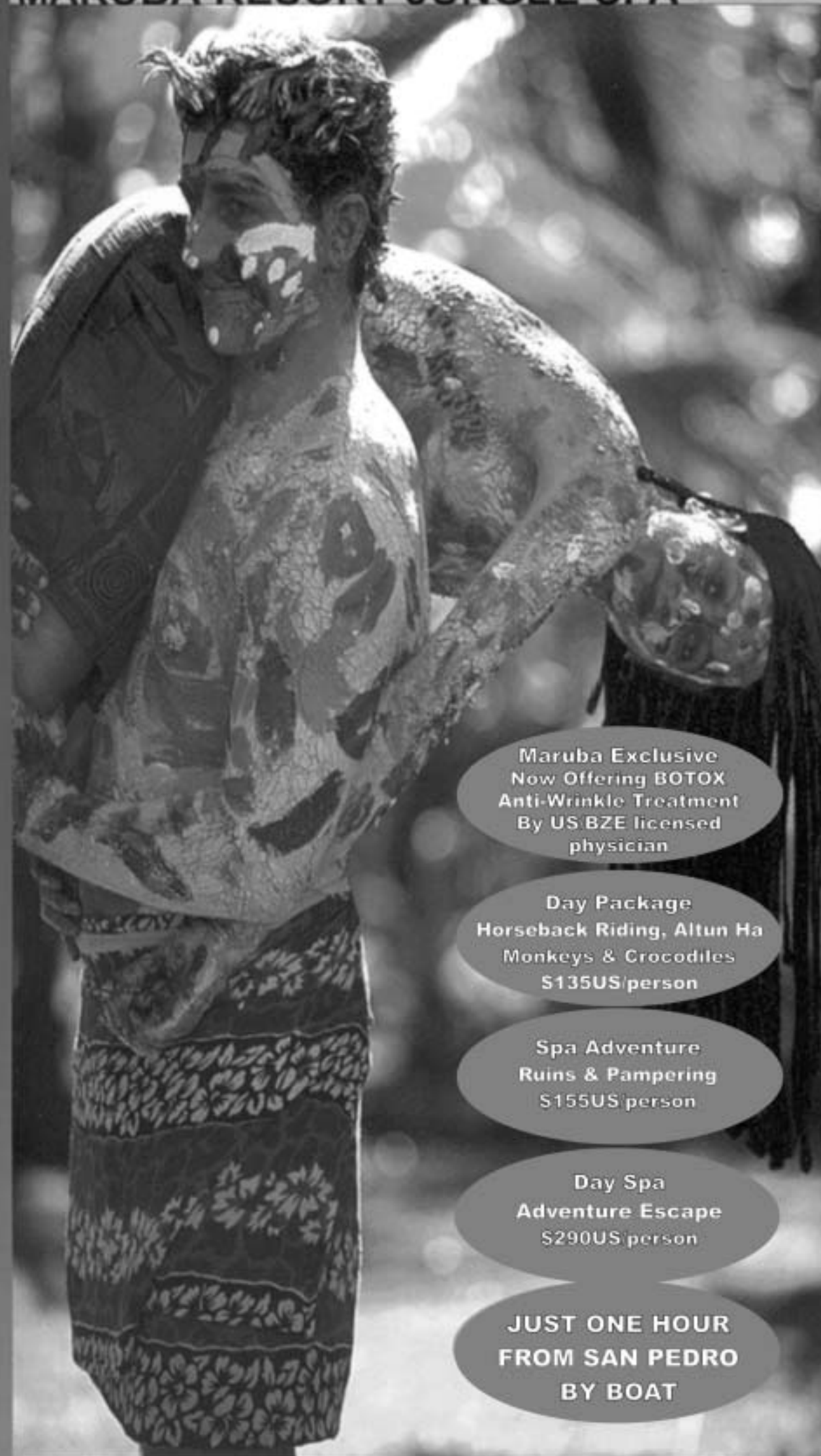
Telecommunications

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.

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Be Sure Not To Miss...

☉ Cuisine

It's as varied and rich as the many cultures that together make up Belize. Belizean food can be as peppery and fiery as the heat of the tropical sun, or as cool and refreshing as the crystal clear Caribbean waters that wash the Belizean shores. There are many restaurants specializing in fresh seafood (lobster and conch are plentiful and inexpensive when in season) and the Belizean national dish (spicy stewed chicken, served with a delicious rice and bean combination cooked with coconut milk.) Mexican, Italian, and Chinese food are also available, as well as pizza. The best bargains in town are the freshly made tacos, rice and beans sold by the street vendors in the evenings, and the Lions Club steak and chicken barbecue held every Friday and Saturday night. Customary tipping is no less than 10% of your bill.



☉ Water Sports

The clear turquoise waters (which average 79-84 degrees) and the proximity of the barrier reef make Ambergris Caye a favorite destination for divers and snorkelers. The most popular destination is Hol Chan Marine Reserve, located four miles southeast of San Pedro. The ocean floor ranges from five to thirty five feet, so both divers and snorkelers have the opportunity like an underwater colorful tropical fish of beautiful coral formations. The "cut" (channel) leading out to sea functions as a "fish freeway" for many of the larger fish, including giant groupers, barracuda, sea turtles and nurse sharks, a timid and unaggressive shark species.



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Other nearby dive/snorkel locations include Mexico Rocks, Palmetto Reef, Sandy Point Reef, San Pedro Cut and Coral Gardens.

A favorite of both scuba divers and snorkelers is the Sand Bar, more often referred to as Shark and Ray Alley. Hundreds of stingrays of all sizes meet here, often accompanied by families of nurse sharks. Shark Ray Alley is not far from Hol Chan, and only a few minutes by boat from San Pedro.

There are many fishing guides on the island who can provide you with a rewarding day on the water, and each month offers a unique fishing opportunity. Other water sports available are wind surfing, parasailing, sailing and jet skiing.

☉ Day Trips



Local tour guides offer a wide variety of day trips. Often half the fun is the adventure of just getting to your destination point! Some favorite

trips include manatee watching, bird watching, exploring Mayan ruins, trips to the Mainland, snorkeling and beach barbecues. Your hotel should be able to help you arrange a day trip or you can check with the many tour shops downtown.

☉ Night life

The town has several bars and two full-fledged discos for dancing. San Pedro is a laid-back town, and most of the activity happens near the waterfront.

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CURRENT LISTINGS

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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.

New Catamaran Day-trip will SEAduce you!

A new day-trip available to visitors offers the chance to ride the wind that constantly caresses the shores of “La Isla Bonita.” SEAduced has added to their fleet of boats a 38 foot Fountaine Pajot Athena Catamaran, appropriately named *SEAduction*.

Elito and Rebecca Arceo, the owners of SEAduced by Belize, invited us along on a day trip as they took visitors on a tour to the north end of the island.

The day begins at 8:15 a.m. on the dock at Ramon’s Village. The only supplies passengers need to bring are snorkeling equipment, sunscreen and towels. All the food and beverages are provided.

The passengers arrive on the dock. Anticipation mounts as we watch the crew prepare the vessel for the day. Then, the “all aboard,” is given. One by one, we step from the dock on to the shiny white deck of



SEAduction, a 38 foot catamaran, is the newest addition to the SEAduced fleet of boats.

the boat. The large expanse of the wide catamaran offers many choices to sit and get comfortable as the journey begins. The children quickly settle on the trampoline, which is the net that spreads across the front of the boat. From that vantage point the children literally fly, safely suspended over the clear waters below.

The crew pushes off the large craft as the two diesel engines begin to hum as Captain Elito navigates around the dock. Once safely in the boat lane, Elito turns the vessel almost directly into the wind which is blowing from the northeast. Then, the huge sail is raised up the fifty-foot mast. Since we are going into the wind, the sail is not used to provide propulsion, but to stabilize the craft on the slightly choppy waters. Elito explains that the distance between the reef and shore is too narrow to safely provide an avenue to tack against the wind. The plan today is to motor north, and then let the wind bring us back on the return trip.

Gradually we maneuver north while passengers become acquainted with each other. Some talk about the ice storm they are missing back home. Others talk about their travels and returning home to South Africa. Unlike other boats, this vessel is so quiet, it allows for comfortable conversation without the need to yell over the roar of engines.

As we continue our journey, the shoreline gives way to undeveloped property dotted by majestic resorts and homes. The water offers the classic turquoise, green and blue hues that exemplify the Caribbean Sea.

In a moment, the anchor’s away and the adventurers prepare to explore the underwater world of the reef. Moored just north of Mexico Rocks, Captain Elito jokingly calls this area “Elito’s Reef.” The aft

section of the catamaran allows for easy access into the sea. Parents help their children ease into the water while more adventurous children perform classic cannon balls jumping from the forward section.

First time snorkler, Peggy from Kansas, USA, is a bit apprehensive about the whole experience. Elito patiently explains to her how to wear the mask and use the snorkel. He is one of the first in the water and leads the group while pulling a safety ring on a rope. Many of the less experienced snorklers closely follow him, and soon grow more comfortable in their

Continued on Page 13



The catamaran’s large deck offers ample room to sunbathe and relax.



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www.ambergriscaye.com/birdsbelize by Elbert Greer

Ambergrisian Shorebirds – Charadriiformes

Early each morning, I walk down to the beach, and all along the shoreline troops of small shorebirds scurry along the water’s edge, looking for food. Shorebirds, which include Sandpipers, Plovers and Stilts, are tough to identify. Ambergris has the Black-necked Stilt, about six species of plovers and possibly twenty species of



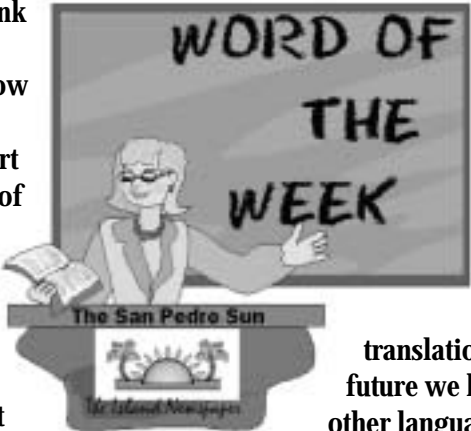
Ruddy Turnstones

sandpipers. Most shorebirds are small, like a sparrow or a medium-sized robin, with slender bills for probing in the mud or sand, and slender legs for wading.

Hundreds of different patterns on these birds make it almost impossible to identify them. Don’t be discouraged, just try to answer, is it a sandpiper or plover. Plovers are generally smaller than sandpipers with shorter, thicker bills and have a behavior of run and stop, run and stop, looking for food in the wave action on the beach. They eat crustaceans and small marine life as they go. Sandpipers have longer, slimmer bills and behave more independently than the flocking plovers. They are generally taller and are in a different family called Scolopacidae. Plovers are in a family known as Charadriidae. The Black-necked Stilt as you might remember from Bubbas ‘Idiots Guide to Ornithology’ has a black neck and looks like its walking on stilts. One of my favorite sandpipers is a bird that all of the bird books say isn’t found here. I find them in and around the fresh water ponds, deeper in the Littoral forest away from the beach. It’s called the ‘Dowitcher’. I see them usually in pairs and only during this time of year, when the northern wind blows. This allows you to take walks to the back of the island, unmolested by heat and mosquitoes. Their comical walk is hard to describe but it seems the head and neck jut forward with every step.

My little friends I see on the dock each morning, to the best of my ability, are Plovers called ‘Ruddy Turnstones’. Most Plovers sleep in flocks and lay eggs right atop the sand in the low grasses on the beach crest’s slope. Bubba likes to run up the dock and make them all fly. I suppose he’s studying their flight. As they leave, their sharp voices say, “kek, kek, kek, kek, kek,” and they display a striking, contrasting brown and white upper and lower wing pattern. I should put Bubba in charge of showing me how birds fly away!

Language can link us with other cultures, no matter how foreign the tongue may be. In an effort to share this form of communication with our audience, The San Pedro Sun proudly presents its newest addition to the weekly paper – Words of the



Week. In Words of the Week, we will present a few words in English and give you their Spanish and Garinagu translations. In the near future we hope to include other languages that may interest our valued readers! Enjoy!!!

ENGLISH	SPANISH	CREOLE
Where is the restaurant?	Donde esta el restaurante?	Weh di reschant deh?
Where is the bathroom?	Donde esta el baño?	Weh di tailit deh?
Where is the grocery store?	Donde esta la tienda?	Weh di shap deh?

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Caroline’s Full Service Pool-side Grill



New resort shows its "colors"

One of the most picturesque beach front settings in all of Belize is now home to one of "La Isla Bonita's" newest resort, restaurant and bar. Azul Resort and Rojo Lounge is located five and a half miles north of San Pedro. Recently *The San Pedro Sun* joined many guests who were invited to tour the much awaited property.

Jeff Spiegel, Vivian Yu and Kathy Oravac were very gracious hosts to the dozens of guests who arrived throughout the night by boat. The young, energetic owners have left no detail unattended in this development. From the 24 foot high cathedral ceilings in the Villas, to the unique offerings on the bar menu, everything they have done is extraordinary and unique.

Currently the Lounge is open, and serves a wide assortment of signature drinks, such as the spicy "Rojo Poison" and "Frozen Mojitos."

Although the restaurant will open soon, the lounge is already serving a variety of delectable munchies.

There is much anticipation for the opening of the restaurant, which provides outdoor dining under a huge thatched palapa. The restaurant menu boasts tropical cuisine designed to encourage "social eating" featuring such items as plantain crusted shrimp with papaya-pineapple-chili dipping sauce and mint-marinated lobster-pineapple skewers. An extensive wine list accompanies the menu, featuring numerous California wines exclusively offered in Belize by the Rojo Lounge. A wonderful desert menu, featuring home made tropical ice creams put the finishing touches on this exquisite menu.

The Azul Resort offers "relaxed luxury" with all the amenities. The open floor plan combines tropical aesthetics, featuring beautiful local hardwoods, with sophisticated modern conveniences, such as wireless Internet, plasma TV's and Viking kitchen stoves. A walk up the spiral staircase to the rooftop patio reveals a vast starscape, complete with hot tub and day bed. The resort plans to begin accepting guests in mid February.

The San Pedro Sun commends Jeff, Vivian, Kathy and their staff for providing this exquisite addition to "La Isla Bonita."



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Tourist Information

Belize Tourism Board - 223-1910.

Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA) - 227-5717.

San Pedro Tourist Guide Association 226-2391.

Church Services

San Pedro Roman Catholic Church Sun. Mass: 9 a.m. English; 11 a.m. Children's; 7:30 p.m. Spanish; Sat.: Confessions 5-7 p.m.; Mass or Communion Service every night at 7:30 p.m.

Living Word Church Service Sun. 10:45 a.m. Bible study Mon. 7:30 p.m. We do Christian charity work. 226-2950.

Assembly of God Church on Angel Coral St. Marriage Counseling/Prayer Line. Call 226-3767/2913 - Services T-W-Sat.-Sun. at 7:30 p.m. Christian Radio FM 101.3.

IMPORTANT #s

Emergency 911

Crimestoppers 922

Police 226-2022

Fire 226-2372

Wings of Hope - Medical emergency air ambulance. Phone: 223-3292.

Lions Health Clinic - 226-4052; emergencies 603-1755 or Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8am to 8pm; Sat., 8am - noon.

Los Pinos Clinic 602-6383 and 226-2686.

Hyperbaric Chamber - 226-2851, Dr. Otto Rodriguez - 600-0287 or 226-2854. Antonia Guerrero - 600-5475 or 206-2152. Eleazar Portillo - 610-4560 or 226-3195.

San Pedro Health Center - 226-2536. 8-12 and 2-5, Mon. to Fri. Emergencies 226-2555/2918 or 606-3864.

US Embassy - 227-7161

Canadian Consulate - 223-1060

Mexican Embassy - 223-0193

Guatemalan Embassy - 223-3150

Honduran Embassy - 224-5889

Miscellaneous

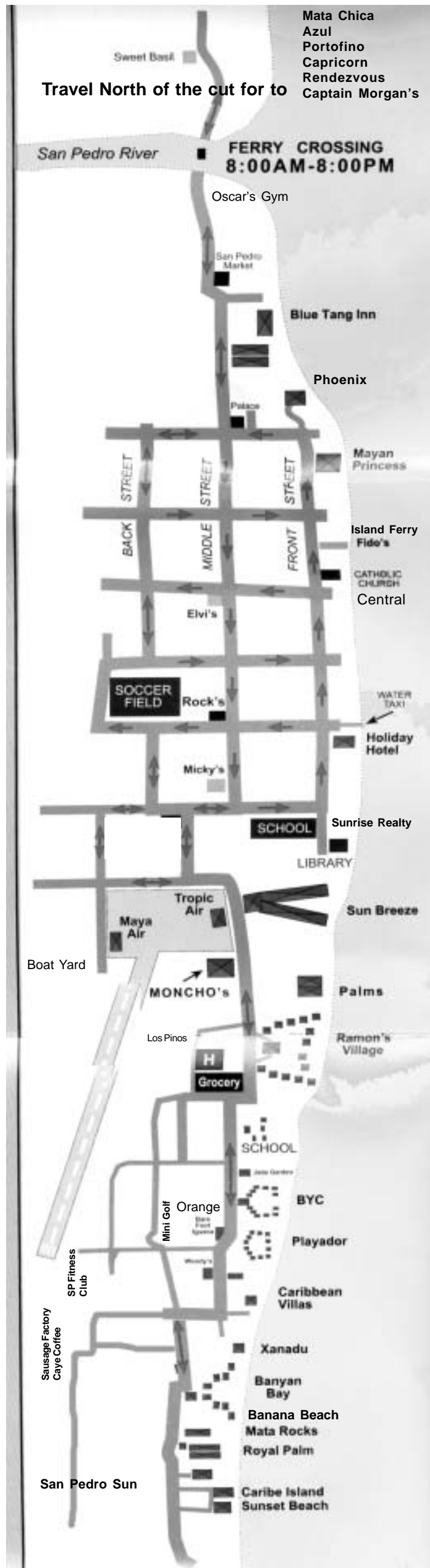
The Lions Club of San Pedro relies on income from its Friday and Saturday Night BBQ to support the needy community. Help a great cause -have dinner with us!

Green Reef

A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of sustainable use and conservation of Belize's marine and coastal resources. greenreef@btl.net

Saga Society

A non-profit "humane society" to address the stray cat and dog population in San Pedro. Phone 226-3266.



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SUNRISE REALTY - Land, homes, businesses, condos and investment properties. Call 226-3737, fax 226-3379 or E-mail: info@SunriseBelize.com

SOUTHWIND PROPERTIES - For all your Real Estate needs. Call 226-2005 or 226-2060 for information or E-mail: southwind@btl.net for current listings.

PELICAN PROPERTIES LTD. - Fine properties on Ambergris Caye. E-mail: info@pelicanbelize.com or phone 226-3234.

CASA CAYO REAL ESTATE - Serving Belize from the mountains to the reef. Phone 226-2791.
www.casacayo.com

Transportation...

ISLAND FERRY SERVICE & WATER TAXI - Scheduled ferry service & water taxi for Ambergris Caye. Phone 226-3231.

MONCHO'S GOLF CART RENTALS - Four & Six seater golf carts available. Open daily 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. We deliver to your room. 226-3262 or 226-4490.

JOE'S BIKE RENTALS - Located on middle street. Offers bicycles of all sizes, kids to adults.

Services...

KRYSTAL SHIPPING CO./MASH CO. - We deliver construction supplies all the way to Robles Point! Phone 226-2089 or E-mail: mashco@btl.net

CASTILLO'S HARDWARE - Storm supplies, electronics, household appliances, tools, home repair items and a wide variety of paints, stains and varnishes. Pescador Drive. Phone 226-2302.

WALLY'S ELECTRICAL SERVICE AND SUPPLY - Air conditioning, electrical and plumbing, parts and service. Phone 226-2408.

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THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR'S GUIDE



Dining Out...



MATA CHICA - Mambo Cuisine - for food lovers. Homemade pasta, shrimp paté, bruschetta, charbroiled seafood and much more! Call 220-5010/5011.

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 Bannan 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.

RENDEZVOUS RESTAURANT AND BAR - Thai and French fusion cuisine on the beach. Try our Rendezvous Estate house wine and extraordinary homemade bread. Phone 226-3426.

CAPTAIN MORGAN'S RETREAT - Savor a taste of *Temptation Island*. Underneath a starry night enjoy the exquisite meals prepared by our expert chefs. A small boat ride takes you to one of San Pedro's guilty pleasures.

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.

PAULY'S PIZZA - The best pizzas in town. Also great subs, calzones, chicken wings, cinnamon and garlic sticks. Seven days a week. 226-2651.

ELVI'S KITCHEN - Whether you're craving crab claws, lobster, calamari, scallops, mussels, fresh water lobster, shrimp, conch, or fish, Elvi's is "Di Place" for seafood. Call us at 226-2176.

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.

Unique Offerings...

ISLAND MINI GOLF & ICE CREAM - Sea Grape Drive (1 block W of Barefoot Iguana). Open Mon. - Thurs. 12 - 9 p.m.; Fri. - Sun. 12 - 10 p.m.

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

WINE de VINE - Fine imported wines and cheeses. Olive oils, vinegars and specialty items. Located in the Vilma Linda Plaza on Tarpon St. Phone 226-3430.

BIG TREE PRODUCE - Fresh Local & Imported Fruits & Vegetables. Seafood, meats, juices & milk shakes. Pescador Dr. 226-2322.

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



A taste of Mayan culture

Mayan ancestry is an important part of the Belize experience. Mayan heritage lives today in over half the population of Ambergris Caye. During your visit to "La Isla Bonita" many of the people who will greet you, feed you and dive with you have Mayan blood running in their veins. Learning more about this ancient culture is not only fascinating it can be delicious! In an effort to keep the Mayan cuisine and dishes alive, the management of the world-famous Elvi's Kitchen has created a Grand Maya Buffet, consisting of traditional Mayan dishes. The Grand Maya Buffet is served each Friday night and gives visitors and locals alike the unique and tasty opportunity to dine on these ancient recipes.

In 1996, Jenny Staines, daughter of owner Elvia Staines and who was once the head chef at Elvi's, participated in a weeklong course, Cocina Mayan II, which focused on the ancient Mayan people and their cuisine. The course was facilitated by the Belize Tourism Board in Belize City and took place at the Instituto de Gastronomía in Cozumel, Mexico. According to Jenny, the course allowed her to share what she already knew about Mayan cooking and to learn more about the history of the people and their food. Jenny used the knowledge she acquired to develop the variety of dishes served at the buffet.

The sights and smells that greet you when you enter the restaurant are an inviting combination of fine dining and jungle comfort. Tiled floor meets sand as you step into the large open dining room. The room, housed under the large thatched roof of a grand Palapa, is accented with beautiful native wood and warm lights. There is no missing the huge Flamboyant tree that once grew in the middle of the room. The tree, which has been a part of Elvi's Kitchen for 25 years, did not survive Hurricane Keith in 2000 and is now a beautifully polished

centerpiece, decorated with accent lights. A newly remodeled back room offers intimate dining for private parties or large groups. The friendly staff, dressed in pressed white shirts, attend to your every need.

The Grand Maya Buffet menu varies, and the staples like chicken, pork and fish, are prepared in a different recipe weekly. Last Friday, the menu consisted of many Mayan delicacies. The buffet began with Puchero soup served in small pottery bowls. The soup, which consists of chicken, beef and pork, has a broth that is lightly seasoned with cinnamon, clove and allspice. The baked plantains, served on the side, complemented the soup perfectly.



The buffet offered fresh fruit beautifully displayed as a centerpiece on wooden skewers and the tamalitos (small tamales) were wrapped in banana leaves, the inside filled with Chaya, which is a Belizean type of spinach. The Pibil pork is one of the most traditional of all Mayan dishes and is very popular. Pibil is a method of seasoning, burying and cooking meat under ground. The meat is seasoned, wrapped in banana leaves, and placed over scorching coals and rocks in a hole dug in the ground. It is lean, shredded and served in a flavorful tomato, onion and pepper sauce.

The sautéed Yuca (or Cassava), is sometimes referred to as the Mayan potato, and has a similar texture and flavor. The Coconut Chipotle fish was served in a sweet and smoky sauce, the subtle tastes mixed in perfect harmony. The fresh corn and flour tortillas are prepared at the buffet table, and are patted out on a banana leaf and then toasted on a Comal, which is a flat iron skillet that is heated with an open flame below. Other delicacies offered were Mayan chicken, cilantro rice, and Pico de Gallo. Aromatic Café de Olla was served and the flan and coconut tarts were refreshing and light desserts after a filling and satisfying meal.



One customer at the buffet, Rhonda from Ohio, USA, has been vacationing to "La Isla Bonita" for 12 years. She told *The San Pedro Sun* that it was her first time to try the Grand Maya Buffet and she commented, "It is such a great opportunity to try something different. I plan to bring my daughter here when she visits next year." Some of Rhonda's favorite foods were the fish, tortillas, tamales and the coffee.

Mrs. Amparo Gutierrez, administrator at Elvi's told *The San Pedro Sun* that they have been serving the Maya Buffet every week. "We wanted to offer our guests a completely unique and delicious dining experience while keeping these traditional recipes alive," said Mrs. Gutierrez, "Many people just love the whole dining experience." To add to the ambience Pablo Collado performs live Mayan flute music for the guests on a monthly bases. When he is not performing, music from his CD's are played.

The San Pedro Sun highly recommends the Grand Maya Buffet, and it is one of many dining experiences not to be missed while visiting "La Isla Bonita." For more information please call Elvi's Kitchen at 226-2176 or visit their website at www.elviskitchen.com

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Manatee & Snorkeling Adventure
Fishing, Snorkeling & Beach Bar-B-Que



Over 18 Years Experience with Willie Leslie, Local Licensed Guide

The Brujo loses his ears

Folklore is any of the beliefs, customs, and traditions that people pass on from generation to generation. Much folklore consists of fairy tales, folk tales, legends, myths, nursery rhymes, proverbs, riddles and superstitions.

Folklore is as old as humanity. Written records left by the earliest peoples include examples of folklore. As soon as a people develop a writing system, they begin to record folk stories. However, folklore does not have to be written down. Much folklore is passed orally from person to person. Even today, many peoples do not have a written language, but they have folk songs, legends, myths, and other kinds of folklore.

The San Pedro Sun embraces the many cultures that make up our community and we recognize the importance of preserving our heritage. Unfortunately, as generations age some of this is lost. Through the Lizard Tales column, our readers will enjoy some of this colorful folklore while in turn we will be preserving these tales for future generations.

Do you or someone you know have a story, myth, superstition that has been passed on from generation to generation? If you would like to share your story, please contact us!

When it got there, it turned back into a man. He sat down and began to laugh. When he went back home, everyone was upset and told him about the jaguar. He just laughed because he had played this trick on his family just to scare them.

I heard about another woman whose husband was working late at night. She was asleep alone in her bed. Suddenly, she was awakened by an animal, which was on top of her. The animal had her by the neck. She screamed and screamed, but the animal would not let go. She reached up and grabbed the animal by the ears. When the animal jumped up to run away, she held onto its ears and ripped them off. She threw the ears on the floor beside the bed and ran outside with the other family members to search for the animal. The animal disappeared. No one could ever find it. When she got back to the house and looked for the ears, she saw that they had turned into a pair of slippers.

From the Hagerty collection. Narrated by a 35-year-old woman from Corozal Town, Corozal District, 1978.

Tip of the Week

Up for a little sightseeing? Well, bicycling is always fun! Cross the ferry over to the north side of the island. Lots of lovely residences, resorts, bars and restaurants are scattered over the north side of Ambergris Caye. Get out of town and relax while cycling up the coast.

The Dior



World Famous Chicken Drop



Fantastic Caribbean Folklore

Lizard Tales

8 pm - 2239 ize.com

ie Gym 15 pm

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Explore the beautiful north end of the island & visit the prettiest and tastiest restaurant on Ambergris Caye! Walk, bike or golf cart NORTH through town and cross on the ferry at the river. Or call us for a great deal on a water taxi.

Open Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Telephone 226-3870

Tuesday Nights... Friday Nights... Sunday Mornings...

Beach Bar-B-Que From 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Pool-Side Dining with Chicken, Pork-Chops, lobsters and fish



LIVE MUSIC From 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm Tuesday & Friday nights

Ramon's Caribbean Fiesta From 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm



Breakfast Buffet on The Veranda From 7:00 am to 11:00 am

Music by Barbara Alfonso Brown

Incredible View of The Beach From Your Table





RAMON'S VILLAGE

SAN PEDRO, BELIZE

www.ramonsvillage.com e-mail: info@ramonsvillage.com

The Island's Leading Resort Facility

Phone: 226-2071



The San Pedro Sun's Virtual Taste Trip

Coconut Shrimp

This week, try a taste of the Caribbean by combining two of our most favorite foods, coconut and shrimp! This recipe is quick and easy, enjoy!!!

MIX coconut, flour, salt and pepper. Dip shrimp in egg; roll in coconut mixture.

HEAT oil in large deep skillet on medium heat to 325°F.

ADD shrimp; cook 3 to 4 minutes on each side or until golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Serve with lemon wedges or a sauce, if desired.



1 cup Baker's
Angel Flake Coconut
¼ cup flour
1 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper
1 lb. cleaned shrimp
1 egg, slightly beaten
Oil for frying

the Stained Glass Pub
A British-American Bar, Grill
and Wine Bar

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Condos/Homes & Commercial Property

Mayan Princess - Located in the heart of San Pedro. Well-maintained, good management. Starting at \$110,000 US.

Exotic Caye Resort - Located 1 mile south of town center, this resort is situated on a gorgeous stretch beach. Thatched roof buildings give you that "tropical" feel. Condos start at \$100,000 US.

Secluded piece of Paradise (R40) Small home on 3.5 acres with more than 600' of beachfront on the western coast of Ambergris Caye. \$275,000 US.

Middle St Home (P36) Fenced lot with 4 BR, 1 BA upstairs and lower level suited for commercial use. \$225,000 US.

San Pablo Rentals (G10) Prime rental property offering six fully equipped units. Beautiful, spacious first class owners quarters. A deal at \$165,000 US.

Punta Azul (H-5) Punta Azul. ot measuring 60' X 50' with cute cabana, only 150 feet off the beach. Lot#19 \$24,000 US.

Raw Land

Rocky Point (G16) 3,000 ft of beachfront property including all of Rocky Point. A beautiful piece of property where the wave's crash & the reef is at your doorstep. \$3.5 Million US.

Ambergris Bay (G26) 60' of beachfront and 80' of lagoon front on the west coast of Ambergris Caye. Price \$60,000 US.

El Tesoro (O8) One beautiful lot available in El Tesoro. 12B is only one row off the lagoon and three rows off the beach. The lot is 75' x 75'. \$50,000 US.

Santa Fe - 5.5 miles north - 3 side-by-side second row lots accessible by boat and golf cart and within electricity. Each lot approximately 70' x 180'. \$55,000 US each.

Palm Bay Club (C41) Lot #111 - 4th row lot, 100' x 100'. Only \$18,000 US.

Corozal Town Center (R31) 7 ½ Acres of prime real estate, road accessible on 3 sides, beautiful mature trees, cleared & ready to develop all amenities available. \$100,000 US.

San Marcos (R29) 50 X 90 - Price is Right at \$38,000 US.

Eden Isle (R27) Caye Caulker Lot #407 - 75' x 90' - 4th row lot, but only 285' off.

EXPERIENCE FINE DINING

NEXT TO THE PIER AT
CARIBE ISLAND RESORT
BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER
and Featuring
SUNDAY BRUNCH
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Huevos Motuleños	Eggs Sardou
Eggs Benedict	Banana Pancakes
Omelettes	French Toast
Ham Steak with Eggs	

All dishes above served with a pastry and a mimosa.

PHONE 226-3635 3 MILES SOUTH OF TOWN

Dinner Reservations Recommended



SEAduction

Continued from Page 5

new environment. They eagerly tread through the pristine waters, where the fish and coral are abundant and the area offers many crevices and canals to explore. Unlike many popular snorkeling spots along the reef, we are the only ones enjoying this area. After an hour or so, we climb aboard where cold beverages and snacks await us. The anchor is pulled, and the journey north continues. As we progress, the reef to the east gradually moves closer to shore.

A short time later, we dock at an area called Basil Jones. This small development on the beach with a checkered past, provides a pleasant location for beach barbeque. While the SEAduced staff prepares the meal, the guests wander the beach. The most striking aspect about this area is how close the reef is to shore. While sitting peacefully, the roar of the waves provide hypnotic entertainment. The children frolic along the beach and couples casually explore the beach, walking out of site.

Soon, a huge pot of stewed fish is brought to the picnic table along with foil wrapped chicken and potatoes. Rice, pasta salad and tortillas round out the meal. Everyone eats their fill of the delicious, local cuisine. Sodas, beer and rum punch flow freely. After lunch, beach blankets are spread out, and the hammocks gently rock for a little siesta. Before long, the Captain invites everyone back on board for the trip south.

When the sail goes up, the wind pulls against the ropes. The vessel surges with the wind. Now, powered completely by the wind, we soar south. While aboard, it is not hard to imagine the majesty of the massive clippers that once roamed these waters, the wind full in their huge billowing sails. Coasting with the wind, the voyage is even quieter than before. "The efficiency of using wind-power is one of the advantages of this trip," comments Rebecca.

We make another stop on the way back to town to snorkel at Mexico Rocks, and then leisurely we continue our voyage. The kids enjoy playing cards or checkers inside the cabin to pass the time. Just as the sun hovers above the horizon, we glide back into town. We comment that we feel far less wind-swept or jostled than from other motor-boat trips. We exchange e-mail addresses with fellow passengers before disembarking. Everyone is radiant from the wonderful adventure on the sea.

Thanks to SEAduced for the wonderful opportunity to share this experience with our readers. *The San Pedro Sun* highly recommends this outing for adventurers of all ages. It is particularly family oriented with lots of places on board for children to explore and get-away. It is reasonably priced and the crew is very friendly and accommodating.

SEAduced offers many other day trips. You can schedule a trip by calling 226-2254 or by visiting their office at the Vilma Linda Plaza.



Checkers, cards and other games give children aboard SEAduction many options while sailing along the coast.



A traditional lunch is served on the remote beach on the northern end of the island.



resort ★ restaurant ★ bar

tranquilo best describes this cozy, intimate resort nestled in its own private, beautiful cove just 3 miles north from the charming town of San Pedro.



★ 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.

Lunch served daily 11-2pm ★ Dinner 6-9pm

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



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7:00am - 10:00am

11:30am - 10:00pm

Boca del Rio

Phone 226-2047



Reef Brief

by Green Reef Peace Corp
Volunteer, Kristen Stelljes



Community New Year's Eve Clean Up

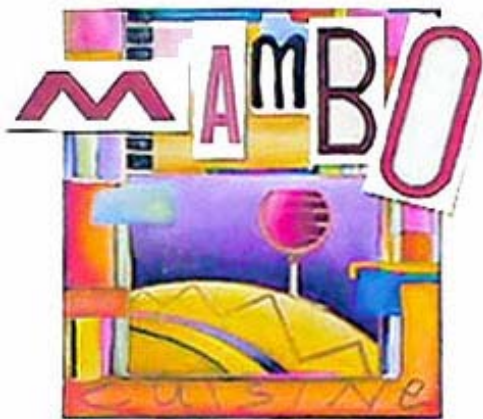
Even though it was the last day of the year, more than 30 volunteers took the time to do something good for San Pedro and the environment this New Year's Eve. From 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, a group of volunteers cleaned the mangroves from the San Juan Area to Boca del Rio. Members of the Guardians of the Reef Environmental Club, Peace Corps Volunteers, community members, and even a tourist worked to give San Pedro a cleaner environment for the New Year and helped make this clean-up a success. Participants filled many garbage bags, which were left at designated stops along the way. Everyone put in a lot of effort and got deep into the mangroves to try to get as much garbage as they could.

This clean up would not have been possible without the support of the San Pedro Town Council and the Ambergris Caye Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce provided funding for the trash bags and gloves. The Town Council generously provided a delicious rice and beans lunch for all the participants as a treat after a lot of work. The Town Council also made sure all of the trash collected was properly disposed.

Do not let the efforts of these volunteers be a waste! If you have trash, throw it in one of the many trash barrels around town. If you see trash on the road, in the mangroves, or on the reef, pick it up! We all need to do our part to protect the environment. Let's make this year cleaner than the last.

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



Evening Dinner

Our Award-Winning Restaurant invites
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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 Intermartini Lounge!

Designed for the
Age of Technology
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Catch up with the
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while sipping your
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Or challenge yourself
during a game of
pool in our
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Room!



SPA

A Blissful Getaway...

*Relax in our beachside Jacuzzi,
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& Detoxifying Mask & Facial!*

Package Includes:

*Lunch a la carte, Complimentary Cocktail,
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Fido's Dock 10:45 a.m. -
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Also Available:

*Sea Salt &
Clay Body Mask Massage
Energy Work*

RSVP 220-5011



Wolfe's Woofers by Dennis Wolfe

I Know What You Need

"Bruce, are you sure this road is a shortcut to Banana Bank?"

"Of course I'm sure, mate," Bruce said. "It just gets a little rough after a rain. Now, sit back and relax and you'll see how I do these mainland tours."

Before long, we were bogged down in a slippery red clay mud that would not allow the truck to get any traction. Even worse, the vehicle slowly sank until the frame was resting on the ground.

"Hey, what's that guy doing out here in the middle of the jungle?" I asked, after half an hour of pushing, shoving and listening to some seriously obscene Australian cursing.

Sitting under a huge almond tree at the roadside, a little old Mayan man sat watching us with a huge grin on his face.

"Watching gringos who are stuck in the mud must be a spectator sport here," Bruce said. "Well, he's too old to help. Throw some more rocks under that right wheel."

After another half hour, the old man spoke up.

"I know what you need to get out of the mud," he said.

"What exactly would that be, old-timer?" Bruce asked.

"Give me fifty dollars and I'll tell you."

"Man, everybody here has a scam," Bruce laughed.

Half an hour later, we had cut down a small tree and piled up rocks to make a lever jack. The truck still spun the wheels and we were covered in red mud from head to toe.

"I know what you need," the old man said, again. "I live here in this jungle all my life to now and it's the only way."

"An Australian wouldn't pay fifty dollars for directions to heaven."

"Hell must be full of Australians," the old man said as he picked up his little backpack and prepared to leave. "O.K. I come by and see you next week because you still be here."

"Wait a minute," Bruce said. Then he whispered to me, "Do you think he knows something we don't know?"

I reached in my pocket, pulled out twenty-five dollars and handed it to Bruce. He put twenty-five with it and handed it to the old man. The man walked around the truck and inspected it carefully.

"What you need is a tractor," he said.



Trivia Tidbits

*The candies most likely to cause tooth decay are dark chocolate and fudge.

*There are 42 dots on a pair of dice.

*Thinking that its parents were a camel and a leopard, the Europeans once called the animal a "camelopard." Today, it is called the giraffe.

*There are 293 different ways to make change for a dollar.

*The "cheek stroke" gesture in Greece, Italy, and Spain means "attractive." In Croatia and Bosnia, it means "success."

*Aristotle, Sir Isaac Newton, Moses, and Charles Darwin had a problem expressing themselves because they stuttered.

*Parrots, most famous of all talking birds, rarely acquire a vocabulary of more than twenty words. However, *Tymhoney Greys* and *African Greys* have been known to carry vocabularies in excess of 100 words.

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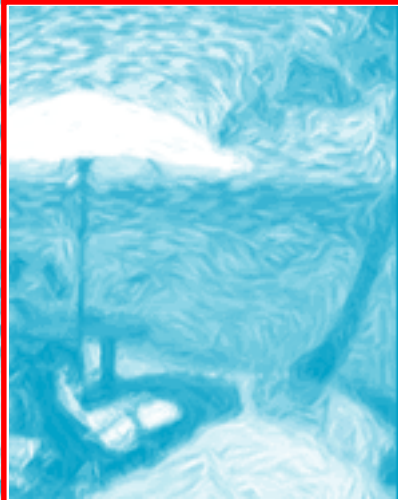


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