



Surrounded by lush tropical gardens, sunning and swimming on our beautiful coral beach, the gin-clear waters of Ambergris Caye, Belize are a [diver's](#), [snorkeler's](#), [birder's](#), and [fisherman's](#) paradise.

<http://AmbergrisCaye.com> represents the largest island in Belize, and the main spot for travellers to this Caribbean nation. Originally a peninsula in Maya times, the connection to the Yucatan was severed by the [Maya](#) to facilitate trade and transportation.

Ambergris Caye has been the hub of Belizean area maritime trade for centuries. [Fishing](#), coconuts, and chicle were historic means of islanders support, but in the last twenty to thirty years the incredible scenery of Ambergris Caye has led to a large growth in both the Belize [dive and scuba](#) trade, and [ecotourism](#). The variety of things to do rival only the weather in their beauty!



The amazing [coral reef](#) system, the second largest in the world, lies one-half mile east of the shoreline and runs the entire 25 mile length of the island. This has made [San Pedro Town](#) the dive and water sports capital of Belize and Central America. The [Great Blue Hole](#), [Turneffe Islands](#), [Shark Ray Alley](#), [Hol Chan Marine Reserve](#), [Mexico Rocks](#), [Lighthouse Reef](#), and many other diving areas are all only a short boat ride away from this coconut palm lined island.

[A map on the site](#) details the locations of many of these diving and snorkeling spots. And gives you excellent general information as well.

Local dive shops give advanced certification classes with PADI instructors, and also provide guides, equipment, and cameras if needed. Or rookies can just

put on a mask and drop down into the six foot deep water that runs a half mile out from Ambergris Caye. This inland sea provides the swimmer or snorkeler a great look at the vibrant coral gardens, sponges, plunging walls, schooling fish, sea turtles, manta rays, eagle

rays, nurse sharks, and many other beautiful, colorful fish awaiting your Belize diving

adventure. Sitting on the bottom, surrounded by schools of glimmering fish, with the graceful ray cruising by in packs, man sized nurse sharks too fast to keep up with, and the playful dolphins, disappointed when you move on to further discoveries. Quite an amazing sight as the sun reflects off the fish. The water is so clear. The shallow water, the light sandy color of the bottom, and the reduced wave action due to the reef protection make for incredible visibility underwater. There are so many types of aquatic plant and coral life that you have to [see it to Belize it!](#)



The huge number of trophy fish caught in these Belize waters make San Pedro Town a destination stop for the serious [fisherman](#). Sailfish, shark, blue marlin, dolphin, wahoo, tuna, groupers, lobsters, and others top the list of “whopper” stories reeled in from this Belize fishing wonderland.

[San Pedro Town](#) is the major settlement on the island. The town is a picture postcard setting - small colorfully painted houses set alongside sand streets nestled beside the clear turquoise sea. Coconut palms sway and rustle in the gentle cooling trade winds. Low rise hotels, guest houses and bungalow style resorts, from modest to magnificent, are nestled along the coast and throughout the town, an [array of choices](#).

If you want a comfortable, shorts-and-sandals seaside vacation, at a moderate price, just a bit off the beaten path but not too far, where the seafood is fresh and beer is cold, where the water won't make you sick, an island with most of the modern amenities without the plastic tackiness, with incredible diving, excellent snorkeling, beautiful water and white sand beaches, where local folks are mostly friendly and hablan English (though they may speak Spanish at home), with dependably beautiful weather most of the time, then I guarantee you'll enjoy Ambergris Caye. And [the food](#) is INCREDIBLE!



Yes, tourism is the number one industry in what was once a fishing village. Now, fishing is so far back in second place that you can't even see the hooks. This is not, however, the edgy tourism of Cancun, with millions of package tourists hitting the beach. No building is higher than a tall coco palm, or three stories.

Golf carts and bicycles are the principal mode of transportation. The streets are home to local and visiting barefoot strollers, casually making their way through the shops and restaurants or just relaxing and chatting with the locals who are friendly and tolerant. To see the many faces of the island, see the Kay Scott [FACES &](#)

[PLACES OF SAN PEDRO](#) online photo gallery.

A few taxis, trucks and private vehicles are in service in the growing community, and the newly formed traffic committee is hard pressed to create an equitable policy regarding importation of future vehicles.

Ambergris Caye has much to recommend it. Away from the center of town there is an abundance of birds and other animals. Much of the island is covered with a broadleaf forest that attracts wildlife. The yards of the houses and the hotel grounds all bloom with tropical flora. The sea abounds with adventure for fishermen, divers, snorkelers and sailors. Some of the best outfitters for fishing and diving trips are found here, along with plenty of charter boats. San Pedro makes a fine base for excursions to nearby attractions and the more distant islands and atolls. The stores are well stocked with a wide variety of food and some of the country's best cooks take pride in their seafood specialties.



Getting to Ambergris Caye is easy, the island is serviced by hourly scheduled flights. A short twenty minute flight from the international airport brings one to the San Pedro airport, which is walking distance to town. Ferry service is also available. San Pedro's warm friendly casual atmosphere insures a perfect holiday. A familiar sign in town states, "Welcome to San Pedro where you won't be a stranger for long."