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THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR GUIDE
Costa Maya Special Edition!  **FREE**
 August 3, 2006
 The Island Newspaper
 Ambergris Caye, Belize
 Central America

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The history, the culture & the beauty behind San Pedro's biggest festival!

Meet the beautiful contestants of the **Reina de la Costa Maya Pageant 2006**

As photographed at the breathtaking Azul Resort!

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Take a photo of you and the paper and send it to us at:
spsun@sanpedrosun.net



Geraldo Badillo, resident of San Pedro and friend of *The San Pedro Sun* took along his copy during his fun vacation in Mexico a couple weeks ago. Here he is pictured at Progreso, Yucatan, Mexico, brushing up on his reading before heading out to enjoy the nightlife!

Photos taken in unique and unusual places are preferred. Be sure to identify who is in the photo and where the photo was taken. Don't forget to include your names and what you were doing.

The *San Pedro Sun* is mailed everywhere.

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More foreign subscribers than any newspaper in Belize!

Greetings to my visiting friends



rich and diverse culture unique to the Mundo Maya countries and neighboring countries.

We hope that during your stay you will find our island to be your "home away from home." Feel free to explore our "Isla Bonita" and see the beauty we have to offer. We are only a short boat ride away from the mystical Altun Ha Ruin where the Jade Head, Kinich Ahau was found. Another boat ride will take you to the famous Hol Chan Marine Reserve, home of countless species of fish and coral. I urge you to take advantage of your time here and explore what makes Belize and San Pedro a part of the Mayan world.

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

Your timing has been impeccable as our island hosts one of our biggest events – the International Costa Maya Festival. May your stay here be a pleasant one, filled with enjoyment and great experiences. We also invite you to join the festival and take in the

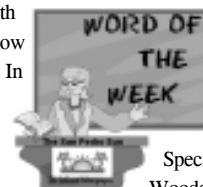
We are more than happy to have you visiting with us. May the memory you will hold of this place be an everlasting one.

Once again, welcome and please enjoy your stay!

/s/ Elsa Paz (Ms.)
Mayor



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 – Words of the Week.



This week, we will present a few phrases in English and give you their Creole and Spanish translations.

Special thanks to Sylvana Woods for her help with the Creole translations. Enjoy!!!

English
Creole
Spanish

Is there a bus service to the airport?
Dehn ga wahn bos weh gwehn tu di yaapoat?
¿Ay un servicio de autobús para el aeropuerto?

English
Creole
Spanish

Have a good trip!
Ah hoap yu ga wahn gud chrip!
¡Tenga un buen viaje!

English
Creole
Spanish

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From Sea & Air Festival to Costa Maya - The History

Find out the story behind one of San Pedro's biggest celebrations!

From August 3rd - 6th, San Pedro Town will once again welcome its Central American neighbors to rendezvous at "La Isla Bonita" in celebration of one of Belize's most awaited and festive events of the year - The International Costa Maya Festival. During the four days of festivities, Belize joins the Mundo Maya countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Costa Rica and Nicaragua to stage this one-of-a-kind show.

As we celebrate the sixteenth year of this festival, we must not forget the hardworking team who came up with this clever concept. *The San Pedro Sun* travels back in time to provide readers with a history of the Costa Maya Festival.



A highlight of the Sea & Air Festival was the grand parade.



Guess who? Find some of the long-standing Costa Maya Festival Committee members!

In 1991, a chapter of the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry was formed in San Pedro and John Edwards was elected as Chairman. He and a few others, such as Don Pearly, Kevin Gonzalez and Stuart "Taff" Elliott felt it was a natural function of a Chamber of Commerce to promote business for San Pedro during the slow season. They formed the nucleus of the committee that was to plan the first

event of this kind to take place on Ambergris Caye. The first Festival Committee consisted of Chairman Don Pearly, Bruce and Victoria Collins (former owners of *The San Pedro Sun*), Katie Brickey, Carlos Pariente, Eddie Halliday Sr., Jack Westerhold, Ann McGlaun, Kevin Gonzalez, Santos Acosta, Eli Pearly, John Edwards, Taff Elliott, Llewelyn Burgess and Alida

Continued on Page 5



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Above and beyond Costa Maya 2006

The long awaited 2006 International Costa Maya Festival is finally here and it's time to enjoy the music, taste the delicious food and celebrate our Mayan culture. From its beginning in 1992, the International Costa Maya Festival has grown remarkably and entertained millions. What began as a six-day event has been brilliantly compacted to four incredible days in which Central American countries exchange their traditions, food and exceptionally talented entertainers. Each year has been better than the last and this year the Costa Maya Festival committee has worked tirelessly to bring you the absolute best. Their knack for perfection has always shown clearly as the entire festival shines in all its glorious magic with magnificent lights, colors and infectious beats.

Between the pageant, entertainment and sporting events, this year will certainly be one of the greatest.

The Pageant

The much anticipated annual celebration kicks off with the International Reina de la Costa Maya Pageant. Six Latin American countries have agreed to participate in this year's pageant which include beauty ambassadors from Belize, Costa Rica, Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. The pageant tonight is a crowd

Continued on Page 6



Ninfa Juan, Belize

What particular area of your country would you recommend tourists to visit?

Being from Cayo, I have to recommend my district. It's just a great place for adventure. There is something for everybody and the people are so friendly! *What's one activity you have to try when in Belize?*

I would recommend going to Actun Tunich-hil Muknal, which is the Cave of the Stone Sepulcher. In this area you can go rappelling, swimming and all the while you're surrounded by amazing Mayan archaeology and history!



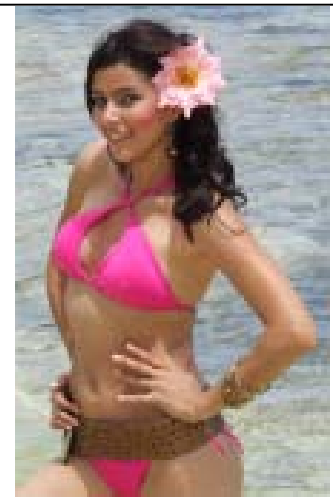
Teresita Gomez, El Salvador

What particular area of your country would you recommend tourists to visit?

Definitely Joya de Ceren - it's considered the Pompeii of America. It's very much a historical site, with great archaeology and Mayan intrigue. It's so hard to recommend just one so for those with more of a beach scene in mind, I would recommend hitting the beach that is just 30 minutes away from the city.

What's one activity you have to try when in El Salvador?

I would recommend hiking/climbing Cerro Verde if you're in the West and the beaches that are also known as Tierra Caliente if you're in the East. One particular time I would also recommend is Carnaval de San Miguel which is held on the 18th of November.



Anahir Rochas, Nicaragua

What particular area of your country would you recommend tourists to visit?

I would recommend Isla de Ometepe; it's a unique area that was formed by two volcanoes and is actually where Nicaragua started. It's historical, featuring glyphs created in the stone face by our ancestors. It's a very magical place.

What's one activity you have to try when in Nicaragua?

I would recommend that you try skiing in Cerro Negro. There's no snow, but it's this great hill/mountain where the adventurous of spirit can enjoy the wondrous beauty of nature atop some very high tech toys! It's a great mix!

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Happy Birthday Belize ~ Sep 16th

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Jungle Campfire Tales ~ Sep 30th, Oct 28th

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History of the Costa Maya Festival

Continued from Page 3

Núñez.

During a trip to Honduras, several committee members attended the Festival Folklórico of San Pedro Sula where each of the Central American countries participated, with the exception of Belize. From information gathered on this trip, the committee came up with the idea of inviting the Mundo Maya countries to gather at a festival in San Pedro to share their musical and cultural diversities. They were hoping to attract many visitors to the island, who would arrive by way of private aircraft or sea vessel, so they named the event The International Sea & Air Festival.

The first festival was held July 21st - 26th, 1992 on the grounds of San Pedro Roman Catholic School and featured Denyse Plummer "The Calypso Queen" of Trinidad and Tobago as its headliner. This festival was a five-day event, as was the 1993 festival. A sixth day was added for the third festival in 1994, but one of the invited countries (Cuba) did not show up. Each festival proved to be very successful, bringing much-needed income to the island. Every evening during the festival, one of the visiting countries was scheduled to perform. This concept, unique in its own way, attracted hundreds to the event. Each night, the country being depicted displayed their finest music,



(Above) Another popular event during the Sea & Air was the bodybuilding competition.

(Left) Two of the local beauties who proudly wore the Sea & Air crown, Tessie Duran and Patricia Arceo.

cultural dances and crafts.

As the years passed, the festival got bigger and better. For additional entertainment, other events were planned to take place at different locations in town each morning of the festival. These would include: bicycle, golf cart and cardboard boat races, parades and much more. Wanting to cater to all age groups, the organizers also introduced mechanical rides for the youngsters.

Eventually a new attraction was introduced: the Miss Sea & Air Pageant. This event proved to be a favorite of many. Ms. Sylvia Castro of Mexico was the first Miss Sea & Air Festival, starting a tradition of international contestants. In 1993, Ms. Diana Galvan of Guatemala won the title. In 1994, Tessie Duran Tonaco of San Pedro Town was the first local woman to win the title. The second local woman to take the crown was Patricia Arceo. Over the years, women from all over the world participated, including representatives from Central America, North America, Australia and Europe.

Continued on Page 16

Every Friday enjoy our special "Spanish Night" with our famous "paella", tenderloin beef carpaccio, our bar special from Spain "Sangria" and for dessert our flambéed bananas foster, all surrounded in an atmosphere of Spanish decor and music.



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Above and beyond Costa Maya 2006

Continued from Page 4

favorite and everyone will be cheering for their favorite contestant, but who will wear the crown?

This year's Belize ambassador is Miss Ninfa Juan, a 20 year old tourism Management student. Costa Rica is represented by Belgica Arias, a 22 year old student majoring in International Relations and Commerce; 23 year old Cindy Cajuste is proudly representing her country of Mexico. Straight out of Honduras is their reigning queen 22 year old Lissa Saenz, and representing the country of El Salvador is Teresita Gomez, an adventurous 20 year old. Representing the beautiful country of Nicaragua is Anahir Rocha Gutierrez -the 23 year old, honey eyed brunette has achieved her Bachelor's in Business Administration.



Cindy Cajuste, Mexico

What particular area of your country would you recommend tourists to visit?

Of course, I would recommend visiting my state, Veracruz! It's very beautiful, has nice beaches, plenty of culture and good food!

What's one activity you have to try when in Mexico?

I most definitely recommend doing a tour of all our historical sites and visiting our amazing Mayan ruins!



Lissa Saenz, Honduras

What particular area of your country would you recommend tourists to visit?

I would actually recommend three islands: Roatan, Guanaja and Utila. In this area, you can truly enjoy the bounty

of nature, with swimming, snorkeling and seafood, plus, friendly people everywhere, making you feel at home!

What's one activity you have to try when in Honduras?

I recommend enjoying the nightlife and parties of La Ceiba, especially in Zona Rosa. There's Bar & Grills and Discos that stay open till six in the morning. I recommend that you try out the Bar & Grills first, indulge in great food and drinks, then finish the night off by partying and enjoying all the great discos. One particular party that you shouldn't miss is our Carnaval. If you're around for the week of May 22nd, be sure to check out this amazing Carnaval! People from all over the world come and enjoy what Honduras has to offer.

Entertainment

Thursday

After the Reina de la Costa Maya Pageant on Thursday, enjoy the musical styling of Sabor Latino straight out

Continued on Page 7

The San Pedro Sun
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Sunday
10:40am • 12:40pm • 2:40pm • 6:10pm

Be sure to stop by for Fido's Sandbar special Costa Maya Barbeque this Sunday, August 6th!

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- ☐ Music by Wil and Dale

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Above and beyond Costa Maya 2006



Belgica Arias, Costa Rica

What particular area of your country would you recommend tourists to visit?

I recommend Puerto Viejo de Limon. It's very Caribbean, actually similar to San Pedro. It's an incredible mix of people from all over the world, and the food is great, we have fabulous music and warm friendly people!

What's one activity you have to try when in Costa Rica?

I definitely suggest touring the volcanoes. The adventurous can tour the craters, an experience no-one should miss!

Continued from Page 6

of La Isla Bonita. Playing upbeat tunes live into the night, the crowd is surely to be entertained to the fullest.

Friday

The four day event resumes on Friday with Grupo Identidades straight out of El Salvador. As proved at the previous festival, they will rock the crowd

with their high energy dances, choice of music and great outfits. Next up will be another dynamic performance by the ever popular San Pedro Dance Company. This year the company will exhibit newer and fresher dance numbers that is sure to blow your minds away. The dance company will feature new moves from Latin to Argentinean Tango, Trinidadian Soca, Belizean



Jeff Spiegel and Vivian Yu (center), owners of Azul Resort & Rojo Lounge, welcomed the lovely pageant contestants for their bikini shoot. The beautiful sandy beaches at their resort were the perfect background for this special photography session.

"Bruk Down", Paranda, Maya Choreography, and making her special presentation is vocalist Natalie Arceo who will delight the crowd with her singing. Choreographer Gregg Vernon says this year's event will be a block buster performance and promises a

delightful show for all. Next up from Honduras enjoy the music from Delma Adriana who will take the stage by storm with her vocal talent. Following that act, are the music beats of Mad Dem Crew and Backyaa'd Crew.

Continued on Page 8



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Be sure to catch Las Nenas de Caña in action on Friday!

These highly talented performers hail from the Cayo district and play the latest in rap and reggae beats. Last on the agenda for the night, and certainly the one of the highlights of the evening, are "Las Nenas de Cana." The group is described as the sexiest presentation in all of Central America and San Pedro will now have the honor of seeing them perform live on stage.

Saturday

Saturday, August 5th is known as one of the biggest days of the festival. On this day visitors and residents enjoy the talented music of one of the best International superstars/band in the world. Beginning the night will be the Gua-

temalan Cultural Presentation of Chachatun Folklore. This year as an opening and closing act, everyone will get to sample the music of the well rounded Echoes band who promise to rock the stage with great selections of Latin sounds and rock singles. The band is extremely excited to perform for the first time in San Pedro. The band consists of six gifted members including; Rohjani Perriot, Tremett Perriot (vocals), Enrique Caliz, Joseph Hendericks, Ramon Hernandez and Delmar Lanza. They will perform a wide aspect of songs including, a Latin flavor featuring songs from Mana, Santana and rock classics from Guns N Roses, Metallica and other alterna-



The Belizean band "Echoes" will take center stage for opening and closing sets on Saturday, International Night.

tive rock favorites. So all you Latin and rock lovers will surely be entertained to the fullest, be sure not to miss it! The highlight of the night is the group "Los Mismos" who earned their fame from the world famous group "Los Bukis". After years of a successful career, the then lead singer, Marco Antonio Solis, decided to pursue a solo career in 1995. The remaining members which include; Pedro Velasquez, Eusebio Cortes, Jose Guadarrama and Pedro Sanchez continued in the music making industry and has since produced

several platinum albums. They will take center stage and perform all their hits for fans from their very first album to their latest.

Sunday

On Sunday, the Costa Maya Committee presents the Viva Mexico show which will be followed by Oscar Jimenez, artist impersonator. This will be followed by local reggaeton artist who will hit the stage serving up hot beats and energy you certainly do not

Continued on Page 9

The Palmilla
Fine dining at Victoria House



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On Saturday, International Night, Mexican band Los Mismos will be serenading attendees with their romantic ballads.

want to miss. So, come out and show call and schedule a show. Contact Gach love and support to our local artists. Guerrero at 226-2180.

Any artist wanting to perform can still **Continued on Page 14**

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Costa Maya 2006
 Calendar of Events



- Thursday August 3rd *Pageant Night***
- 7:00 pm Festival Grounds Open
 - 7:30 pm Marimba
 - 8:00 pm Reina de la Costa Maya International Pageant 2006
 - 10:30 pm Music- Sabor Latino
- Friday August 4th *Cultural Night***
- 7:00 pm Festival Grounds Open
 - 7:30 pm Marimba
 - 8:00 pm National Anthems- Participating Counties
 - 8:15 pm Opening Presentation- San Pedro Dance Company
 - 8:30 pm Festival Opening Address by Belize & festival Officials
 - 9:00 pm Cultural presentation, Belize - San Pedro Dance Company
 - 9:30 pm Cultural presentation - El Salvador , Identidades Grupo de Danza
 - 10:00 pm Mad Dem & Backyaa'd Dance Hall and Reggaeton
 - 11:00 pm Music by Las Nenas de la Caña
- Sat. August 5th *International Night***
- 7:00 pm Festival Grounds Open
 - 7:30 pm Address by Dignitaries
 - 8:00 pm Guatemala - Cultural Presentation - Chacatun Folklore
 - 9:00 pm Mexico - Cultural Presentation - Sean Kaan
 - 9:45 pm Honduras - Delma Adriana (Cantante)
 - 10:45 pm Echoes (Belize, Rock / Alternative)
 - 12:00 am Los Mismos (Ex-Bukis)
 - 2:00 am Echoes
- Sunday August 6th *Entertainment***
- 1:00 pm Festival Grounds Open Costa Maya Volleyball Tournament
 - 6:00 pm Costa Maya Body Building Competition
 - 7:30 pm Viva Mexico Show
 - 8:30 pm Oscar Jeminez- Imitador de Artistas
 - 9:30 pm Variety of Island Reggaetons

Wings



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THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR'S GUIDE

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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. T-W-Sat.-Sun. at 7:30 p.m.

Lighthouse Christian Radio - 101.3 FM. 226-4673, Cor. Buccaneer & Pescador Drive.

IMPORTANT #s

Emergency 911
Crimestoppers 800 922-TIPS
Police 226-2022
Fire 226-2372

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

Lions Health Clinic - 226-4052; emergencies 600-9071 or Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8am to 8pm; Sat., 8am - noon.

Los Pinos Clinic 602-6383 and 226-2686.

Dr. Lerida Rodriguez: 226-2197 or cell 620-1974

San Pedro Chiropractic Clinic 226-4695

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 Polyclinic II - 226-2536. 8-12 and 2-5, Mon. to Fri. Emergencies 226-2555/2918 or 606-3864.

Ambergris Hopes Clinic - 226-2660, Emergencies: 606-2316

US Embassy - 227-7161

Canadian Consulate - 223-1060

Mexican Embassy - 223-0193

Guatemalan Embassy - 223-3150

Honduran Embassy - 224-5889

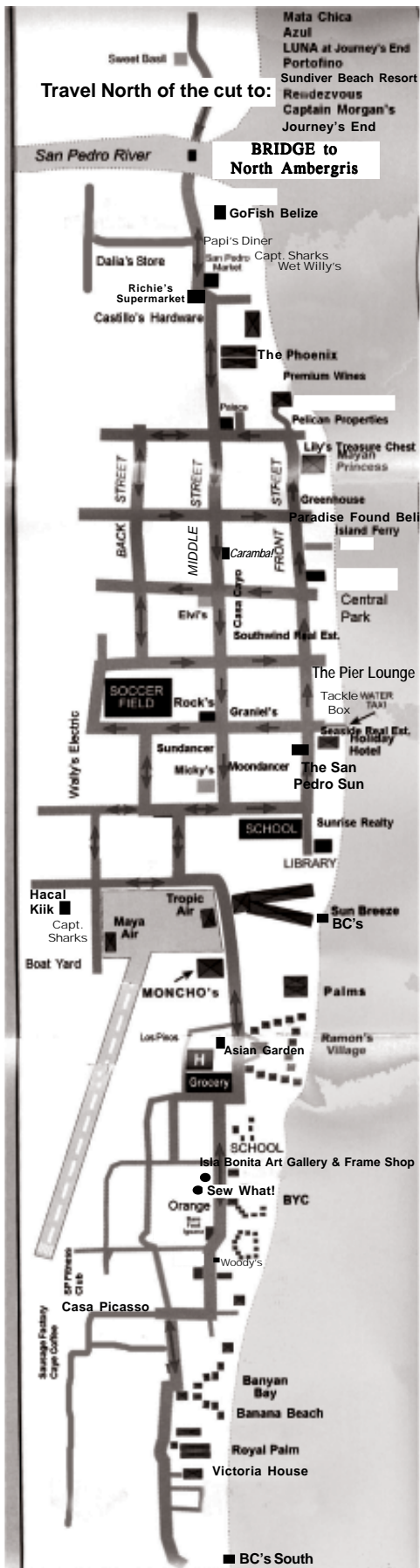
Miscellaneous

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

San Pedro AA - 226-4464, 600-9061

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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Water, Sports & Tours

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SAILSPORTS BELIZE - Windsurfing, kite sailing and sailing. The latest equipment and expert instruction makes it easy to learn. 226-4488 info@sailsportsbelize.com.

SEADUCED - River cave tubing, manatee watch, Robles Beach BBQ, Mayan ruins and more adventures. 226-2254.

SEADUCTION SAILING - First class Day Cruises to Caye Caulker or Mexico Rocks. Beach BBQ or Sunset Cruise. Charters also available. Phone Seaduced at 226-2254.

Real Estate...

SEASIDE REAL ESTATE - Many listings, from raw land to beautiful beachfront homes. We can help you own a piece of paradise. Call 226-4545 or E-mail ambergris@btl.net

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.

BELIZE REALTY & BUILDING SERVICES - From raw land to dream home - we're there every step of the way!

PARADISE FOUND BELIZE LTD. REALTY - Land, Homes, Business, Investment. List your property with us. Office at CocoNet Internet. 607-9667 or 226-2835. sdemaio@snet.net

Transportation...

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

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CRYSTAL AUTO RENTAL - Largest fleet in Belize. Offices at International Airport and Belize City. 223-1600, 0-800-777-7777.

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.

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.

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

THE TACKLE BOX - come rock da box out over the water! Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday (starting @ 9:00PM) we have amazing live bands ranging from Reggae to Punta to old school Rock-n-Roll. We'll have prizes, specials and always that breath-taking Tackle Box ocean view! Located off the San Pedro Water Taxi Pier at the end of Black Coral St. 226-4313.

FIDO'S RESTAURANT & BAR - Dine under the largest Palapa in San Pedro! Enjoy a full lunch & dinner menu with live beachfront entertainment all night.



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.

ELVI'S KITCHEN - serving the finest food since 1977. Daily Lunch and Dinner Specials. Caribbean Night on Thursday. Mayan Fiesta every Friday - come try our Maya Buffet. Open Monday - Saturday. Lunch: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Dinner: 5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Call us for group reservations. Ph 226-2404/2176 "Where something good is always cooking!"

CELI'S RESTAURANT ON THE BEACH at the San Pedro Holiday Hotel, serves Great Fajitas,

salads and local dishes for LUNCH. **DELECTABLE SEAFOOD SPECIALTIES** for dinner. **OUTDOOR & INDOOR DINING** 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Beach barbeque every Wednesday night with live music.

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.

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.

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

PAPI'S DINER - The place for fine food at diner prices. Taste the Caribbean. Call 226-2047.

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.

RENDEZVOUS RESTAURANT AND BAR - The most romantic spot in town featuring award winning chefs. Thai and French cuisine blended to make paradise taste like heaven, or so our customers say. Free Rendezvous Wine tasting from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fermented, blended and bottled here on the property. Open for lunch and dinner. Call 226 3426 for reservations and transport options.

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

CASA PICASSO TAPAS + MARTINIS - Small plates, big pastas and fantastic desserts! "Hippest martini spot" - *Frommer's*. Nightly 5:30pm, closed Sundays. reservations 226-4507.

THE TACKLE BOX BAR & GRILL - whether it's a little break from the beach or a whole night out, the Tackle Box is just the place. The kitchen serves a wide array of affordable fresh comfort foods ranging from our big Tackle Box Burgers, special fried chicken, to some of our more local fare and seafoods. And what a better place to enjoy our dishes, than our back porch out over the water.

CARAMBA! RESTAURANT - Local Mexican-Caribbean Cuisine. We cater to large groups! Capacity, 90 total. Opening Hours: Lunch: 11am - 2 pm, Dinner: 5pm - 10pm. Closed Wednesdays. 226-4321 or 226-3850. Caramba!: "Is where the food always speaks for itself!"

HACAL KIIK - Delectable breads, jams, butters, soups, olive oils, village wines, homebaked pastries & desserts, coffees and teas. Open Daily, 7am to 8pm. 226-3115.

Unique Offerings...

SAN PEDRO FITNESS CLUB - A/C Gym at Belize Yacht Club, Fully-equipped. Open to the public. Tennis Courts, Lap and Family pools, Aqua Fitness and Toning Classes. Open 7am Daily, 8am Sundays. 226-2683.

CAYE COFFEE - Take a taste of our locally roasted 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.

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

THE GREENHOUSE - Fresh Produce & Seafood. Belizean and imported speciality. Fresh herbs, cold cuts, chilled goods plus an exciting selection of groceries. A/C local on Barrier Reef Dr. 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.

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

GRANIEL'S DREAMLAND - Locally made furniture & accessories from all Belizean exotic hardwoods & Mahogany. On Pescador Drive, opposite Rock's. Call 226-2632, ext. 18 or 226-2938. Open Mon-Sat 8:30-12:00 noon & 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. & Sun 10-12 noon.

DandE's FROZEN CUSTARD and SORBET - If

you like ice cream, you will *Love DandE's* Frozen Custard! Delicious cones, shakes, sundaes and splits. Located on Pescador Drive next to Caramba Restaurant. Closed Wednesday. Phone 608-9100.

ISLA BONITA ART GALLERY & CUSTOM FRAMING - art and crafts from Belizean and Caribbean artists + contemporary abstract paintings. Custom framing available 226-4650.

SUNDANCER + MOONDANCER - Unique boutiques featuring beautiful, quality clothing, jewelry and gorgeous gift items for both men (Sundancer) and women (Moondancer). Phone: 226-3126.

CORAL REEF ECOLOGY - Dr. Ken Mattes, TREC Topical Research & Education Center. Lecture every Thursday 7:30 PM. Details 226-3389 Taxi transport 623-8385. (ON HOLIDAY)

ASIAN GARDEN DAY SPA - Certified Therapeutic and Thai Massage practitioners; Hot & Cold Stone Therapy, Body Scrubs, Facials and more in a tranquil Asian courtyard. San Pedro Town, across from Ramon's. Ask about specials. 226-4072.

BUTTERFLY JUNGLE - Experience our enchanted butterfly-filled jungle, observe the miracle of metamorphosis, get plants for your own butterfly garden. 4 Miles North. 610-4026 610-1561. Daily 10:00 - 5:00.

LAUREN DUTY FREE - The ultimate in duty and tax free shopping. Choose from a variety of name brand liquors, designer fragrances, world-renowned confectionery and exquisite gift items. Located in the PS W Goldson International Airport Departure Lounge. Tel. 205-2344 or 223-2157.



The San Pedro Sun Visitor Guide

EVERY WEEK we print a new edition covering the "good news" about San Pedro and Belize!

Contact the San Pedro Sun for more information.
spsun@sanpedrosun.net
 (501) 226-2070
www.sanpedrosun.net



The Costa Maya Festival celebrates the unique cultures of several countries.

Sports

The last day of this year's festivities will end with a day being dedicated to sports. A much anticipated volleyball tournament will be held at the football field where teams will compete for great prizes. Also, as an added bonus the committee will be hosting a body building competition. Coordinator of the event, Alfred McKenzie states that the competition will be a tough one as all participants have their respective medals from the Central American games and many more under their belts. The competition will feature six body builders including: the current Mr. Belize Deon Dandison, Roger Sutherland (silver in Central American games), Dillon Jones (bronze medal in over 40 competition), three junior builders and for the first time a female body builder, Kimberly Wire who won the silver



Mexico's flamboyant dancers draw a large crowd every year.

medal at the Central American games in fitness. The exhibition promises to be a smashing hit and judges will have the arduous task to choose a winner. Their main sponsors for the event include; Castillo's Hardware, Caye International Bank and Habet & Habet.



Sunday is a fun filled day of activities, including a great game of volleyball. Come cheer on your favorite team!

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Condos/Homes & Commercial Property

Coral Bay Villas- 1 bedrm/1 bath condos, fully furnished with good & steady rental income. (N18) Unit 1, lovely beach level condo with direct access to the beach. \$230,000 US.

Buyers Looking for Luxury & Elegance! (T36) Custom, beachfront condo, two bedroom, two bath, second floor, fully furnished. Nothing compares in class, style or quality. Call for further details.

Large Parcel/Great Commercial Location (H33) Great Commercial block of land on the main street only 200' from the beach & 1/2 mile from town center. 264' of road frontage & 154' in depth. \$900,000 US.

Excellent investment in Orange Walk! (C47) Over 7,200 sq. ft. of commercial and residential space all in one. Great investment - many details with many options. \$750,000 US.

Esmeralda Apartments (F18) Two apartment building, Esmeralda area close to the Tennis Club, two large units 3bedrooms/3 baths and 2bedroom/1bath. Good rental producer. Fenced yard, security bars. \$285,000 US.

Back Street Home (R35) 2 story, wooden home. Lower level-2bdrms, 1 bath, open living, kitchen & dining area. Upper level-3brms, 2 baths & 2 kitchens. \$250,000 US.

Raw Land

Flying Fisherman (D16) lot 300' off the beach, measures 50' x 78'. Only \$22,000 US.

Alta Mar (S45) - 100' x 100' nice parcel in residential area. Priced at **\$85,000.00 US.**

Habaneros Beachfront: Beautiful beach front lots with high elevation and lush vegetation. (H30) 150' of beach frontage and a depth of 435'. \$345,000 US.
 (Z02) 90' of beach frontage with a depth of 400'. \$225,000 US.

Paradise Coves (B36) good sized lot 3.5 miles north of San Pedro - great location- 121' x 98'. \$25,000 US.

Club Caribbean - off the beach lots starting at \$15,000 US.

Holiday Lands (M53) Parcel 2615 - measures approximately 78' x 72', only two rows off the beach. Asking price \$60,000 US.

Robles (S54) Lot #14a- Drive your boat up to your doorstep to this beautiful beachfront lot, lush with vegetation. Lot measures 80' x 204' & is priced to sell at **\$160,000 US.**

Robles (D19) Lot #23a measuring 100' of beach front x 360'. Asking **\$119,000 US.**

Robles (D20) Lot #44 measuring 50' of beach y front x 270'. Asking **\$74,900 US.**

Corozal Town Center (R31) 7 1/2 Acres of prime real-estate, road accessible on 3 sides, beautiful mature trees, cleared & ready to develop all amenities available. **\$110,000 US.**

Shopping in San Pedro, Part V

Ah, the souvenir shopping experience! Several thousands of visitors flock to our little island every year for a nice getaway, and always, there's the dreaded souvenir shopping day, a day reserved solely for buying little gift items for friends back home. To make matters more complicated, gone are those days when a simple Belize t-shirt would do. Now, everyone is a connoisseur of fine art and native artifacts. A t-shirt? Forget it!

Thus, visitors now have to reserve a special day for shopping. With the new rules of souvenir shopping, stores and gift shops have had to overhaul their products they offer, and as *The San Pedro Sun* found out, the variety is amazing! From exotic hard woods, Belizean cookbooks, fanciful house accessories to Belizean sauces, rums and spices, the products boggle the mind!

Strolling down these street, it is clear that there is a variety of stores to choose from. Once within the actual stores, choosing products from the wide array available is perhaps the only hard work you'll have to do. Everyone's tastes are different, and for each discriminating consumer, there is something new. Other than the usual magnets, picture frames and yes, t-shirts, one can find books, purses, clay figurines and food products. Several stores also offer fantastic personal finds that have nothing to

do with souvenirs. Many people need to quickly pick up some new clothing items while waiting for their baggage to be flown over; there are stores that offer beautiful items to tide you over!

So, follow us through our stroll around the various stores in San Pedro Town as we present to you our newest series, A San Pedro Shopping Ex-

perience. Remember, if all else fails, there's no shortage of San Pedro T-Shirts!

Not all stores are located in the town core. If you travel a bit further south on Coconut Drive, some interesting shops offer a variety of wares that make the shopping so fun! This week, we feature:

Isla Bonita Gallery and Framing



The combination of art and framing services at Isla Bonita Gallery & Framing helps make your gift extra special. Owner Karen Sue Brown offers a wide range of paintings in this lovely store, located at Fairdale Plaza on Coconut Drive. For this Costa Maya, one lucky winner will be photographed with the new Miss Costa Maya 2006, and have their memorable moment matted and framed, courtesy of Isla Bonita Gallery and Framing.

TACKLE BOX
BAR & GRILL

"San Pedro's Spot"

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Blaze Up! Habanero Chicken Wings,
Captain Tackle Box Chili, Spicy Box Fries,
Nautical Nachos, Grilled Local Fish Burger,
Chipotle Chicken Burger, Big Box Sandwich,
Tackle Tossed Salad, Garlic Shrimp-Skewers,
Grilled Sausage Plate, Sunday Beltzoo BBQ!

Costa Maya Events
Thursday the 3rd
Karaoke Idol Championship
Friday the 4th
Super Latinos
Saturday the 5th
surprise special guest band jam
Sunday the 6th
Punta Boyz

TACKLE BOX is located in the heart of San Pedro at the end of black coral street off of the San Pedro water taxi pier
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Located on the beach, in the heart of San Pedro on Barrier Reef Drive
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The first International Costa Maya host to make women swoon was Mexican Soap Star Mauricio Islas.

As time passed, the pageant was changed to the Reina de la Costa Maya Pageant. Contestants are now required to be a titleholder in their country, making this event a first-class pageant. The first Reina de la Costa Maya Queen was crowned in 1996, a lovely representative from Mexico, Miss Maria del Socorro Retolaza. Each year the crown passed to the following: 1997 – Miss Carol Aquino from Guatemala, 1998 – Astrid Ramirez (also from Guatemala), 1999 – Denise Guzman of Mexico, 2000 – Sandra Glower Silis of El Salvador, 2001

– Evelyn Lopez of Guatemala, 2002 – Elsa Burgos of Mexico, 2003 – Belize's beauty ambassador Leilah Pandey, 2004 – Marisol Rojas Avila of Mexico and in 2005 the coveted title was won by Costa Rica's Johanna Fernandez.

Today, the festival has gained international exposure because of the wonderful entertainment provided by performers from all of the Mayan countries. To give you an idea, the following lively acts have put many in the party mood: The Garifuna Kids, La Gran Banda, Los Ilegales, La Salsa Clave, Chico Flores,



Grammy winners, Los Kumbia Kings rocked last year's festival.



Festival goers enjoying the show...recognize anyone?

Los Malecates, Garibaldi, Los Phoenix, Santos's Messengers, Rene Alonzo and La Banda Lazzar, Paloma Martin and Mariachi Los Galleros, Los Gatos Bravos, Andy Palacio, Sergio Blas, Kairo, Laura Leon, Las Chicas Roland, Maribel Guardia, Niurka and Pablo Montero, **Continued on Page 17**

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History of Costa Maya

Continued from Page 16



Last year's performance was most memorable, as the Kumbia Kings drove the crowd wild with their high energy performance and great onstage antics.



Reigning beauty Miss Costa Maya Costa Rica's Johanna Fernandez.

Kumbia Kings and this year's performers, Los Mismos. The pageant has also featured many famous international hosts: Mauricio Islas, Rodrigo Vidal, Valentino Lanus, Gabriel Soto, Rafael Amaya, and Spanish model Michel Olivarez. Last year, the festival provided an opportunity for the public to meet the popular and Grammy-winning band - the Kumbia Kings who lit a fire on everyone's feet.

The festival has gained international recognition and is organized every year by a dynamic and hard working team. Some of the long-standing members include: Gach Guerrero, Einer Gomez, Wil Alamilla Jr., Milo Paz Jr. and Marisa Salazar. Through their dedication, this team of volunteers has managed to make the festival an event that brings much-needed income

to the entire island. Today, the festival is celebrated for four days and features lively music, folkloric dances, children's entertainment, food, drinks galore, and many other surprises.

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El Divino
 CARIBBEAN STEAKHOUSE & MARTINI LOUNGE

Dinner entrees include...

- Filet Mignon, Garlic Mashed Potatoes with Cabernet Wine Sauce • Pork Chops, Steak, Fries and Warm Apple Chutney
- Pan Seared Grouper, Garlic Mashed Potatoes with Grapefruit Beurre Blanc
- Steamed Local Lobster Tail with Saffron Risotto
- Sautéed Snapper over Black Bean Salsa with Caribbean Citrus Sauce
- Sautéed Shrimp, Herb Pesto Couscous and Flavored Oils

For lunch enjoy...

- Chilled Gazpacho Soup with Shrimp
- Sirloin Burger with fries
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Start the day with... Also Offering Daily Specials

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LUNA

PALM TREE CUISINE

Luna, Ambergris Caye's latest trendy restaurant, is now open. Serving Palm Tree Cuisine, a fusion of Central American and Caribbean delicacies, **Luna** offers a selection of fresh local seafood, tender meats and exotic vegetables prepared by our renowned chef.

Menu selections include: Jerk Seared Sea Scallop Crouton, Smoked Oyster Bruschetta, Spinach Pesto Goat Cheese Salad, Rib-Eye Steak Argentino, Almond Nut Crusted Grouper, White Chocolate Pudding laced with a cardamom anglaise sauce, Strawberry & Mango Ice Parfait.

Luna boasts an atmosphere of relaxed elegance and style, with inventive cuisine in an enchanting setting.

Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner...

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



Wolfe's Woofers by Dennis Wolfe

Happy Birthday!

"That was quite a birthday party they threw for you at BC's last Sunday," Jim said. "Did you have a good time?"

"Sure," I said. "I like having birthday parties. It's the birthdays that I don't like. People that have birthdays are always getting older."

"As many as you've had you should be used to it by now," Jim said.

"Very funny. You're not that far behind me."

"Isn't Dulce's birthday this month?" Denise asked. "I seem to recall hers being in August."

"Oh, God," I groaned. "You're right. Her birthday is coming up in a few weeks. I hope I survive it better than I did last year."

"Why? What happened last year?" Denise asked.

"She didn't speak to me from August 21st through October. I ate hot dogs at the park every night and slept on the couch upstairs for two months."

"Why was she so mad?"

"She kept hinting about a birthday present. She would say things like, 'You know, you never got me an engagement ring but it's never too late.' Finally, the day before her birthday she just got right down to it and said, 'For my birthday this year you had better get me something with diamonds in it.'"

"Did you get her something with diamonds?"

"Yes."

"Then why would she be mad? What did you get her?"

"I bought her a deck of playing cards."

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Trivia Tidbits

*Celery has negative calories — it takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it to begin with.

*Police investigators are experts in collecting "dactylograms," otherwise known as fingerprints.

*The first paper notes printed in the United States were in denominations of one cent, five cents, 25 cents, and 50 cents. The U.S. Department of the Treasury first issued paper U.S. currency in 1862 to make up for the shortage of coins and to finance the Civil War.

*Located in the Indian Ocean just north of the equator, Sri Lanka had a highly developed civilization as early as the fifth century B.C. Translation of Sri Lanka is "beautiful country."

*Roughly 25 percent of all prescription medicines in the United States are derived from plants, including alkaloids from the rosy periwinkle of Madagascar. This plant has been successful in arresting childhood leukemia and Hodgkin's disease.

*Studies show that one out of every 3,000 children has some form of autistic disorder.

*On a hot afternoon, the atmosphere draws up 5,500 million gallons of water an hour from the Gulf of Mexico.

*There are odor technicians in the perfume trade with the olfactory skill to distinguish 19,000 different odors at twenty levels of intensity each.

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DEVELOPED PROPERTIES

- ❖ **NEW** Buena Vista Beach Condo project.** Pre-construction pricing. Inquire!
- ❖ **Banana Beach Resort:** Condos and Suites with 2 Pools, beach, restaurant and bar. Banana Beach properties have **guaranteed rental incomes!**
 - 3 bed beach condos \$240,000.
 - 2 bed beach condos \$215,000.
 - 1 bed beach condos \$155,00 - 195,000.
 - 1 bed courtyard suites \$123,500.
 - 1 bed balcony suites \$57,500.
- ❖ **Villa del Mar** – new custom built beachfront home, 1 ac, pier, 3 bedroom \$945,000.
- ❖ **Spacious rental beach home south of town.** Sleeps 10 plus guest cottage. Pool, mature landscaping, large pier. Inquire.
- ❖ **Caye Villas** – Beach villas with pool.
 - 2 Bed 3 bath fully furnished \$394,000.
 - 2 bed 3 bath fully furnished \$395,000.
- ❖ **San Pablo canal home w/ 200ft water frontage,** 2 boat slips, ramp, fully fenced, 2 storey duplex 2bed/1bath up 1bed/1bath down. \$295,000.
- ❖ **Mi Casa.** Rental suites with spacious top floor owner's quarters and loft apt. \$650,000.
- ❖ **The Castle** 10 apt complex: \$400,000.
- ❖ **NEW** Caye Casa** – beachfront condo in town location. Inquire!
- ❖ **Coming soon** – Luxurious bay front homes – 4 bedrooms.

UNDEVELOPED PROPERTIES

- ❖ **In town beach lot!** Commercial or residential. \$490,000. Under-contract
- ❖ **Mexico Rocks area 178 ft beach** \$ 765,000. Under-contract
- ❖ **Robles beachfront 100 ft beach** \$200,000
- ❖ **Robles beachfront 200 ft beach** \$400,000
- ❖ **Palmero Point 80 ft of beach** \$297,000
- ❖ **Playa Blanca beach lot 60 x 105 ft w/dock** \$210,000. Sold
- ❖ **Playa Blanca beach lot 52 X 120 ft** \$225,000. Sold
- ❖ **Boca Ciega 4.5 acres** 170ft beach front. \$350,000.
- ❖ **Buena Vista Point** ocean view 75ft x 150ft \$79,000 each.
- ❖ **Buena Vista Point** ocean view 75ft x 150ft \$89,000 each.
- ❖ **Laguna Estates** ocean view lots from \$30,000.
- ❖ **Laguna Estates** commercial tracts & islands Inquire!
- ❖ **Caribbean Coves** 200ft ocean front west side \$ 125,000. GREAT PRICE
- ❖ **San Marcos 2 adjoining 50' X 100'** lots - \$35,000 each.
- ❖ **Alta Mar** 100ft x 100ft lot \$65,000.

All prices are in US dollars and subject to change without notice. For further details on these properties and much more call your AMBERGRIS CAYE SPECIALISTS



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