

THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR GUIDE

January 10, 2008

FREE

The Island Newspaper
Ambergris Caye, Belize
Central America

Vol. 18 #02

SEArrious Adventures: *Celebrating 10 years of success!*



Reservations: 501-226-2012
Fax: 501-226-2338
Email: reservations@tropicair.com
www.tropicair.com

Greetings to my visiting friends

On behalf of the people of San Pedro Town, I extend a warm welcome to all visitors arriving to our shores. I assure you that your trip to "La Isla Bonita" will be no ordinary vacation. Our island is famous for its rich cultural diversity, where Mestizos, Creole and Garinagu blend to form a unique encounter. While here, I encourage you to explore the Caribbean



Sea and find Belize's abundant treasures. Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Shark-Ray Alley are just two of the many spots where you can enjoy our coral reef formation and abundant and breathtaking sea life. San Pedro is also home to world-class fishing and scuba diving.

For the more adventurous, "La Isla Bonita" offers a wide array of water sports and for those looking to get a glimpse of the mystical world of the Maya, these historical ruins are just a short expedition away. You will also be

able to discover Belize's vast cave systems and many natural sanctuaries that are home to our country's unique flora and fauna.

Whether you are spending your honeymoon at an exclusive resort or looking for an adventurous, yet romantic escape, San Pedro is surely the place to be. I invite you to explore our home and see the many wonders it has to offer.

We welcome you with open arms. Bienvenidos a San Pedro!

Elsa Paz, Mayor,
San Pedro Town

The San Pedro Sun is mailed everywhere.

Publisher	The San Pedro Sun Ltd.
Editor	Ron Sniffin ron@sanpedrosun.net
Editor	Tamara Sniffin tamara@sanpedrosun.net
Associate Editor	Kainie Manuel kainie@sanpedrosun.net
Staff Writer/	Mary Gonzalez mary@sanpedrosun.net
Graphic Design	
Staff Reporter	Maria Novelo maria@sanpedrosun.net
Office Assistant	Nathalie Manuel nathalie@sanpedrosun.net
Mail	The San Pedro Sun, P.O. Box 35, San Pedro Town Ambergris Caye, Belize
Telephone	011-501-226-2070
US Telephone	(307) 460-4114
Fax	011-501-226-2905
E-Mail	spsun@sanpedrosun.net
Internet/WEB	www.sanpedrosun.net
Main Office	#63 Barrier Reef Drive, San Pedro

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More foreign subscribers than any newspaper in Belize!

Where did you read your San Pedro Sun?

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



Don Compardo reads a printed copy of *The San Pedro Sun Visitor Guide* on a frozen lake in Dryden, Ontario, Canada.



Cheng Tzu Lu reads her copy of *The San Pedro Sun Visitor Guide* before going for a walk in Queens' Botanical Garden in Queens, New York.

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.

Language can link us with other cultures, no matter how far away. In an effort to share this form of communication with our audience, *The San Pedro Sun* proudly presents – **WORD OF THE WEEK** – a couple of words in Creole, foreign tongue may be. and translate it to English, using the Creole/ English Dictionary released through the Kriol Council. Special thanks to Sylvana Woods for our copy of the dictionary. Enjoy!!!

History **Hischri** – Mee noh laik hischri kaa yu hafu memba tu moch dayt. (I don't like history because you have to remember too many dates.)

Hysteria **Histeeriya** – Mi ma nayli ga histeeriya wen ah tel ahn dat ah pregnant. (My mom was almost hysterical when I told her that I was pregnant.)

Hypocrite **Hipokrit** – Wi kyaahn chros dehn pipl kaaz dehn da hipokrit. (We can't trust those people because they're hypocrites.)

SEArrious Adventures Celebrates 10 Years of Success!

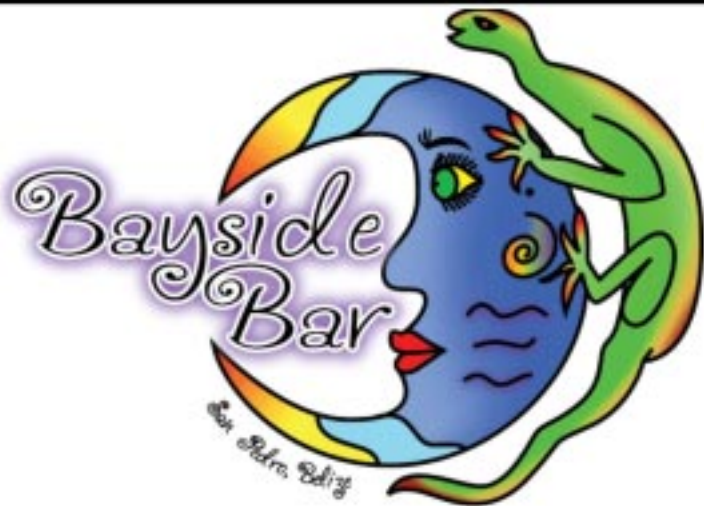


SNORKELING TRIPS - On a snorkeling trip to Mexico Rocks, long time SEArrious guide Jeffery offers advice before the group enters the water. Safety is always paramount and he makes sure that all equipment fits properly and is in working order. Once in the water Jeffery guides the group with a life ring in tow, pointing out the names of the fish and corals below. The motto at SEArrious Adventures is "Educational Fun", and the adventure is a perfect outing for a family. The guides are happy to pay special attention to those who need a little extra help or are first time snorkelers.

As in most tourism destinations like Ambergris Caye, visitors depend on the expertise of local tour companies to guide them to the various attractions that make the area unique. San Pedro is no different and there are several such businesses on the island who offer a variety of adventures above and below the sea. One such business (and one of the first of its kind on La Isla Bonita) is SEArrious Adventures. SEArrious is celebrating their 10 year anniversary this year

and *The San Pedro Sun* has watched them grow from a humble one-boat operation to one of the leading tour businesses in the country. Over the years we have tagged along on every adventure they have to offer and always leave enthused, exhilarated and a little more knowledgeable about the flora, fauna and culture of Belize. So, what is the key to their success? Let us share their story with you, as it is clear that the perfect combination of

Continued on Page 4



**A hidden treasure on the lagoon,
directly west of Tropic Air Cargo**

Happy Hour from 5pm-7pm

**Enjoy the white sandy beach,
open space and delicious drinks
with a family friendly environment!**

Come experience the BEST
Piña Colada on the island!

Great snacks also available

Open daily: 11am - 12midnight



THE UPPER DECK BAR & GRILLE

Belizean Shores Resort
is proud to announce the
opening of its new Bar & Grill

The Upper Deck

San Pedro's only Sports theme
Fine/Casual Dining
Large Flat Screen Tv's

Come watch the Game and Enjoy
our local and International Menu

Or enjoy a cocktail at sunset
with our Panoramic Views of
the North of San Pedro

SEArrious Adventures Continued from Page 3

talent, circumstance, passion and ambition have melded to make SEArrious Adventures what they are today.

It is safe to say that it all began with Wilfred "Willie" Leslie. A San Pedro native, Willie was born into a family that was involved in the tourism industry. Naturally Willie developed a keen interest in this business as well and was only 15 years old when he received his PADI Open Water Scuba Certification. He then went to work with one of his brothers as an assistant on their diving expeditions and eventually led divers into the azure waters of Belize himself. Only a year after receiving his first scuba certification he was certified as a Dive Master.

Throughout this time, Willie would accompany his brother on inland tours, specifically to the Altun Ha Maya ruins. The breathtaking beauty and mystique of this place immediately captured the attention of young Willie who decided to study more about the surrounding flora and fauna. Willie was a "natural" when

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MANATEE WATCH WITH BEACH BBQ - Willie (right) has a long relationship with these gentle "mermaids" of the Caribbean (above) and knows right where to find them. It is a delight to spot these creatures as they graze on turtle grass or poke their bristly noses out of the water for air and often dolphins join the attraction. For lunch Willie cooks up a mean BBQ on picturesque Goff Caye while you enjoy some amazing snorkeling right off the beach.



The San Pedro Fitness Club
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TAE-BO, YOGA & JIJITSU CLASSES **DATES & TIMES**

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 Sunday 10:00am to 12:00 noon
 Telephone: 226-2632, ext. 18 or 226-2707 Email: granielsdreamland1@yahoo.com

OPEN
 Monday - Saturday: 8am - 6pm
 Sundays: 8am - 2pm

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Reservations 501 220-5010

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BELIZE



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- Full Body Treatment (therapeutic massage & facial & scalp treatment)...\$250US
- 90 Minute therapeutic massage...\$125US



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LAMANAI - A full day of adventure awaits you! First travel by boat to the mainland, then up the Old Northern River to Bomba Village where you board a bus and travel the Pan-American Highway to Tower Hill where you take another boat up the New River to Lamanai where you spot the top of an ancient Maya ruin, breaking free from the embrace of the canopied rainforest. You will experience incredible jungle flora, exotic birds, howler monkeys, crocs and great food while immersed deep in Mayan culture.

it came to dealing with people, and the knowledge and experience he gained touring these areas soon made him a "pro" in this business. Throughout the ten years he worked for his brother's tour company, Willie was most often put in charge of visiting travel writers, filmmakers and other distinguished guests, because of his "one-of-a-kind" skills as a tour guide.

In 1997, confident that he was an able guide, Willie and his Canadian wife and business partner Sandy decided it was time to take the plunge and invest in their own business. Sandy reminisces about those days and tells *The San Pedro Sun*, "That first year was a tough one for us, we were a very modest operation with just one boat and we had a young daughter, as well. In the evening, we both had second jobs to make ends meet. We worked tirelessly to build the business and it was certainly a struggle at times." Fortunately, Willie soon established a reputation for his personal tours which included manatee watching, and river tours to the Altun Ha and Lamanai archaeological sites. As tourism continued to grow on Ambergris Caye so did their business and in 1999, Willie and Sandy christened their business SEArrious Adventures Tour Center.

Over the years they faced many challenges, perhaps the biggest one being the hurricanes. Hurricane Mitch in

Continued on Page 7

PALAPA

BAR AND GRILL
Tres Coco North of the Bridge
Overlooking the Caribbean Sea!

ICE GOLD BEER!

- * BBQ served 7 days a week
- * Tropical drinks & cocktails
- * Daily drink specials
- * Happy hour 4 - 6 PM...
- 2 for 1 local rum drinks!
- * Fish tacos
- * **BIG** cheeseburgers & more!

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www.palapabarandgrill.com

A Truly Divine Experience

This elegantly appointed restaurant features both outdoor seating and indoor air-conditioned split level dining with high ceilings, local artwork and more. Our wonderfully decorated lounge invites you to enjoy the island's largest selection of drinks, cool tropical cocktails and martinis.

El Divino
CARIBBEAN STEAKHOUSE & MARTINI LOUNGE

Start the Day with...

- Eggs Benedict with Smoked Ham - Belizean Banana Pancakes - Apple Cinnamon French Toast

Ask for Daily Breakfast Specials...

For Lunch, enjoy...

- Chilled Shrimp Gazpacho Soup - Jalapeño & Cheddar Burger - Cheddar Shrimp Sandwich - Caesar Salad - Chicken Breast Sandwich

Also offering Daily Lunch Specials...

Dinner entrees include...

- Filet Mignon in Cabernet Wine Sauce - Pan Seared Grouper with Grapefruit Beurre Blanc Sauce - Steamed Reef Lobster Tail with drawn butter

- House Specialty: Brazilian Style Rotisserie (Churrasco)

Daily Drink Specials:
Martini Monday, Tequila Tuesday, Wine & Dine Wednesday

Located at Banana Beach on Coconut Drive 226-3892

Restaurant Open till 10
Bar Open till Midnight

Now open!

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Pitchers of Sangria

Beers

Margaritas

Serving Vanilla, Minty Classic, Ginger or Tropical Fruit Mojitos!

Sample our tasty tapas: tacos, subs, enchiladas, whole wheat wraps, black bean hummus, ceviches & more!

Located at the Sunbreeze Suites (formerly Aqua Marina Suites) On the beach across from Belize Bank Open daily: 7 am - 10 pm mojitobar.tapas@gmail.com

CAVE TUBING & ZIP LINING (right) - A mainland adventure that begins with a tour of the Belize Zoo, then on to Jaguar Paw Resort where you hike through dense rainforest to the Sibun Caves where you float through breathtaking caves. The guides share stories of ancient Mayan ceremonies and explain that many Mayan artifacts and burial mounds were discovered here. Guests can also enjoy zip lining through the tree tops and relaxing at the Resort.

SEArrious Adventures

Continued from Page 6

1998 and Hurricane Keith in 2000 both took their toll on their business as well as the tourism industry in the area and it seems like every year there is at least one evacuation due to an impending hurricane threat. Sandy comments that packing up a business that is located on the beach and getting their fleet to safe dock is a huge process that is time and cost intensive. "It is a big job organizing the evacuation of our business and the whole ordeal is really overwhelming," Sandy tells us, "It can just be exhausting!"

Despite the challenges, SEArrious Adventures is looking back at 10 years of success. Sandy and Willie can't help but marvel at the past years and feel proud of their accomplishments. They now have six boats, and two years ago they added the catamaran "Escape" to their fleet. Their office is centrally located right on the beach (over the water) and each day they provide a variety of tours. In addition to the original manatee watching with beach BBQ and river tours to the Altun Ha and Lamanai, they now offer tours of Bacalar Chico and snorkeling trips to Hol Chan Marine Park, Shark Ray Alley, Mexico Rocks and Tres Cocos. Their mainland tours include the Belize Zoo, cave tubing/zip lining and the Xunantunich ruins. They also offer full day sailing trips aboard the *Escape* that offer snorkeling and visiting neighboring Caye Caulker or head north bound to Mexico Rocks. Sandy tells us they now see a lot of repeat customers and many new customers that come to them based on a recommendation from a satisfied guest. They also offer their tours through several of the island resorts who trust them to provide the best experience possible to their valued guests and they are also endorsement by the

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1L GOLD
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Belikin
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Iced Beer
Case
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Johnny
Walker
Black
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IMPORTANT #s

Emergency 911
Medical Emergency (ACER) 226-3231
Crimestoppers 800 922-TIPS
Police 226-2022
Fire 226-2372

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 600-7119
Hyperbaric Chamber - 226-2851, Dr. Otto Rodriguez - 604-7599 or 226-2854. Antonia Guerrero - 600-5475. Eleazar Portillo - 610-4560 or 226-3195.

San Pedro Polyclinic II - 226-2536. Dr. Zuniga: 670-8755 and Dr. Otto Rodriguez: 604-7599.

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

US Embassy - 822-4011

Labour Office - 226-2700 (Open 8am - 5pm, Mon. - Fri.)

Canadian Consulate - 223-1060

Mexican Embassy - 223-0193

Guatemalan Embassy - 223-3150

Honduran Embassy - 224-5889

San Carlos Medical (MD & Dentist Services) - 7:30am - 9:00pm, 226-2918.

Church Services

San Pedro Roman Catholic Church
 Sunday Mass: (English) 8am & 10am & Baptism: 11am; Spanish: 7pm; Mass or Communion Service every night at 7pm.
 Saturday evening: Anticipated Sunday Mass: 7p.m. Daily Masses 7am & 7pm.

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-St.-Sn. at 7:30 p.m.

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

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints - Sunday Service: 9:30 am, Wednesday Scripture Study 7:00 pm. 17 Lagoon St. (between the bakery and the bridge).

San Pedro Community Church - meets Sundays at 10a.m. at the Ambergris Elementary School. All Are Welcome.

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 /226-2833

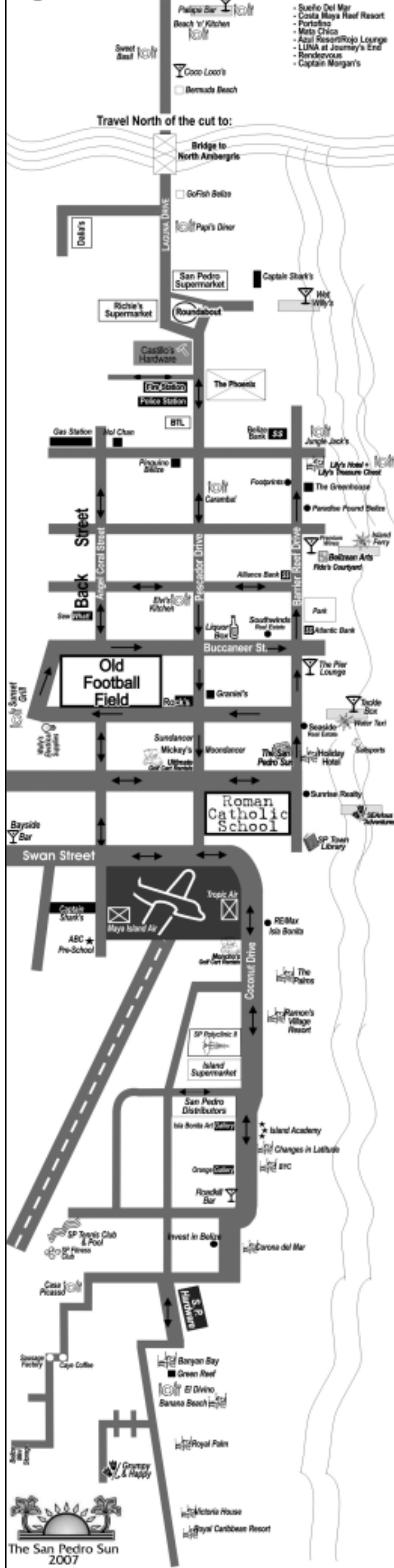
San Pedro AA - 226-4464, 600-9061

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

CARE BELIZE - Children's Specialist, San Pedro. 622-8200

SP Town Library - 206-2028

Guide to Isla Bonita



Tourist Information

Belize Tourism Board - 223-1910.

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

San Pedro Tourist Guide Association 226-2391.

Water, Sports & Tours

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

GRUMPY & HAPPY - Snorkeling - private snorkel tours - just you on the boat, no set schedule! Visitors with special needs and children are welcome. Call 226-3420 or 672-1234. Visit www.grumpyandhappy.com, or Email: info@grumpyandhappy.com.

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.

SUEÑO DEL MAR - Paradise has a new address! Located on Barrier Reef Drive (Front Street), across from Fido's Restaurant. 8:30AM to 5PM, www.dreambelize.com, Phone: (US #) 719-302-5398, (Belize #) 011-501-226-4001.
INVEST IN BELIZE - Call for Appointments and pick-ups. 226-4000 or www.investinbelize.com

RE/MAX Isla Bonita, located at 10 Coconut Drive, San Pedro. 226-4400 e-mail: info@owninbelize.com or visit our website at www.owninbelize.com

CORAL BEACH REALTY - Professionalism at it's best. Visit our office "Unda da Palapa" on Barrier Reef Drive, 226-2681. www.CoralBeachRealty.net

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.

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

Services...

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.

S.P. HARDWARE - Large variety of hardware and household supplies. Will meet or beat any competitor's price! Seagrape Drive; Open seven days a week. 226-4522

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.

PALAPA BAR AND GRILL - The Coolest Place, North of Bridge. Drink & Dine out over the Caribbean waters with cool breezes and no mosquitoes. Specialty is a BBQ, Slow Smoked, Pork Sandwich and Fresh Caught Fish Tacos. Open 7 days, Happy Hour Drinks 4 - 6 226-3111.

ROADKILL BAR - For a GREAT time! Mondays with Dennis Wolfe and Caroline's BBQ. Enjoy happy hour from 2pm - 6pm on Thursdays and Sundays. BBQ Lunch on Saturdays. Across from Crazy Canucks, open daily from 12 - 12.

COCO LOCO'S SWIM-UP & BEACH BAR - 1/8th of a mile north of the bridge, directly on the beach! Happy Hour daily from 4-6pm. Great music and the best bartender! *The new owners are doing it up right!* Call 226-2910.



Dining Out...



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

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.

PAPI'S DINER - The place for fine food at diner prices. Taste the Caribbean. Call 665-4506.

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.

PORTOFINO RESTAURANT AND GREEN PARROT BEACH BAR - 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.

SUNSET GRILL - Offering local and international cuisine. Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner. Located on the lagoon side. 226-2600. Come by at sunset and help us feed the tarpons!

JUNGLE JACK'S - International and Local cuisine featuring AWESOME hamburgers. Serving lunch and dinner with daily specials. Open 11:30am - 2:30pm and 5:30pm - 9:30pm. Located across from the Belize Bank. Call 226-2639.

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.

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

BEACH 'N' KITCHEN - Open Daily for Brunch. Choose delicious Eggs Benedict, stuffed French toast or continental breakfast! Now open for dinner from 5pm - 8pm. North of the bridge, near Palapa Bar. Call 226-4456.

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.

BLUE LOTUS LUXURY DINING - Delight yourself with Indian cuisine at San Pedro's newest water-top restaurant. Spectacular views of San Pedro at night! Complimentary water taxi service. Call 501-620-BLUE (2583).

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

...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.

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.

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.

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

BELIZEAN ARTS GALLERY - Local art!

BELIZE MINI STORAGE / SELF STORAGE - Located in San Pablo. Elevated concrete construction and gated entry. Security. Water access and a great new boat launch ramp on site. Call 672-1234.

PINGUINO BELIZE - Fine Wine. Gourmet Olives, stuffed olives and spreads. Exclusively in Belize. Free Tasting! 226-2930. pinguinobelize.com

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Preparing for a Day Trip

The classic Boy Scout motto "Be Prepared" could not be better words of advice for those planning a day trip. Be it a day of fishing, Manatee watching, or a jungle trip to exotic Mayan Ruins, there are a few items you should not leave your hotel with out, and a few things to remember that will help assure that you have an enjoyable (and safe) experience. Although some of these tips may seem obvious, it is easy to over look them in the excitement of your anticipated adventure.

If you have reserved your trip through your hotel or a tour business you will most likely have a voucher. Many of these businesses list on their vouchers what they recommend you bring. Chances are you will be traveling by boat and there are things you should prepare for. Please don't forget to bring your voucher when you board the boat. Many times, folks have to sit and wait in the boat while someone boarding has to run back to their room to retrieve their forgotten voucher.



Most excursions pick up people at the docks along the front beach and people who hold things up ultimately make the trip late. That said, if you are waiting to be picked up at 7:00 a.m. don't panic at 7:30 that you missed the boat. Chances are your charter was held up for a dozen different reasons. When a boat does arrive, be sure to find out where it is going, as there are several different tour companies and tours offered on the island. If you are transported by motorboat, you can expect wind, sun and ocean spray. The combination of all three can leave you feeling like you just tangoed with a tornado. If you have long hair, plan on tying it back, braiding it is even better. Hats are always a good idea, but if you cannot secure it on your head, you should be prepared to fish it out of the ocean with the first good breeze that comes along. Don't forget your sunscreen, and if you are swimming during the trip you should reapply often. Even on a cloudy day the sun can filter through, and with the reflection on the water

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Belize Tourism Board. With a big smile on her face, Sandy jokes, "We are not trying to toot our own horn, but honestly Willie and I are sort of amazed we have reached this milestone. We never dreamed our business would thrive the way it has and it really feels good that we have made it this long." Over the years not only

has their business grown but their family as well, and they are the proud parents of three children, Brianna Hope, Alexa Ray, and Jackson Nicholas.

And just what is the secret to their success? In a 2001 interview with Willie, the charismatic guide told *The*

Continued on Page 12



ISLAND ADVENTURE - The sight of Goff's Caye conjures up romantic notions of the classic stories of the castaways marooned on a desert island. A delicious BBQ lunch awaits us after snorkeling from the beach.

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San Pedro Sun, "I try to be as informative as I can from the beginning to the end of the tour. I emphasize the ecology of Belize and pride myself in saying that I have intensely researched all the information I provide my clients. The positive e-mail and postal correspondence that we receive, almost on a daily basis, is what keeps me going." Today, Willie still holds the same enthusiasm and passion for his work. When asked if he had a favorite trip he tells us, "I don't really think that I have a favorite, each tour has something special about it that I really love. I love the manatee and the ruins and the sailing is so different from everything, although it requires a lot of attention. I always want to give my guests the best experience and I try to keep it fresh for

Continued on Page 13

ESCAPE - Aboard the catamaran *ESCAPE* you sail to the soothing sea-song of wind and water. The day trip south first stops at Hol Chan Marine Reserve for some world class snorkeling and then on to Caye Caulker for lunch and relaxation. On the way back to San Pedro you end the day with an exciting snorkel stop at Shark Ray Alley.

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Commercial/Condos/Homes

Mayan Princess – Located in the heart of San Pedro. Well maintained, good management. (D15) Unit 14- beachfront, second level condo. \$140,000.00 US

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Beach Front Home at Spanish Reef: (W29) Attractive beach house located only 4 miles north of San Pedro. Home consists of 2 bdms, 1 bath, wide porch & large storage room. Lot - 50' x 100'. \$450,000.00 US.

San Pedrito Residential (G42) Two storey house located at San Pedrito consisting of 3 bedroom 1 bath owner's quarters and two apartments on the ground floor. Building sits on lot measuring 50' x 75'. Asking price: \$159,000.00 US.

Raw Land

Robles (T39) Beach front lot 23a measuring 100' x 360'. \$179,000.00 US

Palmero Point (G43) Nice lot several rows off the beach, located 9 miles north of town. Measuring approx. 107' x 164'. \$30,000.00 US.

Paradise Coves (C49) Good sized lot 3.5 miles north of San Pedro – great location & great price at \$25,000.00 US

San Pablo (G40) Great Canal & Corner lot located in San Pablo subdivision. Excellent investment & opportunity for a home or business. \$60,000.00 U.S.

Flying Fisherman (D16) lot 300' off the beach, measures 50' x 78'. \$12,500.00 US

Santa Rita (H32) Lot 18 – 50' x 110' - 3rd row - \$24,500.00 US

Ambergris Bay (W31) & (W32)- Lot #452 & 453, both measuring 65' & 110' of depth. Price for each lot only \$81,250.00 US. Buy both for large beachfront of 130 ft!

Ambergris Bay (G44)- Large parcel with gorgeous white sandy beachfront. Lot 436 measures 75' x 180', with enough space for large house & backyard. \$95,000.00 US.

San Pedro Lagoon (G39)- Beautiful beachfront property totaling 8.46 acres of pristine land located west of town & facing the tranquil San Pedro lagoon. This unspoiled location offers spectacular vistas of the lagoon area, striking sunsets, & great fishing at your doorstep. Build your dream retreat only a few minutes away by boat from San Pedro Town. Property comprises 992 feet of beach frontage by 400 feet of depth. Price- \$1,984,000.00 US.

me too.” And why the success we ask? “I guess we just do the best we can. Right now we have nine guides and I set very high standards for them, we have to be consistent and always provide the very best tour possible.” Sandy is eager to give a lot of the credit to their staff, many who have worked with them for several years. “We have more than a boss/employee relationship...we are friends and we are a team that works well together. I guess Willie and I are a good team too, he has the talent for the guide end of the business while I am better at handling the business end of things, together we are all an important part of the business,” Sandy tells us. “We also try to give back to the community when we can, and have adopted the beach in front of us and are making it into a picnic area for the San Pedro Roman Catholic School children. We are installing six picnic tables and making the area into a little park where the kids can eat their lunches.”

The San Pedro Sun congratulates Willie and Sandy and the entire staff of SEArrious Adventures on their unprecedented success and wishes them many prosperous years in the future. For more information about SEArrious Adventures visit their office on the beach across from the San Pedro Roman Catholic School, phone 226-4202 or 226-4206 or visit their website at www.ambergris caye.com/searrious.

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Preparing for a Day Trip

Continued from Page 10

you can get a lot of sun without realizing it. If you are wearing shorts don't forget to apply sunscreen to the tops of your legs and feet, you will be in a sitting position on the boat and these sensitive "haven't seen the light of day" areas tend to burn fast.

Most boats do not have rest rooms, so be sure to take care of business before boarding, or you may find yourself in an embarrassing "over-the-boat" moment. Remember, many of the rides into the main land take well over an hour and can be on choppy waters. Early morning trips can be a bit chilly, and a light, long-sleeved shirt can provide warmth, as well as sun protection. Depending on the weather there can be a good amount of ocean spray, so it is possible that what ever you wear and bring along might get wet. A zip lock bags works great to protect your valuable camera and other items. Of course a beach towel is a must as well.

Don't worry about getting a little wet, just sit back and enjoy the refreshing sea spray while taking in the transparent azure waters. If you are on a snorkeling trip you should be sure that a) you have your equipment, b) you rented equipment or c) the tour is providing you with equipment. If you are a first time snorkeler remember that the guides are there to help you, they are pro's at this. If you are fishing, find out in advance what, if anything, you are expected to bring. Again, most fishing boats provide the poles and bait. Many of the day trips offer jungle excursions to near-by Mayan Ruins or to the Caves Branch

River for some incredible cave tubing. On any trip that involves walking the rule of thumb is "sensible shoes". You will be walking on jungle pathways that can be slippery when wet and on surfaces that are uneven. A pair of tennis shoes or a fitted Teva-like sandal is your best bet, slip-on sandals and any kind of heel is a just a bad idea.

The larger tour companies, like SEArrious Adventures and SEAduced, stock their boats with coolers full of soda pop, water, Belikin beer and if you are lucky, rum punch. Most guides are at-

tentive and generous; if they have something you need or forgot they will gladly share or accommodate you as best as possible.

Last, but not least, always day-trip with a small amount of cash. Even if the land part of your trip includes meals, you may decide you want an additional beverage at the local restaurant or come across a trinket you can't live without. If you don't spend the cash on your trip, and you enjoyed your journey, your guide will certainly appreciate a tip. Remember that this is his job, and that he might do the same trip day after day during the peak tourist season. Was he enthusiastic, friendly and helpful? If so let him know you appre-

ciate the way he shared his incredible world with you. By the end of the day you will be tired and elated by the unique experiences of the day behind you. Although you may be eager to pack in as many things in a day as possible while on your vacation, chances are that when you do return to your room you will be ready for a shower, a low-keyed dinner and bed. Planning a big dinner (with reservations that you may be late for) and a night on the town may not sound all that exciting by the end of your day. Chances are you will cherish the memory of your day for many years to come, and the more prepared you are the more you will enjoy your Belizean adventure.



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Wolfe's Woofers by Dennis Wolfe

I Forgot

"I still love the rice and beans at El Fogón Restaurant,"

"My favorite is the escabeche," Dulce said. "I could eat it at least twice a day."

As I got ready to turn down our street, Dulce said, "Oh, my God! I left my purse back at the restaurant."

"What?!"

"Turn around," she said. "We have to go back there right now."

"Well, for God's sake," I said. "I've driven almost a mile to get home and now you notice you left your purse. What a pain in the butt."

"Just drive," she said.

I drove but the more I drove the more irritating it became.

"You know, that is one of the first signs of old age," I said. "You start forgetting things."

"Look," she said. "All I did was leave my purse behind. You do things like that all of the time."

"Never," I said. "Name me one time that I've done something like that."

"Just shut up and drive."

We rode the rest of the way in silence until we pulled up in front of the restaurant.

"Uh. . . Dulce," I said.

She looked at me for a moment and finally said, "What?"

"While you're in there getting your purse will you check that chair right next to the cash register and pick up my hat and sunglasses?"

Trivia Tidbits...

*Queen Elizabeth I of England, using a diamond, scratched the following message on her prison window: "Much suspected of me, nothing proved can be."

*There are three sets of letters on the standard typewriter and computer keyboards which are in alphabetical order, reading left to right. They are f-g-h, j-k-l, and o-p.

*Hair grows slowest at night. It speeds up in the morning, slows in the afternoon, and grows faster again in the evening. Hair grows faster in summer than in winter.

*Male cockatoos can be taught to speak, but females can only chirp and sing.

*In a survey conducted by a women's magazine, 70 percent of female respondents said they would rather have chocolate than sex, according to the Chocolate Manufacturers Association.

*The Hirudo leech has three jaws with 100 teeth on each jaw — making 300 teeth in all. The Amazon leech uses a different method of sucking blood. They insert a long proboscis into the victim as opposed to biting.



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