

# THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR GUIDE



January 17, 2008

**FREE**

The Island Newspaper  
Ambergris Caye, Belize  
Central America

Vol. 18 #03

## Goin' Wild in North Ambergris Caye!



*Coco Locos Beach Bar*



*Beach 'n' Kitchen*



*Palapa Bar*



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# 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](mailto:spsun@sanpedrosun.net)



Dr. Mark and Joan Johnson and two of their four children, Sara and Craig enjoyed reading their *San Pedro Sun* between runs at Squaw Valley ski resort in Lake Tahoe, California. This was the sight of the 1960 World's Winter Olympics.

You can see Dr Mark continues to wear his favorite Cholo's shirt on his ventures around the world where it has been often times recognized.

"We love our *San Pedro Sun*!"

*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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## 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

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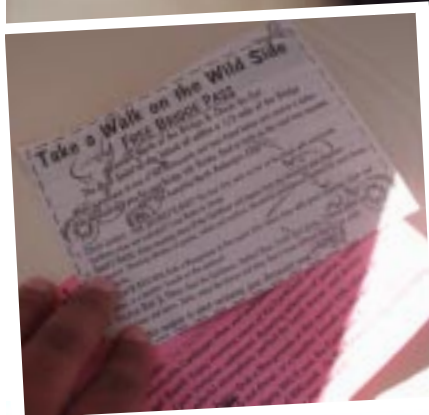
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More foreign subscribers than any newspaper in Belize!

# Take a Walk on the Wild Side!



We cut out our copy of the coupon, and drove off in our Moncho's golf cart up north to enjoy our wild adventure!

Our particular adventure this past weekend was indeed a wild one – full of fun reconnecting with an old friend over great food, fabulous drinks and oh, yes, enjoying the “wild” side of North Ambergris Caye. Our agenda included stops at four very different businesses. You’ve probably seen the coupons with a great incentive to come over and visit Coco Locos, Sweet Basil, Beach ‘n’ Kitchen and Palapa Bar. These four businesses put together their thinking caps and came up with an idea to en-

tice visitors by offering savings of up to \$10 – or the cost of crossing over the bridge on a golf cart. If you’re on bike, it’s still fun to get a discount anyway! The way the coupon works is, at each place you visit, you can get up to \$3 off your tab. The most you can get off over all is \$10. You can start with brunch at Beach ‘n’ Kitchen, followed by afternoon drinks at Palapa Bar, a bit of beach fun and then head on over to Sweet Basil for a scrumptious dinner. **Continued on Page 4**

**Take a Walk on the Wild Side** ✂️  
**FREE BRIDGE PASS**

Venture North of the Bridge & Check Us Out  
 The Best Spots on the Island all within a 1/2 mile of the Bridge

Make any purchase at any of the restaurants and bars listed below and receive up to three dollars discount on your tab. Visit them all and get up to \$10 off (the cost of the bridge toll)  
 Drinks, food or both on the road less traveled - the beautiful North Ambergris Caye

- ☉ COCO LOCOS - THE SECRET'S OUT! The best little swim up bar on the beach with unbelizable Caribbean vibes and cocktails!!! Leca Rubia in charge
- ☉ SWEET BASIL- Enjoy stunning views of the Caribbean and lagoon from the historical pink Victorian restaurant. Amazing selection of pastas, salads and seafood. Wonderful atmosphere, perfect for lunch dinner, and drinks.
- ☉ BEACH'N KITCHEN Grab a Mangomoss at this quaint little island diner with great breakfast, lunch and dinner, or a beachin' brunch on the weekend
- ☉ PALAPA BAR & GRILL Over the Caribbean. Coldest Beer, Fresh fruit drinks, Famous BBQ pork sandwiches and beans. Swim, enjoy the breeze and view. Don't leave without signing our walls

Provide this coupon to start receiving your discounts now!!!

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**Curvin Mitchell**  
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**Guest Artist**  
 painting at the gallery

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We get our bridge pass, which costs \$10, and drive up the bridge on our golf cart. As part of the tour, we're excited to try out our discount coupon! Plus the drive is scenic, starting with nice views of the water at Boca Del Rio, and followed by lush thick foliage and a nice drive.



These can be topped off with a nightcap at Coco Locos beach bar. Throughout your visits, you get your coupon signed and your discounts keep racking up!

Our first stop was at Beach 'n' Kitchen. A favorite spot to dine while up north, this great café/diner offers super scrumptious breakfasts, lunches and now dinners. Also hot on their menu is Chef Catherine Wade's weekend brunches. Served all day, these delight-

ful dishes of either Eggs Benedict, Stuffed French Toast with a Bananas Foster Sauce or the Continental Breakfast, are accompanied by either a Bloody Mary, Mimosa or Mangomosa. The regular menu is also available for those who have already had breakfast (next time we'll both skip breakfast to enjoy brunch). What a treat to enjoy a delicious meal prepared hot and fresh while indulging in a cool,

Continued on Page 6



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## Walk on the Wild Side Continued from Page 4

refreshing Mangomosa. The champagne bubbles instantly go to work, and we're mellowed and happy, enjoying great smells coming from the kitchen. Catherine and her assistant Ernesto quickly whip up some pork tacos and an order of the Stuffed French Toast.

Here at *The San Pedro Sun*, we've heard only great things about the brunches, and this writer certainly felt that it was her due to taste as well. When that platter was placed before me – I knew sacrificing breakfast was well worth it! The scent of cinnamon and banana hits your senses, and envelops you, teasing and begging you to EAT! The first bite was a religious experience (not to be blamed on the Mangomosa)! Perhaps it was the added touch of the Bananas Foster Sauce that gave the French toast an edge – and having it stuffed with an absolute favorite, cream cheese, cer-



Beach 'n' Kitchen offers up truly tasty brunches. The Stuffed French Toast with Bananas Foster sauce is decadent; Pork Tacos are savory and excellent. The Mangomosas are fizzy and refreshing. The perfect start to our tour!

Continued on Page 7

## PALAPA



### BAR AND GRILL

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226-3892

Restaurant Open till 10  
Bar Open till Midnight

Daily Drink Specials:

Martini Monday, Tequila Tuesday, Wine & Dine Wednesday

**Walk on the Wild Side** Continued from Page 6



Gerry (left) is excited to head up to Palapa Bar. Perhaps it was the draw of the Caribbean Mojitos that Scott whips up so expertly while Jodie looks on.

and delicious - YUM! The first stop on our "wild" adventure was certainly a treat! What other fun adventure awaited us? We headed down the beach from Beach 'n' Kitchen and over to

Palapa Bar.

Palapa Bar is right on the water on a pier, and yes, it is a palapa! (Google definition: An open-sided dwelling with

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tainly helped as well! Brunch was awesome! Judging from the happy sounds coming from across the table, Gerry's pork tacos were delicious as well. After coaxing him to share one bite, he relents and offers up some, and it is easy to see why anyone would be reluctant to share. A pork "salpicon" (marinated chunks of pork in a citrus, onion and tomato blend) was nestled in a deep fried soft corn tortilla spread with refried beans, and sprinkled with a lettuce and tomato mix. Tart and spicy

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Photo Courtesy:  
www.palapabarandgrill.com

It was a choice between the Palapa Plunge and signing the walls. After weighing our options, we think twice about our health (okay, we were too chicken!), and we decided to play it safe and sign walls instead!

a thatched roof made of dried palm leaves. This one has a bar!) It is a great open air location, and when we arrive, live music is being set up. Owners Scott and Jodie greet and tell us a bit about their plans for a swimming spot at Palapa. We're quite thirsty, and order up an ice-cold beer and a refreshing Caribbean Mojito while we people watch (one of a writer's favorite things). Scott gets to work on a delightful concoction of coconut water, rum, mint leaves, lime wedges, and after shaking all the muddled ingredients, he hands over a tall mojito. Yum! The coconut water is such an added bonus, making the drink very Caribbean and so refreshing!

We ponder what fun and wild thing we could do while at Palapa Bar, and Scott immediately suggests the Palapa Plunge. Yes, he was suggesting jumping from the porch rail upstairs to about a 15 foot drop in the water (gulp!).

Continued on Page 9

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## Walk on the Wild Side Continued from Page 8

While Gerry ponders the merits of a cannonball plunge for a cherry bomb, I happen to see some people signing on the walls. We decide we're not suitably attired to take the plunge (neither with extra clothing or the valor) and settle on signing the beams overhead instead. Legal vandalism is as extreme as our visit at Palapa would be; we're just not gutsy enough to take the plunge, but we leave very happy and refreshed, happy to have met with great service and awesome drinks.

Needing even more libations in our system, we head on over to Coco Locos Beach Bar to indulge in some

Belizean cocktails. There we meet up with the owner. Hailing from Sarnia, Ontario Canada, "Rubia Loca" Linda Miller and her daughter Jillian are the proud new owners of Coco Locos Beach Bar. After an encounter in St. Maarten that brought about an epiphany, Linda decided she was on the lookout for a Caribbean business and lifestyle. Lo and behold, Coco Locos came up for sale, and in an unprecedented stroke of luck, she sealed the deal within three days.

Now Coco Locos has new life, and is the spot for cool drinks and a dip in the pool. Combine both, and you have



*What could possibly be better than to take a cool, refreshing dip in the pool, swim up to the bar, get a cocktail, and sit on the underwater seats with your drink. Or hang out at the bar, or on the hammocks available. It's a leisurely way to pass the afternoon!*

a swim up bar – one of the main attractions of this watering hole. Linda also offers up the spot as a private area

for family functions such as birthdays, weddings, anniversary celebrations and

**Continued on Page 10**

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### Walk on the Wild Side Continued from Page 9



The gang at Coco Locos enjoy some cooling beverages on a hot Saturday afternoon. Come over and join the fun!

Noticeable on the bar is a handpainted coconut ashtray painted by resident artist Kurt Cruz. This young man is paralyzed from the waist down after an unfortunate incident in September of 2006, but somehow has managed to improve on his skills, painting great works of art, and creating these fun and funky ashtrays are also a credit to his perseverance.

more. The bar is open, and you're invited to come over and have drinks and enjoy the calmer vibe away from traffic and the hustle of town. Soak in the pool and enjoy the frosty drinks poured by awesome bartender Marlon. Have a chat with Linda, enjoy the fun music playing, and chat with the other visitors around the bar, or grab a chair and enjoy some peace and quiet out by the water. Either way, you know you're in good hands with Linda, Marlon and Jillian.

The next stop is Sweet Basil. Through-

out our drive down from Palapa and Beach 'n' Kitchen, we notice pretty painted signs enticing and teasing us. One in particular says "Mmmmm, Coconut Shrimp!" and neither Gerry nor I are particularly surprised that it is foremost in our thoughts as we head down to the restaurant. Newly reopened, and infused with fresh new energy, the prettiest restaurant over the bridge welcomes us with open arms. New owners/managers Tyler Cornell and Jewels Von Rabenau are ex-

Continued on Page 12

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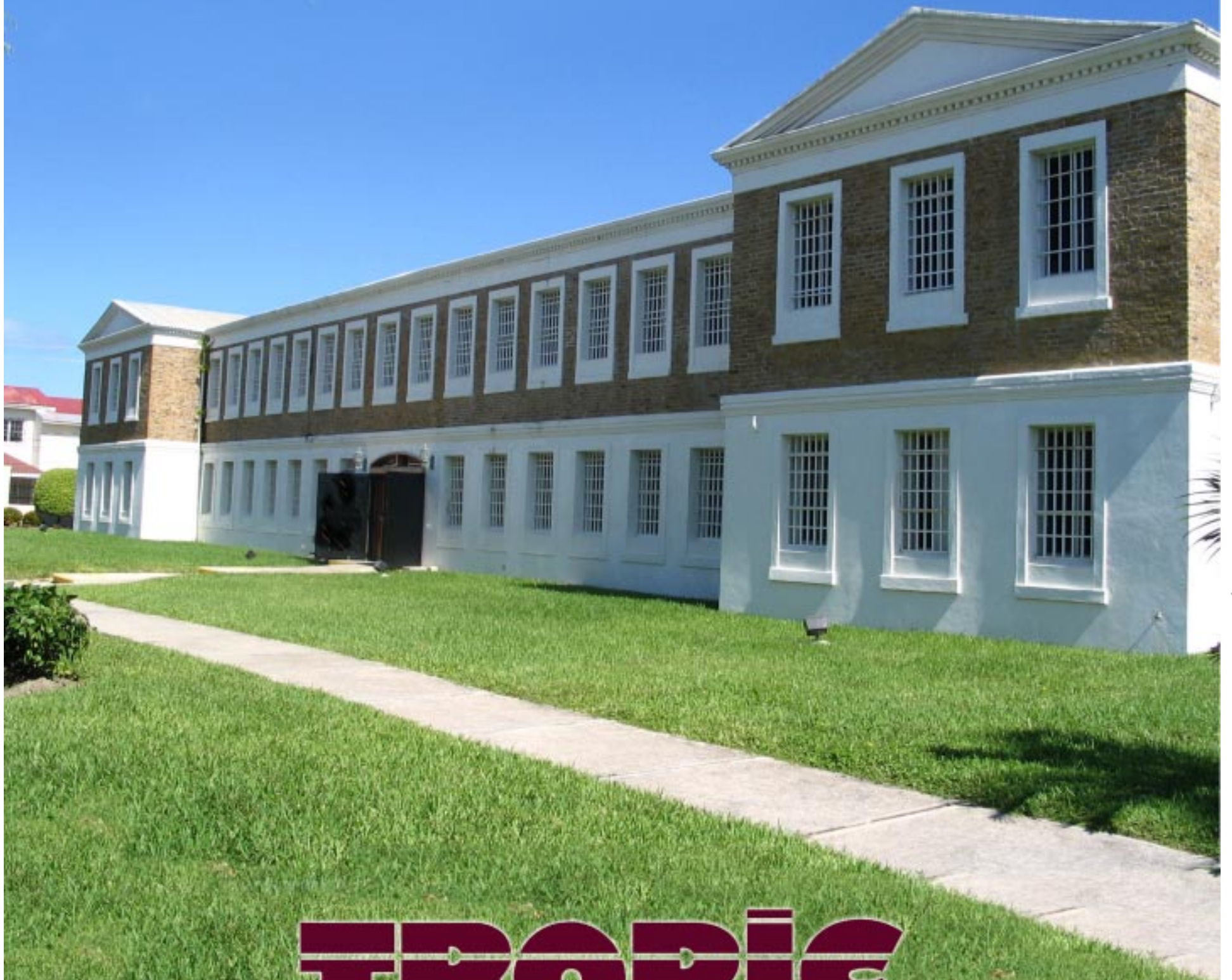
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cited to offer delectable meals in a homey atmosphere. We feel like we're visiting lifelong friends at their home for dinner, especially when their gorgeous blue eyed doggie Jax comes over to greet us and practically leads us upstairs to dinner. Tyler and Jewels come over and chat with us, and their excitement over Sweet Basil is infectious. Having enjoyed meals at this restaurant before they took over, we're excited to try their approach. Executive Chef Velma Melendez is a force to be reckoned with in the kitchen. Her meals are fresh and delectable, and served in a cozy, familiar ambience, making it seem like Mom is in the kitchen (if Mom had gone to culinary school!) We order the Coconut Shrimp and Tomato Salad, and over some truly top notch Croc Rum Punches brought over by James our waiter, we converse with Jewels and Tyler.

Their approach is simple, fresh ingredients served beautifully and deliciously, each component highlighting and complementing each other. Another friendly waiter, Tim, brings over our meals, and we're excited to try out their approach, and taste Chef Velma's creations. The tomato salad is a big tomato stuffed with a creamy chicken salad and served with cream crackers. Full of flavor and an absolute delight, the salad was top notch. The shrimp were another story! Ten gorgeously browned shrimp nestled on a plat-

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

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