

FREE

Huracan
Diving Lodge:
Guiding Guests at
Lighthouse Atoll P.3



On Land:

Inspiration: Natalie Arceo! P. 14
Key Lime Pie adventures...P.15

From the Editor Tamara Sniffin

Jam packed in our small country of Belize there are many hidden treasures... and no matter how long you live or travel here you are sure to discover something new about this Caribbean jewel. A few weeks ago my family and I had the privilege of spending a few days at Huracan Diving Lodge on Long Caye, which is located inside the amazing Lighthouse Atoll. We have never taken a holiday

that was so dedicated to diving, and we likened it to a ski weekend at a snowbound lodge where you spend your days slicing down mountains until you are exhausted from all the fun. I am happy to say that my snow days are far behind me, and spending a few days on a tropical island where I float face-down with the fishes is my idea of a great time. Discovering areas like this



in our own backyard just affirms that Belize is beyond amazing.

And talk about amazing...it's not just our geography that impresses! You haven't lived until you try one of Ms Rosi's Key Lime Pies at Celi's Deli! In this issue Mary and Janelle get a chance to try their hand at baking one of these masterpieces under the careful tutelage of Ms Rosi. And yum, they did good!

Of course some of our Belizean people are treasures as well, and this month we introduce you to the one and only Natalie Arceo. Ms Arceo's talent and commitment to the community makes her a real gem!

We welcome you to My Beautiful Belize and wish you a vacation full of life-long memories.

Weh Di Go Ahn Eena April & May?!

April 3rd - 4th:

Island Invasion Easter Madness, Vol. 4 Fido's Courtyard

April 4th:

- * Holy Saturday Cross Country Classic
- The annual bike race that takes riders from Belize City to San Ignacio, Cayo and
- * Holy Saturday Volleyball Tournament at Luna Loca
- * Bunny Brunch with the Easter Bunny!
- * Nightclub Party with DJ Zog & CX at the Holiday Hotel!
- * Gilharry 7 band at Di Vu Bar & Grill
- * Caye Caulker Sailing Regatta (extends to April 5th)

April 5th:

- * Gilharry 7 band at Di Vu Bar & Grill
- * All Day Beach Party with DJ Zog at the Holiday Hotel beach!

April 26th: Walk/ Run for Awareness 5K Race starts at Central Park, goes to Banana Beach Resort & back to Central

Park. Walk or Run to create awareness for children with disabilities and to support Ambergris Caye Elementary School (ACES).

April 24 & 25th: Annual Lagoon Reef Eco-Challenge



May 9th: Crooked Tree Cashew Festival



Wolfe's Woofers By: Dennis Wolfe

Robbery

"Señora Gonzales; how good to see you," I said. "What are you doing in Guatemala?"

Señora Gonzales is one of my favorites of all the little old ladies in Belize.

"Hello, Mr. Dennis," she said. "I

had a little house in Guatemala City and I had to go over there because I sold it. What about you?"

"I just wanted to visit Tikal," I said. "I haven't been there in twenty years."

Five of us waited to board the bus to the Belize border; Señora Gonzales, me, the drunk and two other men.

"That is a very stupid, drunken man," Señora Gonzales said to me.

The man in question had pulled a roll of cash from his pocket and counted it.

One thousand dollars U.S." he said, putting the money back in his pocket.

"There are a lot of thieves in a Guatemala and this bus could get robbed," the old lady said to the drunk. "You should hide that money in your underwear so no one knows about it.'

"That's a good idea," he said.

C...D.-L... T:...

Halfway between Tikal and the Belize border the bus stopped to pick up two men. Two miles later they stopped the bus and brandished a gun.

"We rob you," one of them said, nervously. "Put you hand up.'

"You don't need to waste time with us," Señora Gonzales said. "That man has a thousand dollars U.S. hidden in his underwear."

The thieves grabbed the thousand dollars and ran. The drunk was irate. He pointed his finger at the little old lady and said, "You were in with those thieves."

"No," she said. "I just thought it would be better if they stole a thousand dollars from you instead of the twenty-five thousand in my purse."

SuDoku Time! Answers on Page 10								
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Blue is the color between violet and green, which perfectly defines the color spectrums of our Caribbean waters. I don't know anything about color psychology, but this chromatic blend of indigo, turquoise, azure, cobalt and teal literally stirs my emotions. Like the sensations you experience when eating a heavenly dessert, my eyes savor and delight in the very sight of these gorgeous hues of blues. Of the three atoll reefs off the coast of Belize, Lighthouse Atoll is the queen of these colors. Regal in her coral-studded crown and cloaked in sapphire, her vibrant beauty is far more than water deep.

Lighthouse Atoll is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that houses the Blue Hole, which attracts thousands of divers from around the world each year. Dozens of other world-class diving sites lie within this coral reef, but you don't have to be a diver to experience this underwater wonderland. Although my family likes to dive the depths of the deep blue I prefer not to depend on life support while underwater, and snorkeling here is equally exhilarating. As if the water isn't enough to entice you to this little slice of Belizean heaven, another amazing place

Continued on Page 4



Huracan Diving Lodge Continued from Page 3

to explore here is Half Moon Caye Natural Monument. This quintessential Caribbean caye is complete with picture-perfect white beaches, coconut groves, the remains of a rustic lighthouse and a Red-footed Boobie bird rookery where you can observe their nesting grounds (and their super cute white fluffy babies) from a treetop lookout.





The Blue Hole is 62 miles from Belize City and almost as far from Ambergris Caye. If you depart from either of these locations, dive boats usually leave very early (5AM) in the morning and take more than two hours to get there. This means you spend more of your day on a boat than in the water, and by the time you reach back you can count on being exhausted. While there are options such as liveaboard dive boats that frequent the area, the idea of days of close quarters on a boat with nothing to do but dive doesn't sound all that fun to this island girl. Fortunately there is a much better way to experience the phenomenal waters and amenities that Lighthouse Reef has to offer. Did you know you can stay within the heart of this atoll at Huracan Diving Lodge located on Long Caye?

Now THIS is the way to do it! Out of the five Lighthouse Reef islands, Long Caye is the only one permanently inhabited. Huracan Diving Lodge is the only dive center in the atoll and



DOCK BAR AND REEF SIDE DINING www.divubelize.com

OCATED AT WET WILLY'S DOCK



is the ideal place to stay, dive, eat amazing food and relax in island ambiance. The historic building that houses the lodge was originally built as a hurricane shelter, thus the name Huracan (Spanish for hurricane), and the structure has been beautifully remodeled in a relaxed, comfortable design. With only four guest rooms, the atmosphere is quaint and cozy, with the super friendly staff making you feel right at home.

Continued on Page 6









Thirsty Thursday For every \$50 play on slot, get \$5 promo

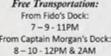
1/2 price pizza

Diva Fridays

Dress up & play with us Free Local Drinks: 8PM - 9:30PM for the Divas Every 10th diva gets free raffle & promo ticket DJ & Dance: 9PM - 12midnight

Blackjack Poolside Tue/Thurs/Sun, 1PM - 5PM

Free Transportation: From Fido's Dock: 7-9-11PM





Tuesdays: Belizean Buffet Local dishes, live band & local artisans

Thursdays:

Mexican Night Pork & Chicken Burritos, Fish Tacos, Salbutes, Fajitas, Tostadas & more

Game Day Sunday: **Bucket Beers & Snacks**

Happy Hour Daily: 3PM-6PM

> Reservations Recommended:

226-2207 3 1/2 miles North AC



The boat ride from Belize City to Long Caye usually takes one and a-half hours, weather permitting. Our stay included three nights in comfy rooms with private baths and five amazing dives, with the first dive on the afternoon of our arrival. Dive Masters Arthur and Anna (she also manages the lodge) are all about safety, and before taking their guests to the Blue Hole they require a prior dive to assure you are properly fitted with your gear. At Huracan, there's no long boat rides to the Blue Hole, and the following morning boat Captain Luis and First Mate Ian have us there in less than 15 minutes! We are fully rested, and with a yummy breakfast under our belt we are ready to dive in! As a bonus, like life couldn't get any better, we have this Belizean landmark to ourselves, arriving way before the big tour company boats - what a

treat! Other world famous dive sites are just minutes from the lodge and each day is a delicious mix of breakfast, dive, lunch, relax, dive, cocktails and dinner.



Each meal is a culinary masterpiece created by Chef Dyron, who is proud to familiarize the guests with each plate he places before them. From banana pancakes for breakfast to chicken taco salad for lunch to shrimp pasta Alfredo for dinner, not to mention the desserts, we were always hungry from a day in the water and glad we were burning off all this delicious food! No doubt both Chef Dyron and assistant Carmelita are the secret ingredient to the exceptional meals we enjoyed each day!

If you are not a diver and are just along for the experience, days can be spent beach combing, kayaking, paddle boarding, swimming or snorkeling right from the beach, working on your tan, biking, exploring the many marked trails on the island, bird watching, spending quality time in a hammock with a good book or checking out the nearby Itza Lodge for a change of pace. Because of the small size of the lodge, guests easily make friends and enjoy sharing photos and stories about their day of diving together.

Continued on Page 12

North Ambergris Caye ©2014, Map not to scale





Resort & Restaurant Portofino

*TIPS FOR TRAVELLING IN NORTH AC

Mambo Restaurant

during this process, which is expected to last through Bridge. Drive with caution down to the Sir Barry Bowen rently being paved, start-~Three miles of road is curing from Belizean Shores

and during the rainy season, stations north of the bridge. of gas - there are no service lenging puddles. Drive Safe! water taxi. beach or dock-hopping via ~Other great ways of explor-~Be sure to have a full tank can bring about some chalstruction remain unpaved ing include biking along the The roads beyond con-

Whatever mode of transport your north adventure! you choose, you will enjoy

O Restaurant @

Terratas Resolt

Rendezvous Restaurant

> Grand Caribe. World cuisine, two dining atmospheres PIRATE'S TREASURE - A unique dining experience return 9pm by Tuff E Nuff tours, Rubies' dock. boat transfer with reservations: pick-up at 6:15pm 226-4746, ext. 314 or email info@rainbelize.com. Free dining. Wine dinners every 3rd Tuesday of the month indoor semi-formal dining and outdoor rooftop casua **RAIN RESTAURANT** - Two miles north at

a fresh 3-course Belizean meal over a coconut-husk O RESTAURANT - Central American cuisine with reservations. Noon to 11PM. 668-2156. vibes. Regular Menu always available without fire while you enjoy refreshing cocktails and island with their Chef's Table. Watch as Chef Mar prepares

to the infinity pool. 226-4249. Lunch, & Dinner. Casual chic, or dine alfresco next Caribbean flair, at Las Terrazas Resort. Breakfast,

RENDEZVOUS RESTAURANT & WINERY

our new beach bar for lunch. Closed Monday & specializing in Thai and French fusion cuisine Tuesday. Reservations recommended. Telephone Chardonnays to Cabernet and Merlot and try Enjoy the signature wines we produce, from Charming and exotic setting on the beach

Also offering a full VEGETARIAN and spectacular Caribbean views our Euro-Caribbean inspired menu Menu. For Reservations & Free PORTOFINO RESTAURANT - Enjoy

and meals that will excite even the most seasoned experience at this award-winning restaurant at Transportation, please call 226-5096 or 678-5096 palate. Complimentary transportation with island ambience, offering locally inspired flavors Matachica Resort. Romantic atmosphere with MAMBO RESTAURANT - Enjoy a unique dining reservations - call 226-5010/226-5011

on the beach. Thatched Cabanas. Budget rooms the end of pier + Massage + Tours. Restaurant/ Bar with shared bath. 7 night yoga retreats. 626-6296 9PM. Drop in daily yoga classes at North of Bridge. Open Daily 7AM AK'BOL - Yoga & Resort. 1 Mile

and 2 dart boards, a great selection of super fast WiFi. We have 4 x 46" HDTV's destination for sports and darts and FELIZ BAR & GRILL: Your north side

rum and cocktails and a nice cool breeze. pizzas, wings and much more, ice cold beers, local fresh food including; burgers, paninis,

LEGEND'S ROAD HOUSE - Home of Tuesday JAM musicians welcome. Now serving nights- live music starting at 7pm all down southern breakfast starting at Texas style smoked meats and a sit

JUNDE Kama Lounge is under KAMA LOUNGE:

& RESTAURANT

6am. 1/4 mile north of the bridge.

snacks & dinner all day. Pool open. Daily happy hour are located 1 minute across the bridge on the beach from 4-7. Closed on Wednesdays. in front of Reef Village. We serve breakfast, lunch, new ownership. We

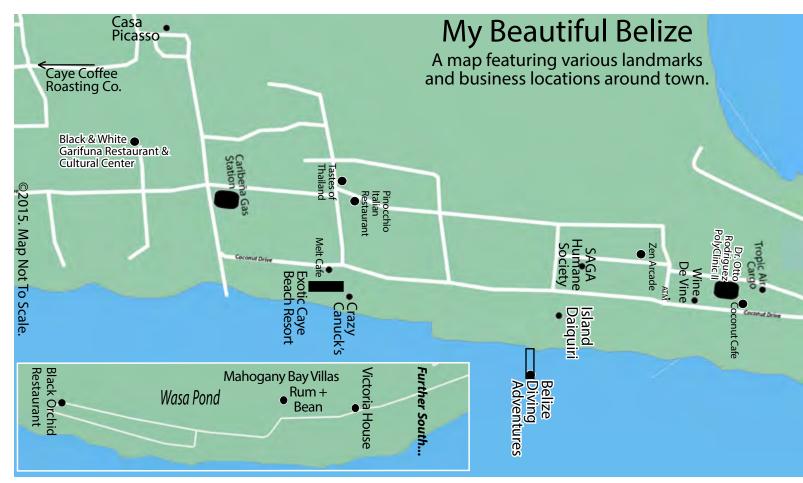
astonishing view! cheeseburgers, seafood and tropical drinks and an to you. Outdoor seating, awesome smoked food and have your bucket of ice cold beers lowered Bridge. Daily 10am – 9pm. Relax on the inner-tubes PALAPA BAR AND GRILL - 1.5 Miles north of

sharks! Book your tour today at 501-226-4831 or with No Worries Tours. Experience the best of the Caves. Discover the best that Belize has to offer the ancient Maya, or snorkel the waters with nurse NO WORRIES TOURS - Dive. Snorkel. Jungle. Ruins visit us at www.noworriestours.com Jungle and Sea, when you visit the mystic ruins of

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EATS & TREATS

BLACK ORCHID RESTAURANT & LOUNGE: Come visit us; just a quick Golf Cart Ride 2 1/2 miles South of Town after the Croc Pond Lagoon and well before the Marco Gonzales Maya Site. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 11am-9pm. www.

blackorchidrestaurant.com. Reservations Recommended (501) 206-2441.



casa Picasso Restaurant: Tapas dining in an artful setting. Global flavors from local ingredients...martinis, wines, cocktails. Vegetarian & gluten-free options. Open Tuesday-Saturday at 5:30pm. Last reservations 9pm...226-4443 or reservations@casapicassobelize.

com. Located south of town past Caribena Gas Station & Belikin Distributor. Ask about complimentary taxi pick-up/drop-off service within San Pedro Town. Check out our specials & "Tasting Thursday" menu at facebook.com/CasaPicassoBelize & casapicassobelize.com.



MELT CAFE at Exotic Caye Resort: Artisan Grilled Cheese and Specialty Sandwiches. Vegetarian and Healthy Options. Fresh Fruit Smoothies, Beer, Wine, Bloody Mary's, Watermelon and Orange Juice

Mimosa's. Serving Breakfast and Lunch all day from 7am – 4pm. Free WiFi, closed Wednesdays. See map for location.



THE COCONUT CAFÉ: The ONLY Build-Your-Own Pizza, Panini and Wrap restaurant on the Caye. Choose from over 20 fresh ingredients. Open for breakfast and lunch from 7am to 3pm (closed

Sundays), on Coconut Drive across from Ramon's Village. 226-4311.

DI V'U DOCK BAR & REEF SIDE DINING: Located on Wet Willy's Dock. Offering a menu to satisfy any appetite! Appetizers, lunch, dinner & desserts. Incredible drink menu with imported cocktails, fresh fruit drinks, margaritas and more. Breath-taking views, live entertainment! Open daily 7:30AM – Midnight. Call 226-4136 for reservations.



RAY'S BIG DOG: San Pedro's only Fast Casual palapa dining experience offers artisanal All Beef and Chicken hot dogs loaded with gourmand toppings, peel & eat shrimp growlers, and old school Ice cream floats hand made in three flavors. At the entrance of the

Tacklebox dock.

PINOCCHIO ITALIAN RESTAURANT & Pizzeria. The only authentic Italian restaurant on the island. A San Pedro favourite! Real Italian pizza, thin crust, baked in wood-fire oven. Come enjoy our daily specials, including homemade fettuccini and lasagne. 632-8975.





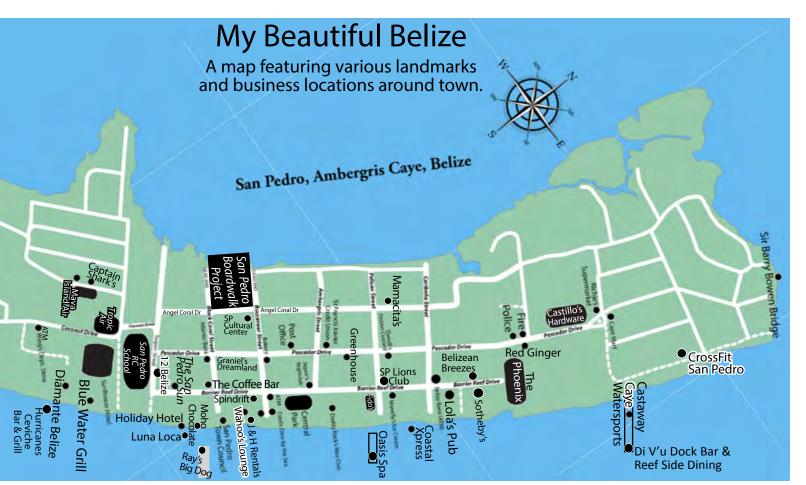
TASTES OF THAILAND: Authentic Thai Food – cooked and prepared by Thai Chef. Available for Small parties and private booking on Mondays. Regular Hours:Tuesdays – Saturdays 5:30-9PM. Corner Seagrape Drive and Hurricane Street.

Reservations Preferred: 226-4778 / 629-0527. Check us out on TripAdvisor and FaceBook.



HURRICANE'S CEVICHE BAR & GRILL: The ceviche house! A whirlwind of delicacies! Fine outdoor dining and delicious tropical drinks. Full lunch and dinner menu, seafood specials and pastas. Restaurant open 10am - 9:30pm.

Bar open until 10pm Monday to Saturday, closed on Sundays.



Unique Offerings

BELIZEAN BREEZES SOAP CO.: Home to over 160

scents of All Natural, Hand Poured soaps! From Bars to guest soaps, cupcake soaps and a ton of fun! A full line of affordable and unique jewelry and gift items. A MUST see. 9AM-8PM, 671-2025.





CAYE COFFEE ROASTING COMPANY: Local fresh roasted coffee manufactured in San Pedro Town. Available throughout Ambergris Caye and at select locations in mainland Belize. For more information visit http://www. cavecoffee.bz.

GRANIEL'S DREAMLAND: Exotic Hard Woods and Mahogany Products made locally on the island. Gift Items, indoor and outdoor furniture, carvings, and custom-made orders. Worldwide Shipping. Free Delivery to Hotel, Airport or Boat within town limits. 226-2938, Pescador Drive. granielsdreamland2@yahoo.com, www.granielsdreamlandbelize.com Facebook: Graniels Dreamland

BLACK & WHITE GARIFUNA Restaurant and Cultural Center: Garifuna Cultural Presentations with traditional food, music and dance! Learn about the vibrant culture every Thursday and Sunday at 6:30PM. For reservations



OASIS SPA - Relax, Refresh, Renew with our variety of treatments, including pre-natal massages, deep tissue, aromatherapy and more. On the pier at Fido's Courtyard. 206-2600, oasisspabelize@gmail.com. CASTAWAY CAYE WATERSPORTS: Enjoy a fun day out on the water with family and friends on our Seadoo Jetskis and Banana Boats. Or get a bird's eye view as you Parasail over paradise with our professional staff. Located on Wet Willy's Dock. 671-3000.



"12" is the only shop in Belize that features only Belizean made luxury products & gifts suitable for both locals and tourists. Featuring exclusive items from around the country from soaps & scrubs to handbags & sauces, we ship same day throughout Belize. www.12belize.com 670-5272.

SPINDRIFT HOTEL: Conveniently located near the banks, supermarkets

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ZEN ARCADE - Y O G A, Pilates, Dance, Body Work, Paddle Board Yoga, meditation, fitness for all levels and interest. Plus massage, hair & nails, healthy cafe/juice bar, Rx cosmetics, childcare, serenity pool and playground all in one location! www.zenarcadebelize.com, 226-3177.

CRAZY CANUCKS BEACH BAR: Beach bar located at Exotic Caye Beach Resort. Open daily,

11am-midnight. Bar food & daily drink specials. Mondays: Live reggae @8pm Tuesdays: DJ Debbie @8pm Every other Thursday: Splash n Paint @2pm Fridays: Trivia @7pm Karaoke @8:30pm Sundays: Live music/horseshoes @3pm Phone: 670-8001 Find us on Facebook. LOLA'S PUB - The best stocked bar on the island! Martinis, Single

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MAMACITAS ENTERTAINMENT CENTER - The Premiere Adult Entertainment Center in San Pero Town. Let us help you take off a load. Featuring The King's Table and our new VIP Lounge. Tuesday - Sunday 2PM - Midnight. Happy Hour - 5-7PM.

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am - 12:00 am, Thu - Sun: 11:00 am - 12:00 am. 637-2412.



ISLAND DAIQUIRI: San Pedro's first Daiguiri Bar. Cool off and enjoy our refreshing Daiquiri's; made with local fruits and rum. Island Daiquiri offers the best deals in town with 2 for \$5 rum/coke and \$3 Belikin/Light House. Open Mon-Sun 12noon to 9pm. Call 607-5862 and Find us



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CAPTAIN MORGAN'S RETREAT & CASINO - Full

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COASTAL XPRESS WATER TAXI – Scheduled ferry service & water taxi for Ambergris Caye. Phone 226-3007

email: into@gettransfers.com. anywhere in Belize: Chetumal, Cancun, Quintana Roo & even **GET TRANSFERS** - Executive transfer and tour services Merida and Guatemala. Phone: 422-2485 (Fx: 422-3511) or

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diamantebelize.com to learn more!

condominiums in the heart of town! Visit end finishes throughout. Full strata beachfront buildings of 2- and 3-bedroom condos with highthe luxurious Diamante will feature 5 standalone

DIAMANTE BELIZE: Now under construction

AA Meetings: Tel: 627-1585. English Meetings: 'Boca Del Rio': Mon - Sat: 6PM - 7PM (#5 Boca Del Rio Dr).

Parish Hall. 'Clean & Serene': Tues & Fri, noon, Catholic Church

Pablo Church. UltraMar Group (Spanish): T/W/F/Sun: 7:30PM, San

Belize Tourism Board - 227-2419

San Pedro Tourist Guide Association 226-2391. Belize Hotel Association - 223-0669, bha@btl.net Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA) - 227-5717

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oriented and will ensure that our clients' needs are met and exceeded. Belizesir.com property management in Belize. We are service full-service firm offering sales, vacation rentals, and

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Puzzle on Page 2	Sudoku Answe
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Huracan Diving Lodge Continued from Page 6



Huracan Diving Lodge is an all-inclusive establishment, with one price covering boat transfer to and from the mainland, all meals (excluding alcohol) and a number of dives depending on if you take the three-night or fivenight option. When you compare costs to staying on the mainland or Ambergris Caye and add diving expenses and meals, Huracan not only offers a reasonable rate, but

the rare opportunity to dive the many world class sites within the atoll. With all the comforts of home, even WiFi for those who need to stay connected, a stay on Long Caye and diving the Lighthouse Atoll is a once in a lifetime experience you won't soon forget.

For more information please visit Huracan Diving Lodge at www.huracandiving.com



Did you know that three of the four true atolls in the western hemisphere - Lighthouse Reef, Turneffe Islands and Glover's Reef lie 30 to 60 miles off the Belizean mainland, just beyond the spectacular Meso-American Barrier Reef? Just one more reason why Belize is uniquely amazing! Atolls are an incredible creation of ring-shaped coral reefs that have a coral rim that partially or completely encircle a lagoon. There may be coral islands or cayes on the rim, and the coral of the atoll often sits atop the rim of an extinct seamount or volcano which has eroded or subsided partially beneath the water. The lagoon forms over the volcanic crater or caldera while the higher rim remains above water or at shallow depths that permit the coral to grow and form the reefs.

These atolls and our barrier reef are what makes Belize a world-renowned diver's destination, providing countless underwater areas to explore. Among the crown jewels of all diving adventures is the famous Blue Hole. Jacque Cousteau made this unique natural phenomenon famous back in the 1970's when it took his team several weeks to map out a path for their ship Calypso into these uncharted waters. Later, Cousteau declared the Blue Hole one of the top ten scuba diving sites in the world. For divers today, 50 years after Cousteau's famous **Continued on Page 13**

San Pedro's Best Hot Dog

Daily Happy Hour

3 - 6PM

BlG DOG

Featuring

Peel & Eat

JUMBO Shrimp



expeditions, it is exhilarating to descend and discover the same waters as this renowned explorer. Pushing the limits of a "recreational diver" status, at 140 feet below the surface, divers weave through amazing stalactites the circumference of giant Ceiba trees. But, the Blue Hole is only one star of the Lighthouse Atoll. Surrounding the many cayes are amazing "walls" to explore and the Grey Reef Sharks are an exciting novelty compared to other dive sites further north. For those whose priority is diving, diving, diving...this is the destination for you! And, you don't have to dive to enjoy the amazing underwater panoramas of the Blue Hole.





Snorkeling the perimeter is equally spectacular, with rare glimpses of some of the bigger open water fish not seen at other snorkel sites. If you're lucky, you too might spot a Reef Shark while floating the Blue Hole. Lighthouse Atoll has an abundance of clear, relatively shallow areas thick with coral heads



which are teeming with wildlife and perfect for hours of snorkeling. Special treats are sighting spotted eagle rays, turtles, a variety of corals, angel and parrot fish, damsels and butterfly fish to name a few. Be sure to sunscreen your back or wear a shirt, hours of floating face down in the Caribbean can toast your backside in a hurry!

The Coconut Café Breakfast & Lunch The Only Build-Your-Own Restaurant in San Pedro! Pizzas / Paninis / Wraps Specials starting at \$13 bzd Choose from 20 great toppings. Mix and match to create your own artisan meal. Open 7am – 3pm Monday – Saturday Coconut Drive Across from Ramon's









Inspiring and Leading: Natalie Arceo By Mary Gonzalez



If Belize was founded on anything, it is the heart of its people. A love of nature, a sense of patriotism that drives the desire to protect, preserve and BE Belize...these are the things that make our people the most valuable resource of our tiny Central American/Caribbean country.

Our historians, who hold on to stories told from generations ago and treasure souvenirs of our past, happy to share a glimpse of what was, and what made Belize who she is today...Our educators, beyond four walls of a classroom, instilling the lesson that we must never stop learning, to students taking the lead and growing up to become soldiers, tour guides, chefs, conservationists, activists, revolutionists...at times quietly, but always, driving change and betterment of our country, one person at a time.

These are who we celebrate; these are the people we present to you in 2015. How did they become who they are? What do they do? When they're not at their 'job', what are they like? How can we learn from them? Enjoy learning about some of the wonderful characters that make Belize so rich and diverse!

Awesomeness personified, Natalie is a Sales Manager for Smart Belize, and on the side, as everyone knows, she is the island songstress. Her melodious voice has been heard throughout the country, and she has not held back from sharing her talent with others. She currently leads the San Pedro Town Church Choir, aptly named "Heaven's Voice".

We talked to Natalie, and found out a little bit more about how she's become such an inspirational leader.

How did this choir leadership come about, and what keeps you going? In 2011, I was out for lunch and two missionaries stopped me in the middle of the street and asked me "Do you want to lead the Catholic choir?" I was flattered that they would ask and so I accepted. Knowing that the choir kids will not be at home glued to a device or experimenting with drugs/sex but instead come to sing it out with me and be involved in something positive, keeps me going!

How has singing (and leading the choir) made an impact in your life? Singing has allowed into the lives of people who welcome me to comfort them or rejoice with them through singing at the most important times of their lives. Through serenading I have learnt that we can connect with people we have never met and leave an imprint in their hearts. It is not about the applause; singing has become very intimate.

I have been given a gift that I choose to share with others. It has always been very important to me to pass on what I have learnt to others. It has been equally important to serve God in music. I get a chance to do both by leading Heaven's Voice. It brings me joy to see them close their eyes and sing with all their hearts!

You are a born San Pedrana right? What do you love about this



island? I love that this island is the place of opportunities! I am not referring to the "work force". San Pedro is a community. One that comes together in times of need, sorrow and especially happiness! That's not something that is seen everywhere in the world, it is rare. This is a place where one can build their homes, build their families and grow. In San Pedro, no matter who you are, where you come from, as long as you have good will, you are given a chance.

If you could give some advice to young people growing up on the island, what would it be? If you are good at something and it's positive, never keep it to yourself, share it. Make a difference in someone's life. Whenever you feel like you are losing yourself, REACH OUT and SEEK help. It takes a great person to acknowledge his/her weaknesses.





Baking Adventures at Celi's Deli

(Learning to make Key Lime Pie from one of the best!)

Chances are that if you've been on the island, and needed a quick bite for breakfast, lunch or afternoon snack, you may have stepped inside Celi's Deli. Part of the pioneer Holiday Hotel on Barrier Reef Drive, Celi's Deli is manned by a team of efficient, smiling, WONDERFUL ladies who make you feel like you're their favorite 'sweetie', 'darling', 'lovely', etc. We have been fortunate to work right next door to them for almost ten years, and it feels like we have built-in moms and aunts who feed us and make us happy! One constant has been Rosi, a peach of a woman who makes the sweet sugary treats that we occasionally buy (beside the toasty tortillas, Johnny cakes, burritos and sandwiches).

Rosi makes a mean Key Lime Pie that is piled so high with merengue, with a homemade crust and thick, creamy custard that you just cannot resist! After years of watching pie after pie disappear shortly after being put out on display, I had to get into the kitchen and learn her secrets!! This is a perfect pie to make for Mom on Mother's Day. It's also really good for a weekend get together with friends. I mean, really, you don't need me to tell you when to eat a pie – if you can make it and have the ingredients, why not do it and eat it...like, right now?!!!

Rosi's Key Lime Pie

Crust:

1 cup all-purpose flour
¼ cup shortening (Crisco)
3 tbsp ice cold water
Custard Filling:
2 cans condensed milk
¾ cup lime juice
6 egg yolks
Merengue:
6 egg whites
2 tbsp sugar

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Our foray into the kitchen came thanks to the big chief, Miss Celi (thank you!), so we were a little intimidated, until Rosi pulled out the flour, Crisco, 2 butter knives and a pie plate and said, "Here you go."

Oh, okay! I guess we were digging right in!

After cutting up the shortening into the flour and blending it properly, she added the ice water.

A few quick rolls with my bare hands, and it formed a ball, ready to flatten into a disk to be placed in the fridge to chill.

The condensed milk got poured out, then came the painstaking task of separating yolk from whites. Six separated eggs later, and the yolks were mixed in with the milk. Janelle (finally) stepped in and helped squeeze ¾ cup of lime juice, and that went into the yolk-milk mixture. Using a spatula, I folded and mixed it all until it was velvety.

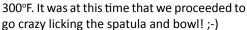
Rosi pulled the dough crust from the fridge, and this was a task we begged her to do for us. Do YOU want to be responsible for ruining a pie crust? I didn't think so! She rolled it out easy as pie (har har) then set it in the plate easily, crimping it and making it fit beautifully before placing in the convection oven to bake for 25 minutes at 325°F.

After it baked, the creamy custard filling was poured in, then placed to bake for 14 minutes at









Once the custard baked and set, it was time to beat the egg whites and sugar into oblivion (or to stiff peaks...your call). We watched in anticipation as Rosi generously scooped the foamy pillows of egg whites smoothed out a mountainous peak on the pie. She placed the glorious confection in the oven one last time for 10 minutes at 350°F.

Then Rosi told us to wait an hour. :- (Boo hoo...

59 minutes later, we were back in the kitchen, eager to watch her slice into the heavenly pie, cutting generous slices for the salivating staff at *My Beautiful Belize*! That first bite was magical! What a delicious pie - made even more tasty because we'd helped make it! Honestly, the hardest part was waiting for the cooling down process! The wait was worth it though, so we highly recommend that you make yours today!











"One of the 52 Places to Go in 2014"



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