



# My Beautiful Belize

V I S I T O R   G U I D E

| SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015 | VOL. 03 #08 |

# FREE

## Toledo: Land of adventure, beauty, and culture

*This is how we celebrate Belize!*



**Spooktacular fun is coming in October!**



# From the Editor *Tamara Sniffin*

Head for the hills they say, when the temperatures warm up on the cayes, so we do just that in our September/October issue of My Beautiful Belize! From exploring the southern villages and mountain streams of the Toledo District, to cooling her well-travelled heels at Cahal Pech Resort in the Cayo District, our Associate Editor Mary Gonzalez takes us on her mainland adventures while exploring these lush, mountainous areas.



But our late summer/early fall months aren't all about escaping the heat; on the contrary, the celebrations couldn't be hotter than our annual Independence Day on September 21st. We start warming up proper with the festivities of the Battle of St. George's Caye Day on the 10th day of September, and by the 21st we have perfected our parading and dance moves! Look out Belize, we are going to bring in your 34th Independence Day in fine fashion this year!

Although October is probably the quietest month of the year on Ambergris Caye, we still know how to make the most of it by scaring up some great fun for Halloween. From religious ceremonies to remember our dearly departed, to fund-raising pet costume parties for our local humane society and the annual masquerade party at the Holiday Hotel, the island has a lot going on over the All Hallows Eve weekend.

No matter where your travels take you while you visit our beloved home, we know you are in for an experience you'll never forget. We welcome you to My Beautiful Belize, have fun, relax, explore or do no more...regardless, you're in for a treat, no costume required!

## SuDoku Time! *Answers on Page 10*

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### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- \* Patriotism in September!
- \* Enjoy the views that a stay at Cahal Pech Resort offers
- \* Get those costumes ready for Halloween in San Pedro!

## Wek Di Go Ahn September

**Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry EXPO 2015:** Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at ITVET Compound Belzie City: The "Expo" has over the years evolved into Expo Belize Marketplace, the largest consumer tradeshow in the country and a welcome addition to the September celebrations calendar.



**Tribute to the Baymen:** Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at San Pedro Town-Uniformed parade and official crowing of the newly elected 2015/2016 Miss San Pedro. Ceremonies start at 9AM at Central Parl.

**CHRONIXX Concert:** Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> in Belize City. Jamar Jamaican reggae artist Rolando McNaughton Jr, popularly known as Chronixx, will be performing live at Riverside Tavern starting at 9PM.

**Carnival Overload:** Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at Belize City- Celebrating 40 years of Belizean Carnival, this live concert features top Belizean and Caribbean soca artist. Event kicks off at 9PM at Hour Bar in Belize City.

**St. George's Caye Day:** Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>- Official ceremonies to be held at Fort George Memorial Park in Belize City starting at 9AM. Municipalities across the county host events to commemorate the 217<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye.

**Carnival Road March:** Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, Belize City. Vibrant colors and live music! Trucks equipped with electric generators and music boxes play popular dance tunes and marchers throng behind executing their choreographed dance moves.



Beautiful floats, costumed masqueraders, and eclectic dance groups can be seen gyrating to the beat of Caribbean Soca music.

**Central American Independence Block Party:** Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, San Pedro Town- In honor of the independence of the Central American and Mexican communities living in San Pedro, the communities showcase their countries' cultures through food and music.

**National Service Day:** Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> Countrywide events in memory of Right Honorable George C. Price.

**Flag raising ceremony and fireworks show:** Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>: Held across



the country to being in Belize's Independence Day. Here in San Pedro festivities are held at Honorable Luis Sylvester Sporting Arena starting at 10PM.

**Independence Day:** Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>: Country wide parades and celebrations in to celebrated the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Belize's Independence Day. This year's celebration will be held under the theme "Belize Renewed: *Confident, Competitive, Committed*". Here in San Pedro a colorful parade is held across the main streets of San Pedro starting at 1PM.

**Saga Central American Cook-off Block Party:** Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, San Pedro Town, El Fogon Restaurant. Saga Humane Society hosts the largest cook-off of the year featuring plates from across Central America in honor of their independence month.

## October Fiesta del Pueblo:

Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at San Jose Nuevo Palmar, Orange Walk District- The village of San Jose Nuevo Palmar is known for its pride and dedication to the Maya Mestizo Culture. The Fiesta del Pueblo is an annual celebration that keeps alive and intact the dance, music, food and traditions of the Maya Mestizo.



**Saga's Halloween Spooktacular-** Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, at Carlo and Ernie's Runway Bar, San Pedro Town, from 1PM. Hosted by Saga Humane Society, the spooktacular is a festival of ghosts, monsters and adorable pups.

**Holiday Hotel's Halloween Bash:** Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at San Pedro Town- The long anticipated event sees a crowd of islanders and visitors alike, dressed in their most ghoulish and terrifying attire for the annual Holiday Hotel Halloween Bash.



**Dia de Los Finados:** Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> to Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> in San Pedro Town. Residents

celebrate their dearly departed in the Dia de los Finados celebration, also known as Dia del los Muertos (Day of the Dead). The holiday is traditionally celebrated in the Mestizo, Maya and Garifuna cultures and is observed over two days. Festivities are observed at the Friendship Park, located next to the Roman Catholic Church and at the local cemeteries.





# The enchanting Toledo District

I fell in love this summer...  
a different kind of love...the kind that re-opens  
your eyes and makes you feel a sense of pride,  
child-like excitement, and even a sense of calm  
and peace when you lay your head at night.

My Beautiful Belize is about exploring and find-  
ing the beauty in our country. Luckily, I got the  
chance to travel to one of the least explored ar-  
eas of Belize, and through a series of fortunate  
events, was able to have one utterly stunning  
stay in the **Toledo District**.

There were so many words that stood out to me  
about this two-day adventure:  
Kind, Genuine, Charming, Adventurous, Beauti-  
ful...and best of all, Proud.

*The moment I found out I needed to  
be in Blue Creek Village to be a guest  
speaker at the Peace Corps' GLOW  
Camp 2015; I needed to come up with  
an itinerary. Traveling to the end of  
the country is usually time consuming,  
but with Tropic Air flying regularly to  
the main town Punta Gorda, that time  
(usually feels like a day's travels) was  
cut to two hours. What to do?! I had to  
make the most of this trip!*

*Oh, that's right, I have a friend who  
comes from 'down south'. I messaged  
her to ask which village exactly she  
was from...and how to get back and  
forth and explore...within 10 minutes  
of conversation, I had a place to stay  
at her parents' home and her brother  
would be driving me around on my big  
adventure.*

*The beauty of Belize: everyone knows  
somebody...*

Continued on Page 4

Belize

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# Enchanting Toledo

Continued from Page 3

## Beautiful:

The flight on Tropic Air showed me a glimpse of ALL that I want to see of Toledo. The ring of mountains promising adventure and fun, the villages nestled in valleys, bringing back memories of waking up to greet the mist and smells that only a mountain can truly bring... acres and acres of untouched, unspoiled land...the sounds of birds calling in the air...those shy smiles and greetings upon seeing a friendly face...a place that holds on to its culture tightly...proudly...



## Genuine:

There are no bones about it... What I did have was a true Belizean experience. From my ride to the bus station, chatting away with the taxi driver who was pleased to see me taking so many pictures, to the lady sitting outside the station wondering what contraption I was holding (a GoPro) and why? To the smiling gentleman on the bike who did a double take, circled back and asked me a bunch of questions about my upcoming adventure, gushing about the GoPro and its possibilities for photos. Even the grumpy bus driver cracked a smile when I took a few selfies in the empty bus (Instagram followers had to be updated, you know?). I never once felt like I was forcing people into conversation. I wasn't



being hustled to, peddled to... no, there was genuine curiosity and a desire to share whatever they knew.

## Charming:

Once on the bus, I saw the homes of my dreams and my

past: thatched roofs on wooden buildings, juxtaposed next to the modern cement buildings and colorful all-wood homes on stilts. Pastures and greenery for miles, few billboards, only names of upcoming villages like Mafredi, San Marcos...

and others...goats, horses and cows, chickens pecking in front yards, and my absolute favorite sights: mango-laden trees, its fruit hanging like jewels in magnificent colors, so low I would have to crawl to get to them.

Continued on Page 5

**JOHN'S ESCAPE**  
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## Adventurous:

Toledo is known for many things, but its Maya culture stands out strong as it is home to the Ke'kchi indigenous group. Their Maya temples and dress, way of life and rules are alive and well down south. Toledo even has an incredible wealth of waterfalls and hiking trails!

Sylvia's brother Luis was a most wonderful, patient guide, and his companion Suzie and I instantly became friends (we bonded over a love of mangoes). He drove us on the dirt road that takes visitors through villages, stopping to point out the creeks that seem to run rampant throughout the district. At San Pedro Colombia, an old church stood at the top of a small hill, sun shining down on its stone façade. More hills and twisting roads were lined with more traditional homes, and along the road, men walked in their rubber boots, machetes slung on their side, with a crocus sack fashioned into a backpack on their backs. Some were accompanied by their faithful dogs, ready to chase down a fat agouti that could possibly become a delicious dinner later that night.

We discovered that mangoes grow everywhere, including Lubaantun Maya Archaeological Site. We were the first people to visit that morning, and our un-guided exploration provided tons of fun. We learned that if we stood at just the right spot, there was a breeze to cool us off immediately. The stacked stones of the old city spoke volumes of the hard work that went into the formation of these ancient temples. Below, the running creek provided cooling relief before we headed back out to another site: Nim Li Punit.

Nim Li had many slabs of stone that stood on grassy stretches, time-worn and blackened. Some had fallen over, ravaged by time. We could see the area where recently a most exciting Jade Pendant find took place, and I stood over what appeared to be an old tomb. Perhaps my ancestors once inhabited this particular hole, their physical bodies long lost to time, and their spirits living through us...

**Continued on Page 6**





## Enchanting Toledo Continued from Page 5

That afternoon, to cool off, we were ALL raring to go swimming in the cold, cold waters of the waterfalls that Toledo is so famous for. Luis' sisters joined us, packing towels and blankets, and the baby, to go out and find the waterfalls of my dreams.

San Antonio Falls are very popular, especially for those wanting to jump the falls. It's smaller and accessible, its roar not quite as intimidating. The water was cold – no 80+ degree salt water there for me! I braved the cold and enjoyed myself immensely, watching a few dare-devils clamber to the top and throw themselves to the pools below.

We weren't done yet however, as a bigger, louder waterfall had been promised, and wrapped in towels and sweaters, we sat in the back of the vehicle and drove through Santa Cruz village to the Santa Cruz falls. I could hear the roar halfway through the hike to the falls, and I could feel the air's temperature drop. What greeted us was a gorgeous, immense waterfall that disappeared below sending mist spraying into the air. The heavy rains of the past weeks had given it vigor, and boy were we in for a treat!

Our afternoon was spent playing in the less angry pools above the falls, made accessible by stairs and flat, dry rocks. As the sun beamed down on us, and baby dipped his feet in the water and children shrieked and splashed, I could not envision a more euphoric day than one spent exploring Toledo.

**Continued on Page 11**

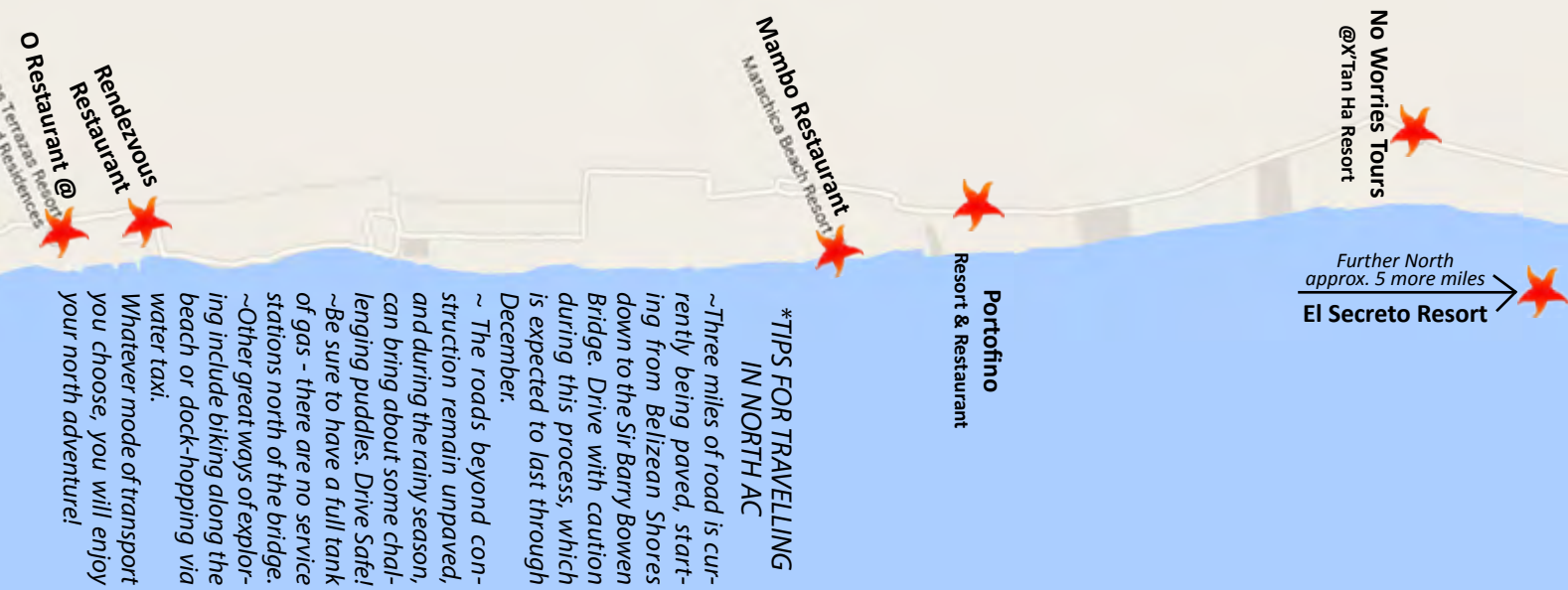


An advertisement for MOHO CHOCOLATE. The background is a dark red with a wood-grain texture. The word 'MOHO' is in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. Below it, 'CHOCOLATE' is in the same style. To the right, the text reads: 'FROM BEAN TO BAR we offer: &gt;&gt;6 flavors of milk and dark chocolate (or CUSTOMIZE your own bars) &gt;&gt;Truffles &gt;&gt;Organic skin care products &gt;&gt;Plus many other local souvenirs'. At the bottom, it says: 'Come find us on Black Coral Drive (on your way to Tackle Box) Or visit the factory in Belize City, inside the Fort Street Tourism Village'. Contact information includes: 'Call Us: 625-1980 E-mail Us: chris@mohochocolate.com Like Us: www.facebook.com/mohochocolate'. There is a small image of a chocolate bar on the right side.



# North Ambergris Caye

©2014, Map not to scale



No Worries Tours  
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Further North  
approx. 5 more miles  
El Secreto Resort

Portofino  
Resort & Restaurant

Mambo Restaurant  
Matachica Beach Resort

Rendezvous  
Restaurant

Restaurant @  
Terrazas Resort

## \*TIPS FOR TRAVELLING IN NORTH AC

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

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

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

## EAT RAIN RESTAURANT

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

**PIRATES' TREASURE** - A unique dining experience with their Chef's Table. Watch as Chef Mar prepares a fresh 3-course Belizean meal over a coconut-husk fire while you enjoy refreshing cocktails and island vibes. Regular Menu always available without reservations. Noon to 11PM. 668-2156.

**O RESTAURANT** - Central American cuisine with Caribbean flair, at Las Terrazas Resort. Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner. Casual chic, or dine alfresco next to the infinity pool. 226-4249.

**RENDEZVOUS RESTAURANT & WINERY** - Charming and exotic setting on the beach, specializing in Thai and French fusion cuisine. Enjoy the signature wines we produce, from Chardonnays to Cabernet and Merlot and try our new beach bar for lunch. Closed Monday & Tuesday. Reservations recommended. Telephone 226-3426.



**PORTOFINO RESTAURANT** - Enjoy our Euro-Caribbean inspired menu and spectacular Caribbean views. Also offering a full VEGETARIAN Menu. For Reservations & Free Transportation, please call 226-5096 or 678-5096.

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

## STAY



**AK'BOL** - Yoga & Resort. 1 Mile North of Bridge. Open Daily 7AM-9PM. Drop in daily yoga classes at

the end of pier + Massage + Tours. Restaurant/Bar on the beach. Thatched Cabanas. Budget rooms with shared bath. 7 night yoga retreats. 626-6296.

## PLAY



**FELIZ BAR & GRILL**: Your north side destination for sports and darts and super fast WiFi. We have 4 x 46" HDTV's and 2 dart boards, a great selection of fresh food including: burgers, paninis, pizzas, wings and much more, ice cold beers, local rum and cocktails and a nice cool breeze.



**LEGEND'S ROAD HOUSE** - Home of Tuesday JAM nights- live music starting at 7pm all musicians welcome. Now serving Texas style smoked meats and a sit down southern breakfast starting at 6am. 1/4 mile north of the bridge.



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

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

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

## TRANSPORTATION

**J&H Cart Rentals**. Daily, Weekly and Monthly Rentals Available. Huge Discounts on Group and Multiple Rentals. Pick-Up and Delivery Upon Request or Reservation. [JandHgoldcart@gmail.com](mailto:JandHgoldcart@gmail.com) 226-2351/600-1151/602-9992.

**CRYSTAL AUTO RENTALS** - 2 BZ locations: Phillip S.W. Goldson International Airport and 5 Miles Northern Highway. Free shuttle service to and from our Belize City office to anywhere in Belize City. Tel: 011-501-223-1600 Fax: 011-501-223-1900 (direct dialing from U.S.A.) Toll Free in Belize: 0-800-777-7777 Email: [reservations@crystal-belize.com](mailto:reservations@crystal-belize.com) or visit our website at <http://crystal-belize.com>



## 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](http://www.blackorchidrestaurant.com). Reservations Recommended (501) 206-2441.



**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.

**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.



**JAMBEL'S JERK PIT:** Specializing in Jamaican-Belizean Cuisine. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner: 7AM – 9PM Daily. Wednesdays: 6-9PM - ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFETT with Live Reggae Music! Saturday Nights – Live Music! Swing by for that IRIE DINING EXPERIENCE! 226-3515. Located off the Beach at the Sun Breeze Suites. Like us on Facebook.



**HIDDEN TREASURE RESTAURANT:** Serving Latin American & Caribbean cuisine in an enchanting atmosphere. Serving dinner only from 5:00pm - 9:00pm, closed on Tuesdays, located in the Escalante neighborhood. Live music on Thursdays! Free shuttle service to customers in town. Contact us 226-4111/4236, [www.hidden-treasurebelize.com](http://www.hidden-treasurebelize.com)



**ELY'S POOL BAR:** Newest cool spot in San Pablo. Lunch & Dinner Served. Full Bar Service. Daily Happy Hour 5-8PM - \$1 Wings, \$4 Beers & Rum Drinks. Pool Access. Open Wednesday – Monday 10AM – 12 Midnight. Like us on Facebook. 615-4712.

**ISLAND TIME BEACH BAR:** South eastern corner of Royal Caribbean Resort; offers a fun time to all. Serving Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner. Local & International Cuisine. Hours Mon - Sun: 7:00 am - 9:00 pm. Visa, Mastercard and Cash accepted. Parking Provided. 629 2551



**THE PALMILLA RESTAURANT AT VICTORIA HOUSE:** A casual experience with a unique mix of island seafood and continental cuisine. Relaxed and informal yet romantic. Admiral Nelson Bar is the place to be casual and relax in your swimsuit, enjoying breakfast, lunch and dinner with magnificent views. Reservations recommended: 226-2067.

**IZZY'S JUICE BAR:** Delicious Smoothies & Shakes, Natural Juices. Ask for our famous Green Smoothie!! Wide menu to select from; combine any fruits to build your own with homemade ingredients & fresh fruits. Cor. Pescador Drive/Caribeña St. Hours: Weekdays: 7:30AM – 6PM. Weekends: 7:30am - 8PM. 664-0233.

**THE SAN PEDRO LIONS CLUB** Join us on Fridays for fun bingo (7PM) and delicious chicken BBQ (from noon). All proceeds go back to assisting the community in times of need.

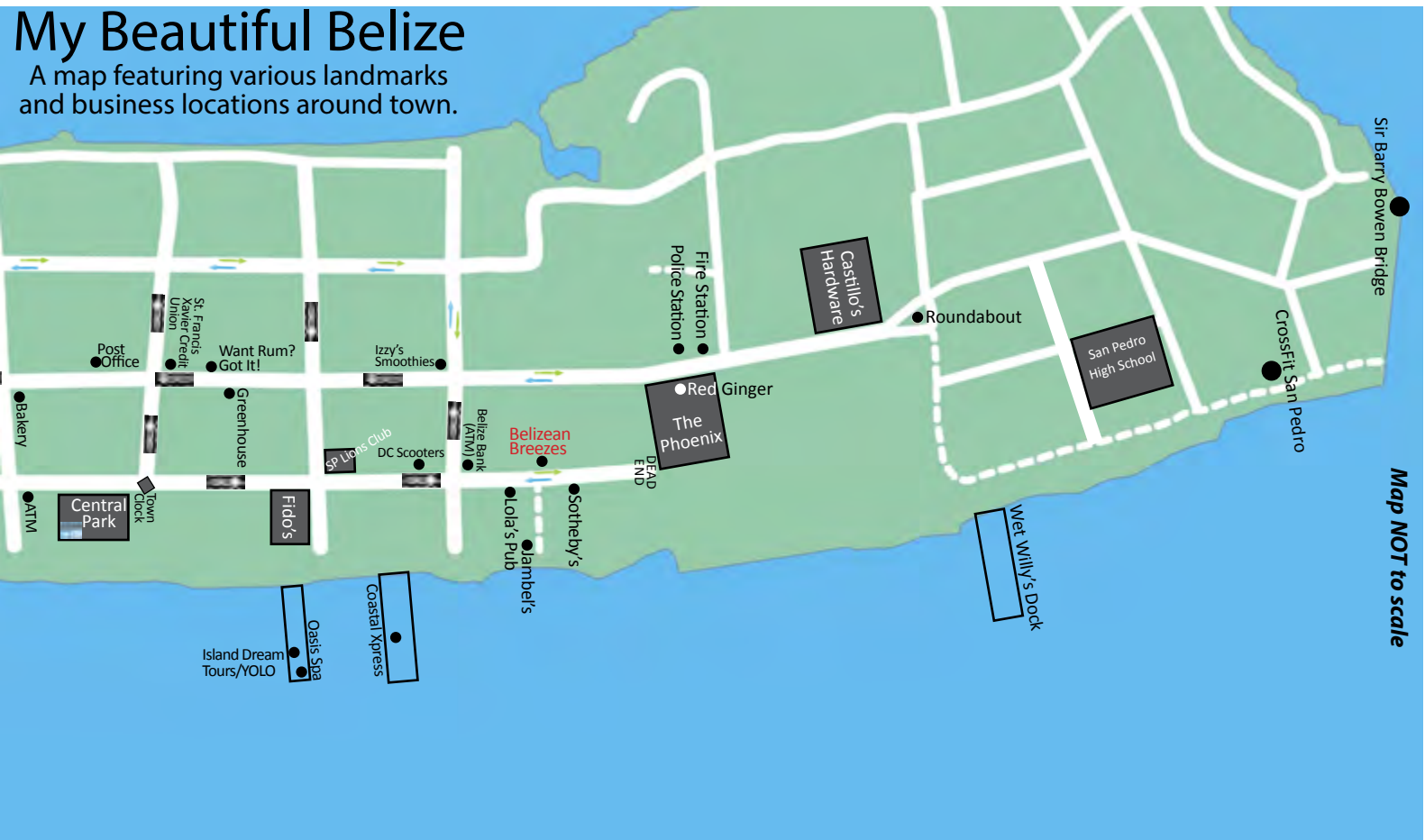


**AMBER BEACH BAR & GRILL AT CARIBBEAN VILLAS:** Fabulous food and drinks. With specials such as Wednesday Winesday, Amber is the place to be! Come enjoy barefoot beachfront luxury at Caribbean Villas, where Sunday sailing and BBQ adds to the fun family feel. Call 226-5600 for reservations.



# My Beautiful Belize

A map featuring various landmarks and business locations around town.



## 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 countrywide. M-F: 8:30-4:30, Sat: 8:30-noon. ONLINE WEB STORE, NOW OPEN!!! For more information visit <http://www.cayecoffee.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](mailto:granielsdreamland2@yahoo.com), [www.granielsdreamlandbelize.com](http://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 call 605-2895/ 625-5204 or email [gariculenter@gmail.com](mailto:gariculenter@gmail.com). Restaurant opens daily for great local Belizean food. Oh! What a Belizean Experience!

**"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](http://www.12belize.com) 670-5272.

**MOHO CHOCOLATE COMPANY:** From bean to bar: handmade chocolate with Organic Maya Cacao. Milk & dark chocolate, truffles, skin care products and souvenirs. Black Coral Drive. 625-1980.

**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. 226-4252, [oasisspabelize@gmail.com](mailto:oasisspabelize@gmail.com).

**ISLAND DREAM TOURS:** Specializing in Sunset Dinner Cruises (Gourmet, Buffet) Booze Cruise and Private Charters – you design your own dream on-the-water tour! Cruise includes wine, fresh fruits and

hand-crafted cocktails! Join the Fun!! 615-9656! Like us on facebook. [com/islanddreamtours](http://com/islanddreamtours)



**DC ISLAND SCOOTER:** We are located on Barrier Reef Dr (Front Street), right across from the Thomas Hotel and Island Movie. We offer scooter rentals by the hour, day, and week. There are no restrictions on where the scooter can go (except the water). Stop by, ride the breeze and explore Isla Bonita. 652-0307.

## PARTY PARTY

**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.



**LUNA LOCA** - Coolest place to party on the beach in San Pedro. Drink, Dance, Party, Get Loca! Serving a wide variety of tropical cocktails. Saturday Night: Free To Be @ Luna Loca. Mon - Tue: 11:00 am - 12:00 am, Thu - Sun: 11:00 am - 12:00 am. 637-2412.

**LOLA'S PUB** - The best stocked bar on the island! Martinis, Single Malt, Bourbon, Pickleback Shots, Tequila Shot Chillers. KARAOKE FREE ZONE. Across from Belize Bank on Front Street. 206-2120.



**WAHOO'S LOUNGE** - We are home to the WORLD FAMOUS CHICKEN DROP! Thursday nights starting at 6PM. Drink specials, games and an amazing view of the reef. Located on the beach at the Spindrifit Hotel. 226-2002.

**ISLAND DAIQUIRI:** San Pedro's ONLY Daiquiri 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 Wed-Sun 1pm to 10pm. Call 607-5862 and Find us on Facebook.



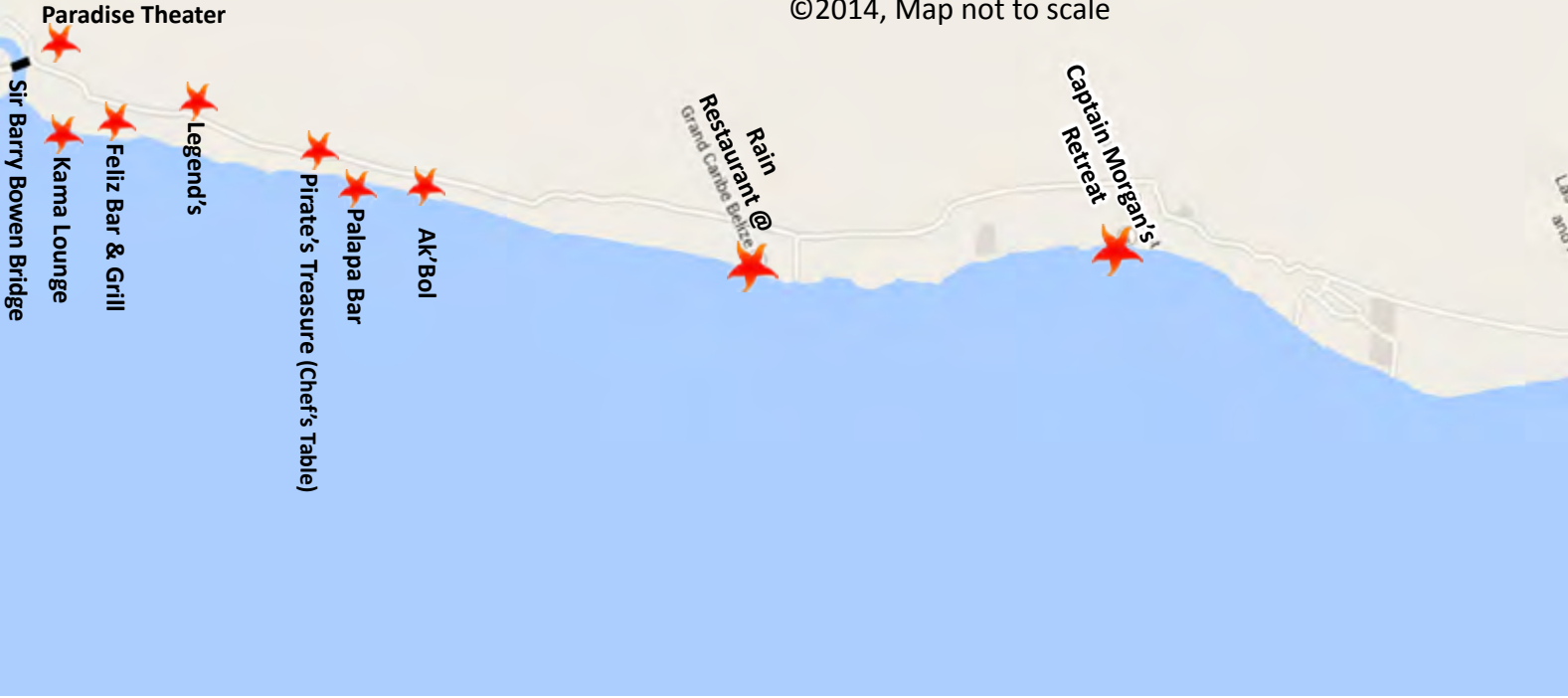
**WANT RUM? GOT IT!** 100% Belizean Rums. Travellers Liquors FACTORY OUTLET and showroom! Home of world class and award winning rums. Wholesale and retail. Daily complementary rum tastings of over 25 products! #15 Pescador Drive 226-4690. [www.facebook.com/wantrum](http://www.facebook.com/wantrum)





# North Ambergris Caye

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**CAPTAIN MORGAN'S RETREAT & CASINO** - Full service beach resort 3.5 miles north Ambergris Caye. Cozy thatched casitas, spacious villas, and luxury condos, 3 pools, restaurant, bar, tour center, grocery store, spa and fun casino are the perfect combination for the ultimate getaway! Call 226-2207 for reservations.

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## Tourist Information

**AA Meetings:** Tel: 627-1585. English Meetings:  
'Boca Del Rio': Mon - Sat: 6PM - 7PM (#5 Boca Del Rio Dr).  
'Clean & Serene': Tues & Fri, noon, Catholic Church Parish Hall.  
UltraMar Group (Spanish): T/W/F/Sun: 7:30PM, San Pablo Church.  
**Belize Tourism Board** - 227-2419.  
**Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA)** - 227-5717.  
**Belize Hotel Association** - 223-0669, [bha@btia.net](mailto:bha@btia.net)  
**San Pedro Tourist Guide Association** 226-2391.

**CRYSTAL AUTO RENTALS** - 2 BZ locations: Philip S.W. Goldson International Airport and 5 Miles Northern Highway. Free shuttle service to and from our Belize City office to anywhere in Belize City. Tel: 011-501-223-1600 Fax: 011-501-223-1900 (direct dialing from U.S.A.) Toll Free in Belize: 0-800-777-7777 Email: [reservations@crystal-belize.com](mailto:reservations@crystal-belize.com) or visit our website at <http://crystal-belize.com>  
**COASTAL XPRESS WATER TAXI** - Scheduled ferry service & water taxi for Ambergris Caye. Phone 226-3007.  
**GET TRANSFERS** - Executive transfer and tour services anywhere in Belize: Chetumal, Cancun, Quintana Roo & even Merida and Guatemala. Phone: 422-2485 (Fx: 422-3511) or email: [info@gettransfers.com](mailto:info@gettransfers.com).  
**RAINBOW TAXI** - Caye Caulker golf cart; guided island tours; reliable service. 226-0123. Minerva: 661-6254 or Champ 602-8136.

## REAL ESTATE

**BELIZE SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY** is a full-service firm offering sales, vacation rentals, and property management in Belize. We are service oriented and will ensure that our clients' needs are met and exceeded. [belizesir.com](http://belizesir.com)

## IMPORTANT #S

**Police** - 206-2022 / **Fire** - 206-2372  
**South Police Sub-Station** - 610-4911  
**Emergency** - 911  
**Crimestoppers** - 800 922-TIPS  
**Dr. Otto Rodriguez San Pedro Polyclinic**  
II - 226-2536.  
**Emergency:** 660-2871  
**US Embassy** - 822-4011  
**Canadian Consulate** - 223-1060  
**British High Commissioner** - 822-2146

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## Sudoku Answers Puzzle on Page 2

2	5	7	8	1	3	6	9	4
9	8	4	2	5	6	3	7	1
1	3	6	4	7	9	8	5	2
8	2	5	6	3	4	9	1	7
4	1	3	5	9	7	2	8	6
6	7	9	1	8	2	5	4	3
5	4	2	7	6	8	1	3	9
7	9	8	3	2	1	4	6	5
3	6	1	9	4	5	7	2	8



# Enchanting Toledo Continued from Page 6



## Proud:

On my return, I had to explore the local market. Happy to walk me around, Magdalena (Sylvia's mom) took me from stall to stall, introducing me and letting me nose around and ask some of the silliest questions. I thanked her profusely for her patience, and her response? "I know what it's like to not know where I am at, so it is good to help others." And I saw her pride in her culture, as she pointed out the way Maya women carry their babies (much like she carried hers back in the day). She kept bringing me back to look at the crafts being sold by Maya women, pointing out the Jipi Japa bowls and designs. She picked up the bracelets, their colors calling to her... she sampled, she held up, and always, always, encouraged me to take a closer look. She was right... craftsmanship and handmade wins over factory-made all the time. My little jipi-japa basket will be lined and hold flowers in memory of one of the best experiences I have had in my life. And I was proud to be able to live it.

Thank you, Toledo, for reigniting my passion for Belize.



## Wolfe's Woofers

By: Dennis Wolfe

### The Kiss



"Melody called while you were out," Sherry said.

"Did she say what she wanted?"

"Something about Davin. She said she would stop by later."

When Melody came over she said, "I have to teach a Splash 'n Paint Class tomorrow afternoon at the Gallery and Glenn is busy, too. Can you pick Davin up from school?"

"Sure," I told her, "The Grandpa Childcare Center is open. I didn't even realize it was time for him to be back in school."

"Classes started day before yesterday. I was there a little bit early,

although I'm not sure why. Davin is usually sitting in the corner when I get there."

Class let out and children started leaving.

"Davin's going to be late," a little boy said to me as he walked by.

"Wait!" I called. "Is he in the corner again?"

"Yes."

"What did he do?"

"He hit Melinda."

Just then a little girl came out of class and ran up to her mom,

"Mom! Mom! Guess what. Davin kissed me today!"

"Oh, my God, Melinda! He kissed you?"

"He sure did," the little girl said, proudly.

"How did that happen?"

"It wasn't easy. It took three other girls to help me catch him and hold him down."



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# September Celebrations – Belize Style!



*Septemba di ya! Yu done know weh dat mean!!*

September is here, and for Belizeans, home and abroad, it can only mean ONE thing! Independence! Well, okay, a few more words to throw in include Carnival, Jouvart, Bacchanal, Parade, Bram...

Belizeans LOVE a parade, and for the month of September, that means ample opportunities for our favorite pastime. With Independence Day on the 21<sup>st</sup>, we work on priming properly, because even before we get to the big day, we have another holiday in honor of the Battle of St. George's Caye. Between beauty queens, schoolchildren in uniform parades, and all manner of pomp and circumstance, we get a good rehearsal in for parade madness with this September 10<sup>th</sup> holiday.



But the granddaddy of them all is the Carnival Road March! The 2015 Carnival will be held September 12<sup>th</sup> in Belize City (as is customary) and 'bands' from all over the country flock to check out and participate in this fabulously colorful spectacle. It is NOT Rio de Janeiro style, but you know Kruffy Style still deh on! What can we say? We love our Bacchanal! So best believe we provide ample opportunities for you

to "wuk yuh waistline!"

The Carnival King and Queen competition takes place at Belize City's BTL Park a week before the big jump up. Mas Camps send forth their kings and queens for the ultimate Soca fete competition! Winners win grand prizes and enjoy major bragging rights of having THE King and Queen of Carnival in their group!

And what can we say about Jouvart (we pronounce it joo-vee)! Let's just say it is an absolute blast, and if you join in the revelry, prepare to get dirty (with mud or chocolate) from head to toe as you dance to the best of the season's Soca music selection. Traditionally, Jouvart starts

the night before Carnival and goes right through 'til the crack of dawn on Carnival morning. Mas Camps and "happy" revelers often remain in party mode right through to the road march while some leave Jouvart at 9pm to get some rest for the Carnival that starts at 1PM. Whether you go to revel or simply watch it all, there's no denying that Carnival and all that comes with it is a tradition deep in the roots of our Caribbean culture! Let the Soca rhythm get you moving at this year's Carnival 2015!

The BIG day, September 21<sup>st</sup>, the country dresses up in her festive Red, White and Blue, and her patriotic people find the extra energy to make sure their Independence Day Parade is one to remember! Each municipality, village, the dog down the street and even the babies, get decked out and march (or dance) happily down pre-determined streets whilst music blares from speakers on lead trucks and vehicles. In San Pedro, it seems like the plan is to stack MORE speakers precariously on the back of a moving truck...the party takes place in the afternoon and lasts till well into the night. Happy Independence Day Belize!

## RELAX

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# Stunning Vistas from my perch at Cahal Pech Resort



This visit had been a long time coming, and even the thick heat that enveloped me as I got off the bus in San Ignacio didn't faze me. I was back on familiar ground, and ready to enjoy being in the hills.

Clearly, all this time on the sandbar known as Ambergris Caye had made me forget exactly what kind of hills Cayo has! I nabbed a cab and my first foray UP to Cahal Pech Resort began.

I was a bit early, but since my room was ready, I got the grand tour on the way to my cabin: the Lamanai casita. On the way down the cobblestoned path, I couldn't help but marvel at the town that lay before me. As far as the eye could see, houses, then large tracts of land and mountains in the distance. Villages and creeks and rivers lay beyond, and boy did I have a prime viewing spot!

My casita was adorable: private bath, two beds to choose from, and even the promise of Air Conditioning should the heat become too oppressive. Out on the porch was one of my favorite things: a hammock! You know I immediately clambered onto it once I'd dropped my luggage inside. For a few moments, I just lay contentedly, indulging in a few moments of just 'being'.

If it was a busy day downtown,

*Pooltime was heavenly!*



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I could hardly hear a sound. Thrilled with my escape, it was time to put my vacation plan into action: to the pool! Oh yes, I definitely chose my resort wisely, and a friend had even mentioned to me that Cahal Pech boasted the best pool in town! I cooled down almost immediately in its fresh waters, a kooky sculptured bird/pterodactyl keeping an eye on me as I sipped a requisite Belikin to really get in the zone!

The resort was in slow-mode while I was there, but the care and attention they provided was wonderful. I enjoyed a delicious meal of rice and beans despite the late hour, and at the bar, the beers were icy cold and refreshing. In the mornings, even though I skipped breakfast, coffee was always at the ready to brace myself for the day's adventures.

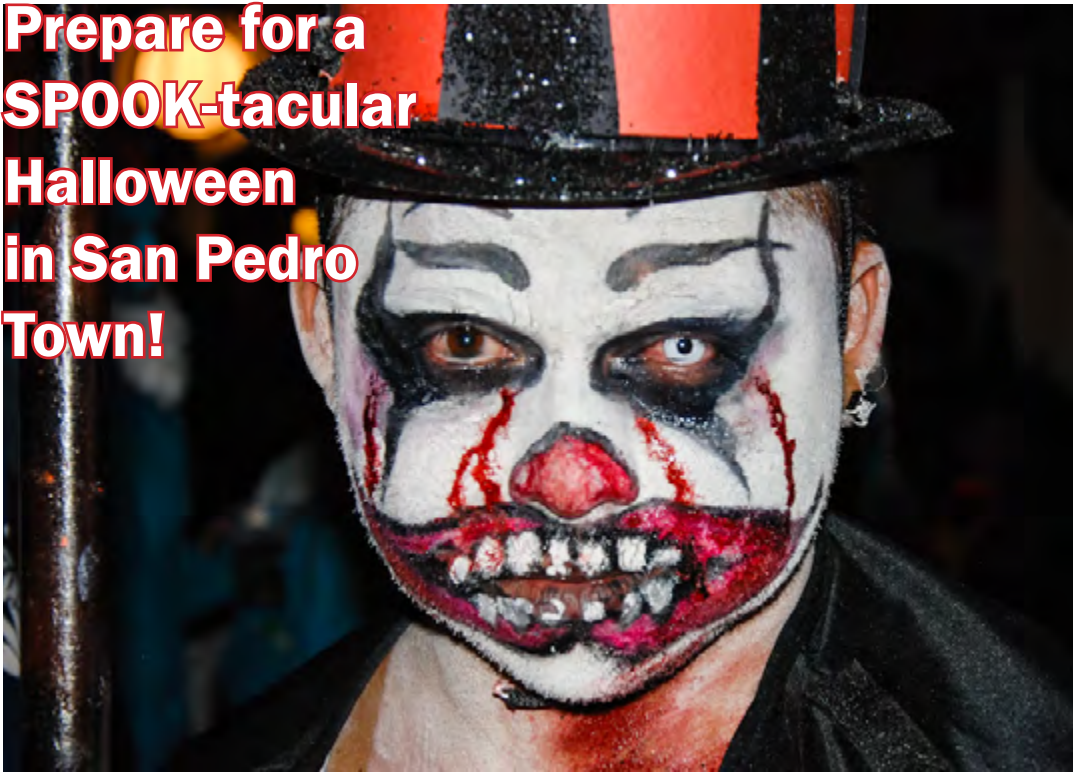
Perhaps one of the coolest things about Cahal Pech was its proximity to the Cahal Pech Archaeological Site. Just a short 5-minute stroll downhill from the resort, and you are at the entrance of the site. Our ancestors certainly chose scenic spots for their settlements!



If you're in the San Ignacio area, and want to get a cozy cabaña or room to yourself, I highly recommend Cahal Pech Resort. Reservations can be made by emailing [info@cahalpech.com](mailto:info@cahalpech.com) or calling 824-3740. Visit their website at [www.cahalpech.com](http://www.cahalpech.com) for an idea of ALL the many fun things you can do while staying there!



# Prepare for a SPOOK-tacular Halloween in San Pedro Town!



It seems that every month is accounted for in the “what to do” scenario; at least that is the case in San Pedro Town. We LOVE a good occasion, and frankly, any excuse to dress up and whoop it up is welcomed! Well, October is known for one particular date. No, not Pan-American Day - although, whoo-hoo, 3-day weekend! Nope, October is essentially synonymous with Halloween!

Sure, there are the historic, cultural significances of Dia de los Muertos, the special Finados cel-

ebrations that those of the Catholic faith take part in, but for those of all faiths (and none), October 31st is Halloween, and nowhere have we seen it celebrated so joyously and enthusiastically as here on La Isla Bonita.

Bars and hot-spots host dress-up/costume events as well, so those who really want to indulge in their favorite time of year can plan for several costumes to show off...but the biggest party has got to be the one hosted at the Holiday Hotel. The bar and

restaurant area is decked out in the finest of Halloween décor, and there’s even an orange carpet for the eager crowd gathered to ooh and ahh over. Photographers capture the moment, and judges take notes of the most original, scariest, funniest, best group, and more. There are fabulous prizes handed out at the end of the night, from major cash prizes to round-trip tickets and more...so trust us when we say, it is THE event for

Halloween!

The local humane society, Saga, even puts on a party for the four-legged friends on the island, allowing doting pet owners to go nuts dressing up their pets, all while helping to raise funds for a worthy cause. Yes, this island is all-inclusive!

If you are planning on being here around this fabulous holiday, do check out these events. Look for their flyers and pending dates, you never know what ghosts or ghouls you’ll be running into!

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