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away
in
Belize!


My
Beautiful **Belize**
TRAVEL PUBLICATION

| MARCH 2017 | VOL. 05 #03 | FREE |



From the Editor *Tamara Sniffin*



Post-massage afterglow at Naïa

People who choose to explore Belize come for a variety of reasons, and where they stay is just as varied. Their options range from jungle resorts, to beachside cabañas, luxurious five-star resorts, modest hostels, city dwellings, bed and breakfasts, private island escapes and even tree houses! There are establishments so unique they dare to be defined, and for this reason alone, where ever you lay your head while

visiting our country you are in for an experience unlike any you have had before.

Over the many, many years of traveling in Belize, and staying at countless hospitality establishments, I can honestly say there isn't one I wouldn't stay at again, well maybe there's one, but I won't kiss and tell! Regardless of the "stars" they have earned, each one has a personality of its own. And, while there, it's up to you how hard you want to play; the options are endless.

As much as I love an adventure traipsing through the jungle in search of elusive creatures, or snorkeling our barrier reef for hours at a time, sometimes my ideal get away is nothing more than a massage and relaxation. That IS an adventure too you know! Just as unique as the establishment is that you stay at, so will be the experiences they offer. While visiting My Beautiful Belize, we welcome you to the experience of a lifetime!

Important Information

Belize Tourism Board - 227-2419.

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

Belize Hotel Association - 223-0669, bha@btl.net

San Pedro Tourist Guide Association 226-2391.

Dr. Otto Rodriguez San Pedro PolyClinic II: 226-2536

AA Meetings: Monday – Saturday, 6PM, #5 Boca Del Rio. 226-2020. Every Tuesday & Friday, 12 noon at the Catholic parish hall. Front street, 630-0752.

Al-Anon Meetings: Wednesdays, 5:30PM, SP Catholic Church Hall. 608-3924 / islabon-itaalanon@yahoo.com

Narcotics Anonymous: By request at 623-0316.

Emergency veterinarian care: 610-3647

American Crocodile Education Sanctuary/ACES – Don't take matters into your own hands. Call 623-7920 for crocodile problems.

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

SP Town Library - 206-2028.

SP Post Office - 206-2260.

National Aids Commission Island Committee (NACIC) - HIV Testing/ Treatment/Stigma and Discrimination and Pre and Post Test Counseling. 650-7021.

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 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.

RAINBOW TAXI – Caye Caulker golf cart; guided island tours; reliable service. 226-0123. Minerva: 661-6254 or Champ 602-8136.

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For Belizeans, Easter is both a holy time and a chance to share with friends and family, honoring the life and death of Jesus. P. 7

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A two-in-one treat: exploring the underwater world with Seastar Dive Shop, followed by scrumptious eats at the Dive Bar! P. 14

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A stunning resort atop 19 acres of beachfront and tropical landscapes, Naïa is a luxurious star within the Placencia Peninsula P. 16



For advertising and story opportunities, email us at :

hello@mybeautifulbelize.com

Be sure to visit our website for detailed stories and many more beautiful photos: www.mybeautifulbelize.com

Published by *The San Pedro Sun LTD.*



Here's what's happening in March!



March 11th – Masquerade: A night in Monte Carlo starting at 6PM at Banyan Bay Resort, San Pedro Town

March 12th – Chiquibul Challenge Marathon starting at 5:30AM at the San Ignacio Town Square, Cayo District

March 16th – Festival Internacional de Caracoles Arte Sin Frontera starting at 5PM at Arenal Village, Cayo District

March 18th – Esko Lose Control starting at 9PM at West Bay Beach Club, Caye Caulker Village

March 18th – The Truck Stop Farmers Market starting at 11AM at The Truck Stop, North Ambergris Caye

March 25th – Caye Caulker Lion Fish Derby starting at 1Pm at Barrier Reef Sports Bar, Caye Caulker Village

March 25th – Basketball match between San Pedro Tiger Sharks and Cayo Western Ballaz starting at 9PM at Angel Nuñez Auditorium, San Pedro Town.

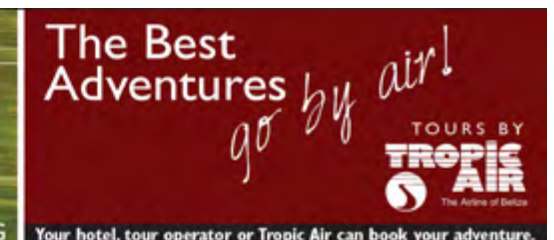
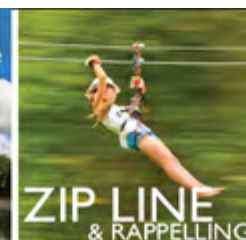
March 25th – Mahogany Bay Market Day starting at 11AM at Mahogany Bay Village, San Pedro Town

April 6th – Moon Party starting at 8PM at Luna Loca Beach Bar, San Pedro Town

April 7th – Sun Party starting at 2PM at SandBar Beach Hostel and restaurant Dock, San Pedro Town

April 7th – The Stations of the Cross starting at 3PM at Benque Viejo del Carmen Catholic Church, Benque Viejo Town, Cayo District

April 8th – Pancake Bunny Brunch starting at 9AM at San Pedro Lions Den, San Pedro Town



Gone with the Wind in a Parasail

By Mary Gonzalez

There's nothing like sitting behind the computer, watching your social media feed full of images of the gorgeous sunshine, blue hues of water, and all kinds of jealousy-inducing fun. So, one Thursday afternoon, tired of the envious feelings, I got up, dragged my pal Janelle with me, and headed off to Castaway Caye to set up a parasailing adventure for the next day. The winds have been delicious, and coupled with the sunshine, spotless blue skies and crystal clear waters, there is truly no better way to enjoy it all than dangling from a smiley faced chute as a boat sails you around.

Imagine our surprise when Jimmy says, "Okay, let's go right now!" I mean, all you can say is "Okay!"

This is living the moment, and all thoughts of deadlines, computer screens and really, life, slip away as we get on the boat for our spontaneous little adventure.

Do we let the boss know? Nahhhh...she'll figure it out when we come back to office MUCH later than the 15 minutes we promised! Teehee... and knowing her, she'd have joined in had she come with us too!

Jimmy and his right-hand man Eli and assistant Ahmad took care of us on the quick little boat ride out to sea from their dock, and within moments, Eli has me strapped in to a life vest and harness. I had a flashback to my previous skydiving adventure, and oh my how my excitement grew! Back in the air I go, but this time from the 'ground' up.

Jimmy explained what I needed to do, and at the right moment, I walked up to the bow of the boat, right at the bulls-eye, and got clipped on to the bar attached to the chute. I sat with feet extended towards the boat, and shortly the tug of the line began pulling. Almost before I knew it, boom, I was in the air and heading up, up, up and away! Wheeeee!!!

All around me, visions of blue water and the crest of the barrier reef... and oh how exciting it was to catch a glimpse of a turtle coming up for air! A catamaran boat packed with happy tourists passed below, and we exchanged shouts of encouragement and waves. What a happy feeling to be a part of the fun, in, around and over the water.

Like Jimmy had prepared, when the winds kicked up a notch, I simply swayed in the breeze, pretending I was on a playground swing and just enjoying the feeling of being suspended in the air. For the fifteen minutes I hovered in the air, I calmed down and took refreshing breaths and recalibrated. I highly recommend that you try this out sometime...or lots of times!

When I made it back to the boat, I sat back and watched other guests overcome their fear of heights as they braved the parasail. The sun began dipping down and the vistas changed...still beautiful, but even more serene. Our friends even got a chance to dip their feet in the water from their parasail perch, before making it back to the boat, ready for a rum punch or beer to toast their wonderful adventure. Cheers to Castaway Caye, and the smiley parasail that reflects our happiness while enjoying the vistas from above!



Castaway Caye Watersports is located on the Wet Willy's Dock in Boca Del Rio. Apart from Parasailing, they offer Jet-ski fun, wakeboarding and more! They're open from 8AM – 5:30PM, and you can call them at 671-3000. Check them out on Facebook and make your reservations via reservations@castawaycaye.com



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Taking advantage of the March Winds

Shortly after Valentine's Day, there is a change in our weather on Ambergris Caye. Winds begin to pick up, blowing ever stronger across the island. While there are a few days when you wonder if you'll ever stop shaking sand out of your hair, most times it's all about letting the winds caress you and take away your cares...well, at least for a moment.

So, with the March winds now in effect, what are the best ways to take advantage of the longer days and lush waters of our beautiful Caribbean Sea? Here are some fun options!



Kitesurfing photos by MJ Leslie

Kite Surfing

This one is a bit of a challenge, but I know you don't back down from one! If you are up to it, PassionKite Belize offers kite surfing lessons on the leeward side of the island straight from Martin John Leslie's hand-built bamboo floating raft. MJ is a local islander who grew up playing in the water. He is passionate about his surroundings, even spearheading a group of like-minded people in a project called Reef Angels, whose task is to clear the ocean of debris. Using kayaks and their hands, they swim and free dive our waters to clean up discarded bottles, plastic and other garbage that unfortunately would go unchecked otherwise.

When he isn't being an angel to the reef, he is soaring and leaping over the water, using the force of the wind and mad skills and strength to practically fly. His gentle nature and passion for the sport means he can teach YOU to kite surf too! Call him at 608-4514, and he can tell you what the weather will be like and when would be a perfect day to test out your inner kite surfer! Follow him on Facebook too, under Passionkite Belize!



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Mondays 8pm: Live Reggae
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Learn to Sail a Boat

With such clear warm waters at our beck and call, it should only be natural that we be a sailing community. For the longest time, that was not the case, but happily, thanks to sailing schools like San Pedro Sailing Club, you can now look out to the water and watch youngsters take to their optimist sailboats and learn to navigate a vessel.



You too can try your skills out! Belize Sailing Center at Caribbean Villas hotel is a great place to start. You can rent kayaks and paddle boards, and even learn to sail a Hobie Cat in 20 minutes. Imagine being able to chart your own path and following the wind! Drop by the center on the beach and sign up for a lesson...you may soon find

yourself adrift at sea, planning your new career as a sailor...err...perhaps just enjoy the feeling of navigating yourself. If you would rather watch others take to the waters, every weekend, there are children's and adults' sailing races to observe. It's great fun to camp on the beach for an afternoon while watching other people work hard to race!

Catamaran Fun

If you really just want to relax, let your hair fly in the wind with not a care in the world, then catamaran or old-school sail-boating is the thing for you!

My favorite is the old-school wooden sailboat called the Rum Punch II - Captain George Eiley makes a day out at sea WAY too fun - well, his rum punch too.



But I've also thoroughly enjoyed myself on a Catamaran cruise too! Don't get me wrong...any chance I get to be on the sea without any effort is my dream sailing adventure. Day trips involve snacks, drinks, swimming if you so desire, more drinks...snacks...lazing, lounging...truly, the stuff of dreams. And they're powered by the wind, so enjoy every opportunity you can while the winds blow our way!

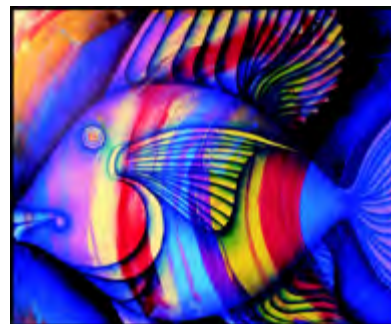


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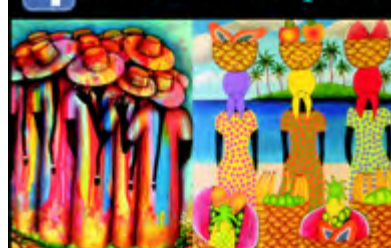
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BELIZEAN SHORES RESORT



The many ways to observe Easter in Belize

The long Easter Weekend is a holiday we all eagerly await - four days to do as you wish. As an international holiday, Easter brings an influx of travellers to Belize searching for a relaxing getaway.

For the newer generations, Easter mostly means sun, beaches and parties. But that's not all Easter has to offer. For Roman Catholics, it is the holiest of days, and in Belize where there are strong religious roots, many municipalities hold elaborate festivities to celebrate the religious aspect of the holiday. One such destination is Benque Viejo Del Carmen Town in the Cayo District. Each year, residents of this town recreate Jesus' journey to Mount Calvary where he was crucified. Held on the afternoon of Good Friday (Scheduled for Friday, April 14th this year) and

By Janelle Cowo



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titled "The Way of the Cross", this event has grown into an elaborate show of Catholic faith. The town prides itself in making The Way of the Cross feel as authentic as possible. Hundreds of locals and visitors alike flock to Benque to witness this spectacle.

It's not only Benque who hold such events, parishes for each municipality across Belize host smaller re-enactments of the Station of the Cross on Good Friday, as well as special mass ceremonies throughout the Easter weekend.

Continued on Page 8

Easter in Belize

Continued from Page 7

For those seeking different vibes, there are also plenty of Easter parties to attend! Coastal communities such as Placencia Peninsula, Hopkins Village, Caye Caulker Village and San Pedro Town always see the greatest number of visitors. Festivities take place along the length of the beaches and often run late into the night.



In San Pedro, the classic is the Holiday Hotel's two-day beach party, complete with International DeeJay and fun souvenirs. This year's party is scheduled for Saturday, April 15th and Sunday, April 16th. All along the beach, there are beach volleyball games, a variety of musical acts and cold drinks. Take your time to explore the island!

Our Catholic Church, next to the park in town has a variety of activities taking place, so stop in if you seek religious respite as well.

Whatever your intentions are for this Easter, we say have fun, be safe and enjoy with family and friends.

Important Notice: Good Friday is a Dry Day for Belize. No alcoholic beverages are to be served/sold from Thursday at midnight to Friday at midnight.

San Pedro Roman Catholic Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, April 13th

7AM Washing of the Feet/ Last Supper Mass, 8AM Transfer of the Holy Eucharist to Parish Hall, 10AM Adoration Vigil in the Parish Hall

Friday, April 14th

4AM Stations of the Cross (Around Town), 12PM The Seven Last Words, 3PM Celebration of the Passion of the Lord, 5PM Procession (Across Town)

Saturday, April 15th

7PM Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday, April 16th

7AM Encuentro, 8AM Mass, 10AM Mass, 7PM Mass

Monday, April 17th

7AM Mass

Nook

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EAT



PIRATE'S 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.



THE TRUCK STOP: Belize's first shipping container food park. Come try the different exciting options from our food trucks, play backyard games, or cool off with a sundae from our ice cream shop. Pig roast & cornhole tournament every Sunday!



AK'BOI - Belizean Comfort Foods and Gourmet Seafood. One Mile North of the Bridge, at the island's only Yoga Center. Fresh, is the order of the day! Gourmet Dishes by Master Chef JoVannie Rowland, menu changes daily. Imported Wines, Seafood and Pasta. 7 days.

EVOO: With the only hand crafted pastas, home-made mozzarella cheeses and chocolate fondue in the country, EVOO's distinct menu complements its captivating and intimate bistro decor. As the one and only Gin House in Belize, EVOO provides exclusive imported Gins & Tonics. 226-4001

RAIN RESTAURANT - 2 Miles North at Grand Caribe. Outdoor rooftop casual dining, world cuisine. Serving from 7AM - LATE! Happy Hour: 1-3PM, Mon-Sun. 226-4000 or email reservations@rainbelize.com.

PIRATE'S NOT SO SECRET BEACH BAR & GRILL: The newest trending destination; adventure to SECRET BEACH! Soak up the sun or take a dip in crystal clear shallow waters accompanied with island music, refreshing cocktails, gourmet lunch menu by AWARD WINNING CHEF. Credit Cards Accepted. Open daily 10am to SUNSET!

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.

JOHN'S ESCAPE!!! Run away and get served lunch and dinner daily.



Pizzas, Nachos, Burgers, Quesadillas, Burritos, Fajitas, Ceviche, Chicken Wings (to die for!) and much more!! Happy Hour 2pm-5pm; closed on Tuesday.

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.

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.



PLAY



COCO LOCOS BEACH BAR: 1st Beach Bar North of Bridge. Swim up Bar. Monday 4PM Cribbage Tournament and BBQ. Trivia Tuesdays 7PM. Daily Happy Hour 4 - 6. Bocce ball, Giant Jenga. Pizza & Pulled Pork Sandwiches. Open Every day 12 noon - 10PM. Like us on facebook.com / cocolocosbz.



FELIZ BAR & GRILL: THE Sports Bar across the bridge, with four 43" flat screen TVs, delicious thin crust pizza, wings and burgers. Play corn hole, catch the game, and try our Wednesday dart challenge! 1PM-11PM, closed on Tuesdays. At the Cloisters.

THE DIVE BAR: Snorkel/dive with us at SeaStar Belize and then unwind over great drinks, great food and a great time at The Dive Bar. Enjoy beachfront views and complementary water toys, just 1/2 mile North of the bridge. 226-3365/625-3364

MARBUCKS COFFEE HOUSE - Specialty Coffee Drinks - both hot & cold; fresh fruit smoothies and baked goods. Join us for Thursday Wine Fun, 4PM-7PM and our delicious Sunday brunch (with mimosas!). Located just off the main road in Tres Cocos, before the Truck Stop. Like us on Facebook and keep up with the fun!

THE GREEN PARROT - Eats and treats. Relax on the patio, sip your favorite island drink gaze out at the azure Caribbean Sea, take a dip in the pool and enjoy our great beach bar. Friendly staff always on hand 6 miles north of town. Open daily from 9AM-9PM. For complimentary boat transportation please call 226-5096/ 678-5096.



STAY

BELIZEAN COVE ESTATES A collection of six luxurious beachfront vacation rentals located 3 miles north of San Pedro Town. Each villa is elegantly decorated with its own unique style and décor. Belizean Cove Estates is the ideal setting for an intimate honeymoon, large family, or group vacation.

COCO BEACH RESORT 4-star luxury beach resort, nestled 3.5 miles north on Ambergris Caye, offering the utmost in beachfront relaxation, romance, luxury and adventure. Featuring two impressive free form swimming pools, a swim-up pool bar, an in-pool hot tub and a water-slide.

BELIZEAN SHORES RESORT An affordable vacation resort located just 3 miles north on the island of Ambergris Caye. Offering a great beachfront vacation for those looking to escape and relax in a peaceful island oasis yet, it's only a short boat ride away from San Pedro Town.

X'TAN HA RESORT "The Waterfront" Resort is a secluded getaway 7.2 miles north of San Pedro on a stretch of pristine white sandy beach with beautiful turquoise waters. The resort sits on one of the finest white sand beaches on the entire island of Ambergris Caye.

SHOP



MATA GRANDE GROCERY The biggest little grocery store on Ambergris Caye, located 4.5 miles North of San Pedro Town, it's a must see! Open Monday-Saturday 8AM-5PM; Sunday 10AM-5PM. You can also order online at www.matagrandegrocery.com or call us at 226-4290....we DELIVER!



EATS & TREATS



HURRICANE'S CEVICHE BAR & GRILL: The ceviche house! 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. We also run Tanisha Eco-Tours – and the best Lamanai

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EL FOGON: Authentic Belizean Cuisine prepared on a fire hearth. Featuring dishes that represent the diversity of our Belizean culture. Lunch menu and daily dinner specials. Open Mon. – Sat. 11AM – 9PM 206-2121/610-1277 See map for our location!



FIDO'S COURTYARD: Fun every day, starting with breakfast and a fabulous view under the island's largest palapa. Enjoy refreshing cocktails, lunches and dinners, with a side of live music. Island life doesn't get any better than this! Located in the heart of town on Barrier Reef Drive.

SANDBAR: BEST PIZZAS ON THE ISLAND! Sandbar hosts an amazing happy hour special: \$10BZD wood-fired pizzas and 2-for-1 rums on weekdays (3-6PM) and beer and wing specials on the weekend (11am-4pm). Enjoy your afternoon or evening at the bar, tables, or chaise lounges on the beach!



ITZA BELIZEAN PLACE: Serving up authentic Belizean and international breakfasts and lunch specials. Open from Tuesdays to Sundays from 6AM to 3PM. Located on Black Coral Street only minutes away from the beach. Contact: 637-8555.

THE NOOK: A restaurant and cocktail BArtique, offering fun fusion cocktails and tasty nibbles and main dishes. Happy Hour and a Half from 5PM - 6:30PM at the funky and relaxed lounge on the beach, by Coastal Express.



EL PATIO GRILL: Serving Belizean and Caribbean Cuisine in a gorgeous outdoor patio setting. Home of the famous stuffed jalapeños. Open from 11AM to 10PM - Sunday's, dinner only 5PM-10PM. Closed Tuesdays. Daily lunch & dinner specials. Sunday Live Music! Phone: 226-3898/6243589. Corner Barrier Reef Drive & Black Coral Street.

CALIENTE: On the beach at Spindrift, Caliente Restaurant serves delicious Caribbean and Mexican cuisine. Try our Jalisco chicken,

or our awesome ceviche and don't skip the fabulous margaritas (half-off on Fridays!) Indoor and outdoor dining available. Locally owned/family run. 226-2170.



BOOMERS: Fabulous new Cafe' Bar and Grill in the Wings building near Tropic Air. Serving American and Belizean breakfast, lunch, dinner and daily specials. 226-2299.



BELLA ITALIA: Craving delicious pastas and Italian pizza? Well, enjoy authentic Italian cuisines right here on Ambergris Caye. Come in and grab a seat or take advantage of our free delivery (in town.) Come see what we have to offer! 637-3798.

PARADISE CREAM: We are an ice cream shop serving great homemade ice cream, milk shakes and malts. There are about 30 flavors to choose from - always adding new flavors. Ice cream pies available for special occasion! Located on Coconut Drive at Wings Complex. 610-9585



MESA CAFE: Relax in comfortable A/C while enjoying a full range of coffee drinks and healthy, delicious dishes. Open for breakfast and lunch, our menu includes a mix of locally sourced European, Mediterranean, and island inspired flavors. Come



experience Mesa!

PARTY PARTY



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 Spindrift Hotel. 226-2002.

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

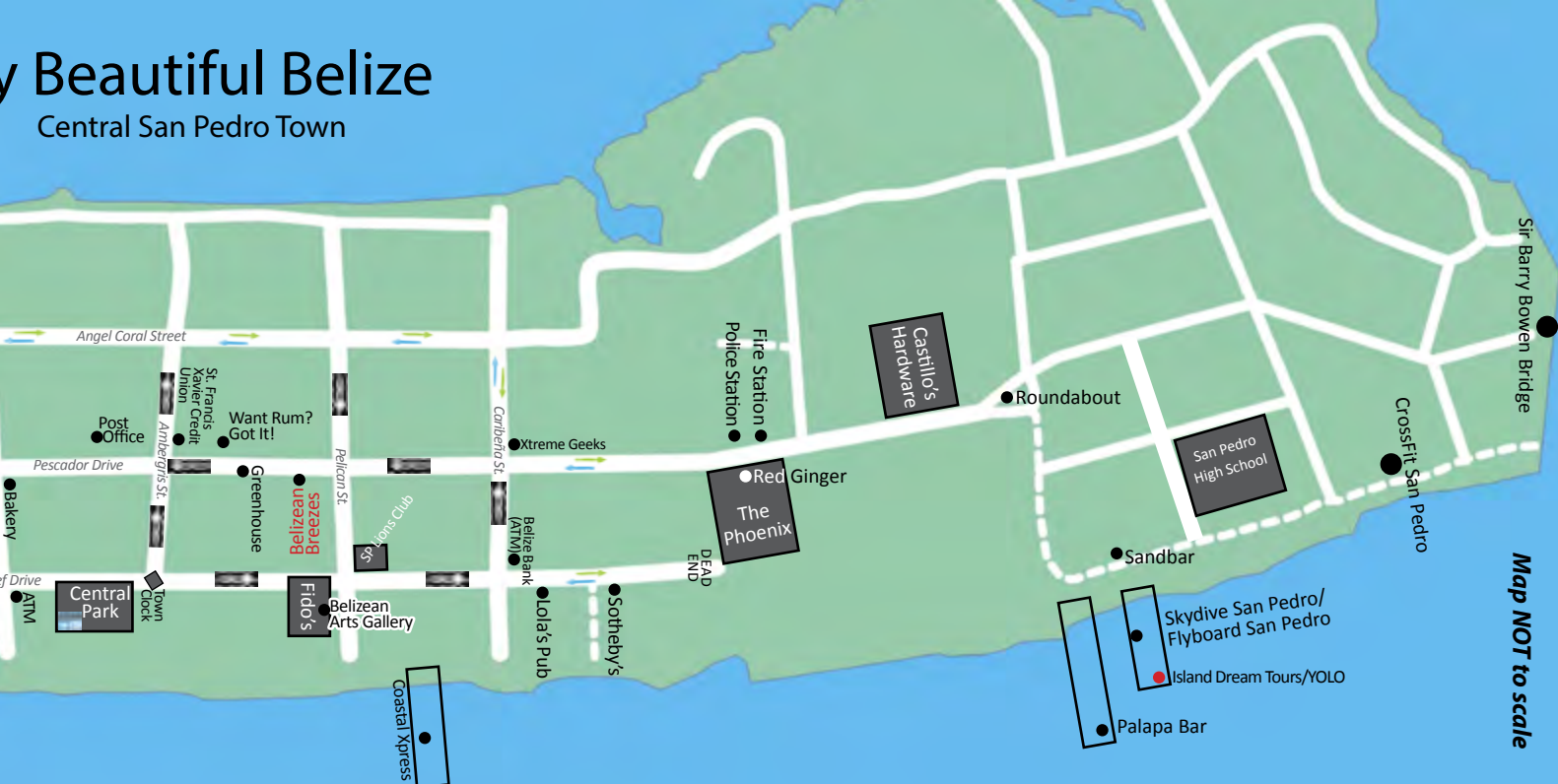
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Central San Pedro Town



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EATS & TREATS



THE COCONUT CAFÉ: Life's better when it's made from scratch! The Coconut Cafe offers breakfast all day, as well as pizzas, paninis and burritos/wraps. We make all of our own breads, pies and cinnamon rolls from scratch. Open daily from 7-3, closed Wednesdays. Located just south of town, on Coconut Drive, across from Road Kill Bar. 226-4311.



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EI DIVINO CARIBBEAN STEAKHOUSE & MARTINI BAR: Nominated for Restaurant of the Year 2016 by BTB! Banana Beach's signature restaurant, featuring indoor and outdoor dining and sports lounge. Serving USDA meats, wood fired pizza, fresh seafood, pastas... locals LOVE our ceviche! Daily dinner and drink specials, Happy Hour from 3-7pm. 226-2444.



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.hiddentreasurebelize.com

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.



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 Gonzalez Maya Site. Open Tuesday through Saturday; Happy Hour: 3PM-5PM, Dinner: 5:30-9PM. www.blackorchidrestaurant.com. Reservations Recommended (501) 206-2441.

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CRAZY CANUCKS BEACH BAR: Beach bar located at Exotic Caye Beach Resort. Open daily 11am-midnight. Bar food and daily drink specials. Mondays: Live reggae @8pm Tuesdays:

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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!!!

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Sudoku Answers Puzzle on Page 19

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



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Ownership is
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Recipe Corner

By Mary Gonzalez

El Fogon restaurant opened in the early 2000's, and has been a hit from day one. Why? Well, because talk about delicious, authentic Belizean food cooked the old-style: on a fire hearth. Yes, they literally cook on a fogon. Wood-fired, sooty, giant pots filled with tasty treats like stewed gibbon, chicken, beef, pork...oh, and tasty rice and beans, coconut white rice and stewed beans. For us Belizeans who grew up eating food prepared

similarly, El Fogon is like eating at home. Susana, the founder of the restaurant, is also quite like Mom...she loves on, scolds, hugs and jokes with you like your momma would!

Now under the management of her lovely daughter Olive and her husband Luis Fernando, El Fogon still gives you the home vibe. The couple has a warmth and charisma that keeps you coming back; who doesn't want food served with a side of love?!

One delicious treat that I enjoy (aside from their Belikin Beer Battered Fried Chicken which are only available on Tuesday's), are the delicious *fish balls*. Yes...fish balls! These tasty treats are deep fried to a golden brown, and each bite is full of flavor. When I asked Olive to kindly share her recipe, in case I have a hankering for it and can't get to the restaurant, she was more than happy to share. *See what I mean about love?*

So, to our friends near and far, who may be missing a little bit of delicious El Fogon, you can try this at home. It won't have the same smoky, fogon touch, but it is close enough till it's time to sit at the picnic tables and enjoy a few in person, with a side of sweet lime juice, or an ice cold Belikin, of course!

Fish Balls - The El Fogon way!

Ingredients:

- 1 pound Fish Fillet
- 1 Medium Onion
- 1 Medium Bell Pepper
- 1 habanero pepper (optional – but recommended for those looking for spice)
- 1 Celery Stick
- 2 Eggs
- 1 Pack Saltine Crackers
- 1 Tablespoon Fish Seasoning

Directions:

- Add onion, bell pepper, celery, habanero and eggs in food processor and chop finely.
- Pour into a mixing bowl.



- Add 1lb fish fillet in food processor and chop (use the pulse setting so it is not too fine)
- Add fish to mixture in bowl and combine.
- Finely chop saltine crackers in processor and add to fish and vegetable mixture.
- Combine all ingredients, adding fish seasoning as you mix.
- The consistency should be like Play-Doh (yup!)
- Shape into balls, perhaps the size of ping-pong/golf balls and deep fry in hot oil.
- Serve with your favorite dipping sauce – preferably honey mustard!



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ARE PROPERTY
TAXES IN
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A fantastic morning with SeaStar Belize...

By Janelle Cowo

Bright blue skies, cool breeze and crystal clear seas make for a perfect day to be out at sea! Lucky for me, I had a date with some under water critters thanks to SeaStar Belize.

For someone who loves sleeping in, this trip required an early wakeup call. But the Caribbean Sea was calling my name and there's no way I'm missing out! I arrived to Sea Star Belize's office, only a couple minutes north of the Sir Barry Bowen Bridge and was quickly equipped with a snorkel, mask and fins. My tour guide for the day, Adolfo "Fito" Duran, ensured that my gear fit just right - don't want any compromises underwater! As we boarded the boat, I eagerly looked forward to a fun morning at my underwater office.



9:30AM



First stop: Hol Chan Marine Reserve. I have been here many times, yet its beauty always astounds me. After a short briefing, my snorkel group of four plunged into the water and we began to make our way across the coral beds. The visibility was impeccable, and the knowledgeable tour guides at SeaStar made for a great trip. From tiny Blue Tangs to a curious Red Snapper, there was a bounty of marine life to observe. The highlight for me was watching a regal Spotted Eagle Ray in the distance!

10:30AM

With Hol Chan behind us it was time for our next stop:
The shark capital of Belize.
Yup, I'm talking about Shark Ray Alley.

The sharks were definitely out to play, so why not jump in and have some fun? Our tour guides spoke on the importance of sharks to our ecosystem, and warned us to stay at least five feet away from them when in the water – not that they are dangerous, but to assure they feel comfortable in their own natural habitat. We enjoyed our visit with the friendly sharks, then hit the road, or boat I should say!

...and delicious dining at The Dive Bar

11:30AM

After an entire morning out in the water, nothing hits the spot better than a good meal and a couple of drinks. Luckily, SeaStar has a sister establishment serving up good eats and tasty cocktails. The Dive Bar is the perfect hangout spot, with fun for the whole family. Head Chef Lucia Hoare, cooks up quite a storm in the kitchen, serving us The Dive Bar's signature dishes such as Cheddar Bacon Chicken and Pineapple BBQ Shrimp Kabobs. Talk about tasty! Let's not forget the drinks! The bartenders have created an array of colorfully unique cocktails, such as The Dive and the Rocky Lobster. And when the both the kitchen and bar team up, a masterpiece is created: the ginormous beach Bloody Mary - it's basically a meal in a glass!

What a fun day I had while at "work"! SeaStar and The Dive Bar are the perfect spots for a fun-filled adventure. Be sure to visit them 1/5 mile north of Sir Barry Bowen Bridge. Contact them at 226-3365 or visit their websites at www.divebarbz.com or www.seastarbelize.com

March 2017



The Warm Allure of Naïa Resort & Spa

By Tamara Sniffin

My idea of a perfect getaway is escaping to a quiet beachside resort, where you can explore secluded beaches, languish by a swimming pool, nap in a hammock and indulge in fabulous food and cocktails. Add having your worries massaged away by a skilled masseuse, while

surrounded by peaceful serenity, and I'd say you had me at hello! Needless to say, when the nice folks at Naïa Resort and Spa invited me to a weekend of pampering, I couldn't wait to pack my bags and head to Placencia!

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Dinner Reservations: 226-2067



Known as one of the most popular tourist destinations in Belize, the Placencia Peninsula is centrally located in the Stann Creek District. This picturesque ribbon of land is blessed with 17 miles of sunrise beach front and a vast sunset lagoon with mountain views of the mainland to the west. The length of the peninsula is dotted with sleepy communities, marinas and resorts, with the village of Placencia at the southern tip. Located between Maya Beach and the Garifuna village of Seine Bight, Naïa Resort and Spa is situated within the 200-acre Cocoplum Residence. On 19 acres of quiet beachfront and tropical landscapes, Naïa is the newest star in this resort community.

When I arrive, I'm welcomed with a refreshing fruit punch and I marvel at their spacious reception area that overlooks a very inviting beachside pool. Guest Services Manager Pamela introduces me to my one bedroom beach home that has a splash pool on the front porch. Complete with the requisite beach furniture, it's a space I could spend some serious time at. My cabaña is sunny and colorful, with every amenity you can imagine, down to granite counter tops, Smart HD TV, a coffee maker with whole beans and a grinder, a lovely outdoor shower, a huge soaking tub and of course cool AC. The only thing I was missing was my husband!

It is hard to believe that this lovely resort just opened in January! Although immaculate in every way, the space feels lived in. The mature foliage and quaint architectural design of the beach homes emanate the warm sense of a sleepy neighborhood, where people wave



to you from their porch front. The super friendly staff who maintain the grounds or attend to your every need, smile and greet you like a friend; you can't help but instantly feel at home.

Pamela also gives me a proper tour of the property, pointing out the gorgeous décor throughout the resort. Thanks to their very creative consulting artist Gilvano Swasey, who is the well-known curator at the Image Factory Art Foundation & Gallery

in Belize City, almost everything has been sourced in Belize. From vibrant paintings, to sculptures, hardwood furniture and even hand-woven basket lamp shades, the locally made furnishings not only embrace the genuine character of Belize, but celebrate the artisans as well.

Perhaps the most impressive characteristic about Naïa is how the landscape transitions from

Continued on Page 18

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Corn Hole
Wednesday Feliz Dart Challenge

Open from 1PM - 11PM

1/2 mile north of the bridge @ The Cloisters, San Pedro, Belize



Najia Continued from Page 17

a beachside retreat to a tranquil, jungle spa hideaway. As you walk to the west side of the resort you enter a lush expanse of pimento trees and jungle foliage, where you cross a series of wooden bridges that connect little islands within the lagoon. With each step, you feel closer to the quite zen-like ambience around you. The grounds are serene, with a shimmering swim-

ming pool aside the tranquil lagoon, and individual pebble paths lead to the five over-the-water treatment suites. My lovely massage therapist Meeka welcomes me and asks me to fill out a questionnaire to be sure my experience is customized to my needs. The final question asks, "How would you like to feel after your treatment"? I respond, "like heaven," and Meeka laughs, assuring me that she can arrange that! After showering, and donned in a fluffy white robe, she leads me

to one of the most tranquil studios I've ever had the privilege of being in. With a picture-perfect view of the lily pad lagoon framed with coconut trees mirrored in the still water, the setting couldn't be more peaceful. I'm given the choice of either a Primal Salt Stone massage or a Native Essence massage which incorporates Copal. I am in love with the scent of Copal, which is a tree resin that has been used for spiritual cleansing by indigenous healers for centuries, so that's the massage I

eagerly request. Meeka works her magic, using the Copal combined with other medicinal essential oils including ginger, ylang-ylang and orange harvested in Belize. There isn't a stressed muscle she doesn't find and persuade into a state of surrender. By the end of the hour I do indeed feel like heaven...and beyond.

The full-service spa also has two buildings with glass walls that face serenity ponds. One is a fully equipped gym facility, and the other



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Get Wet, Get Satisfy!

226-3365, 1/2 MILE NORTH OF THE BRIDGE



is a beautiful yoga studio. It's the perfect place for mediating and relaxing while treating your body to a little exercise, and the yoga studio also offers aerial yoga, which is something new to Belize. After all that hard work relaxing, you can nourish your body with healthy fuel at their charming lagoon-side restaurant aptly called Reflections. There you can enjoy fresh fruit smoothies, avocado spring rolls, pan-seared red snapper and Greek orzo pasta salad to name a few.

Within the resort, Naïa hosts two other restaurants. On the ground floor of their main building is the Beach Bar & Grill. The open beachside eatery embraces a casual setting and serves a nice variety of healthy and locally inspired breakfasts, lunches and light snacks. For breakfast, I must indulge in the classic Belizean breakfast of fry jacks, scrambled eggs, beans and cheese, the perfect start to a perfect day. And for lunch? Chicken Topped Patacones! I don't often see these fried plantain cakes on a menu, so I couldn't wait to try these! Deliciously topped with a black bean puree, guacamole, shredded red recado chicken and a crunchy creole slaw, the flavors and textures were a full-on party in my mouth. Add one of the best Bloody Mary's I've had in a long time, garnished with a couple cocktail shrimp, and it was a meal made for a nap...perfect!

Undeniably, the 1981 Restaurant at Naïa is the belle of the ball.

Wolfe's Woofers Burglar



By Dennis Wolfe

"Mr. Dennis, can you give me a ride home? I'm too drunk to walk."

I said, "Come on Mario. I'll take you home but what are you doing out at two o'clock in the morning?"

"Same as you," he said. "I was having a few drinks and celebrating."

"What are you celebrating?"

"I was celebrating that it's Friday and I got paid for some yard work but now I'm celebrating that you gave me a ride home before Maria came out to find me."

As we got close to Mario's house we could see that every light in every

room was switched on.

"Uh-oh," Mario said. "I smell trouble! Let me out here and I'll try to sneak in."

"Do you want me to help you with Maria?"

"No. I better do this myself."

The next morning he found me drinking my early morning coffee on the deck of the Holiday Hotel.

"Mr. Dennis," he said. "I'm broke. You got some little job for me?"

"I guess I could have you chop my grass," I said. "Was Maria waiting up for you last night?"

"No. All the lights was on because a thief broke in to rob the house."

"Oh, my!" I said. "Did he get anything?"

Located on the second floor of the main building, the high, wood vaulted ceiling is adorned with hanging basket lamps, and the space is warm with the earth tones of Belize. Named after the year that Belize attained independence, 1981 is refined yet casual, and their menu incorporates fresh Belizean cuisine sourcing only the best in local ingredients. My dinner companions Pamela, Ed and I are treated to culinary masterpieces created by Head Chef, Ms. Trinell Smith. We begin with Coconut Lobster Bisque and Grilled Chicken and Watermelon appetizers, and savor our entrees of Blackened Pork Chops, Grilled Chicken with Orzo and Catch of the Day. The very talented mix-master Miguel concocts some tasty cocktails, and although we are full, I manage to find room for some Key Lime Cheesecake. The entire meal is nothing but a delight, including the company!

The beautiful Naïa property boasts one bedroom units with or without a pool, beach studios, two and three-bedroom beach villas with private pools, and a two-bedroom tree top villa. When staying at Naïa, the weight of the world seems lighter, the color of the sky seems bluer, and the smell of sea air even sweeter. Naïa has cast her spell, and I'm hooked. If you would like to learn more about Naïa please visit their website at www.naiaresortandspa.com.

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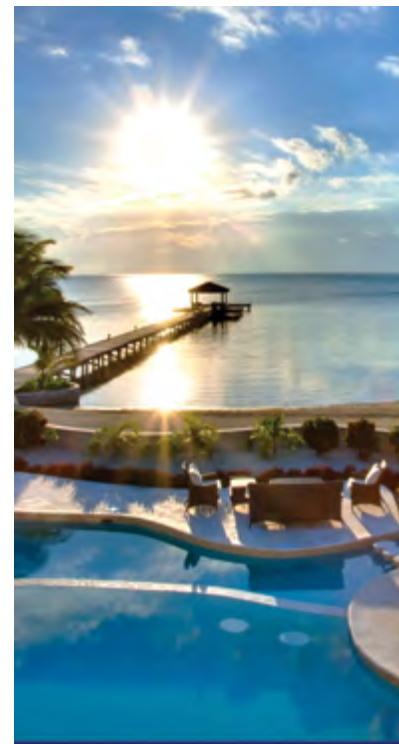
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SuDoku Time!

Answers on Page 12

7	8	6	5			1	9
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	4	8			7	9	2



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