

# My Beautiful Belize

TRAVEL PUBLICATION

July/August 2019 | Vol. 07 #07

Artisan signs add color and creativity to our rich scenery

The Flying Bushman

FREE





# From the Editor *Tamara Sniffin*



There are dozens of reasons why Belize is so special, be it her cultural diversity, tasty cuisine, genuine people, glorious mountain ranges, and the Belize Barrier Reef. Whatever your fancy is when it comes to enjoying our bounty, one thing that almost all of us gravitate to is water. For obvious reasons, man has been drawn to water since the beginning of time; we do need it for survival after all! But over the millennia, man has found that water nurtures the soul as well as the body. A quiet time spent admiring endless waterscapes to the backdrop of a horizon can be completely mesmerizing. Your worries slowly fade with every gentle wave and before you realize it your mind is content, mentally at rest, and that it's been a while since you've felt this good. The water has metaphorically washed away your troubled thoughts and left you with a sense of peace.

But water isn't just good for the soul; the body rejoices in it inside and out! In Belize we find water to recreate in wherever we are, be it in the cool mountain streams and waterfalls, to our wide, lazy rivers and glorious beaches, one way or another here we come! Armed with coolers, food, water toys, friends, and family, we celebrate life submerged in heavenly water.

As you discover and enjoy Belize, we encourage you to take the plunge; we know the refreshing experience will be one you won't forget! We welcome you to My Beautiful Belize!

## Wolfe's Woofers Prayers

"Grayson, no fighting in school," Melody said, "O.K, Ma, Bye, Grandpa."

"Bye, sweet boy," I said, as Grayson ran into the yard of the ABC pre-school.

"I have exactly ten minutes to make it to my meeting," Melody said, as we circled the downtown block twice looking for a parking space.

"This is the most important meeting of my life," she told me. "I'm meeting with a representative of a company in the U.S. that does themed weddings. If I can talk her into a Belizean-themed package I will do more wedding business than I ever dreamed of."

By the third time around the block Melody was getting desperate.

"What are you mumbling about?" I asked.

"Never you mind. We have three minutes so keep looking."

That's when I realized she was praying.

"Dear God," she said, softly. "Please help me find a parking space."

Then she said, "Please. One little parking space for a golf cart is all I'm asking. I promise to quit swearing if you help me."

We passed one space that was only wide enough for a scooter but Melody didn't say one swear word.

"I'll be nicer to people that I don't like," she mumbled. "I'll let Glenn win some arguments. No! I won't argue with Glenn at all."

The street was still filled with vehicles from end to end.

Melody said, "If you help me get a parking place I promise to quit having drinks . . ."

A golf cart backed out of a space in front of us and Melody immediately whipped her cart into the vacant spot.

She said, "Never mind, God. I found one."



By Dennis Wolfe

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## My Beautiful Belize travels!



We always enjoy seeing our publication being read in far flung places, and this time around, ended up in the hands of journalists as they traveled all over the US, including the Alamo Mission in San Antonio, Texas and the United States Capitol in Washington DC! Send us your pictures at [hello@mybeautifulbelize.com](mailto:hello@mybeautifulbelize.com)!

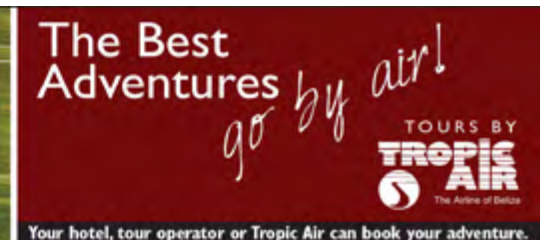
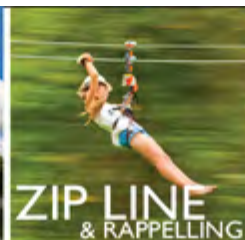
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For detailed stories and many more beautiful photos, visit [www.mybeautifulbelize.com](http://www.mybeautifulbelize.com)

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*Signs of San Pedro showcase artistry and creativity!*



Walking the colourful downtown streets of San Pedro Town on Ambergris Caye, you will notice many signs. There are so many that the 1970's song by Five Man Electrical Band comes to mind, 'Sign, sign, everywhere a sign, blocking out the scenery...' But these signs are not blocking the scenery; they are the scenery!

Yes, they are advertising signs for local businesses, restaurants, events and more. Some are humorous to enliven the message. One example is a cliché of a Rastafarian-looking toucan (a large-beaked bird) advertising for a gift shop. Another sign is of a funny monkey and the smelly durian fruit promoting the better aromas of a handmade soap business.

Other signs are quite clever, incorporating recognizable elements of Belize, like our flag displayed in the shape of a permit fish for a fly fishing business or the several fish shapes forming a tiburón (shark in Spanish) for a local lounge. San Pedro is well known for its fly fishing and the Meso-American Reef, making these signs iconic to both San Pedro and Belize. The building which houses the government protec-

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## Signs of San Pedro

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tion agency offices and museum, Hol Chan Marine Reserve, displays a beautiful, hand-painted undersea mural.

Many of the signs of San Pedro are hand-painted by island artists. And indeed they are artists! Typically, they are commissioned to add the extra draw of aesthetic appeal. They develop a draft, and incorporate the business context and location into the finished advertising product. Sometimes the signs are painted on unique surfaces like a surf board for a local beach bar. Another artist created a 3-D effect with an exterior form of papier-mâché for an ocean-side night club. The effect is as impressive as the sculpted animal-head entrance for yet another night club.

In real estate, the phrase 'location, location, location' also holds importance for signage and sign space. But not all advertisers have space at their shop or office, including this magazine, *My Beautiful Belize*. Their hand-painted, artistic sign is featured prominently on a wall space around the RC



Elementary School. They pay an annual rental fee to the school, which is used for the school's educational activities, and it gives us the advertising exposure year-round.

Another type of artistic sign that may help you navigate our one-way streets is the street map on street corners, topped with colorful fish sculptures to guide you. These signs were created with technology by a local graphic design company. They too are unique to San Pedro.

Now, if you are looking for souvenir photos with some of our signs, the local trend is large individual letters spelling the name of the resort, business and even our town. Each letter sports a different colour and a subtle design like jaguar spots, fish scales, and coral patterns for example. Our Town Board commissions several of these souvenir signs for community events like New Year's 2019 hosted in Central Park, and they become the 'paradise pic' that tourists send to family and friends while enjoying San Pedro.

So, enjoy your walks, read the signs and know they are a large part of our island culture, not just advertising.

Submitted by  
Dr. Dianne L. Lawrence





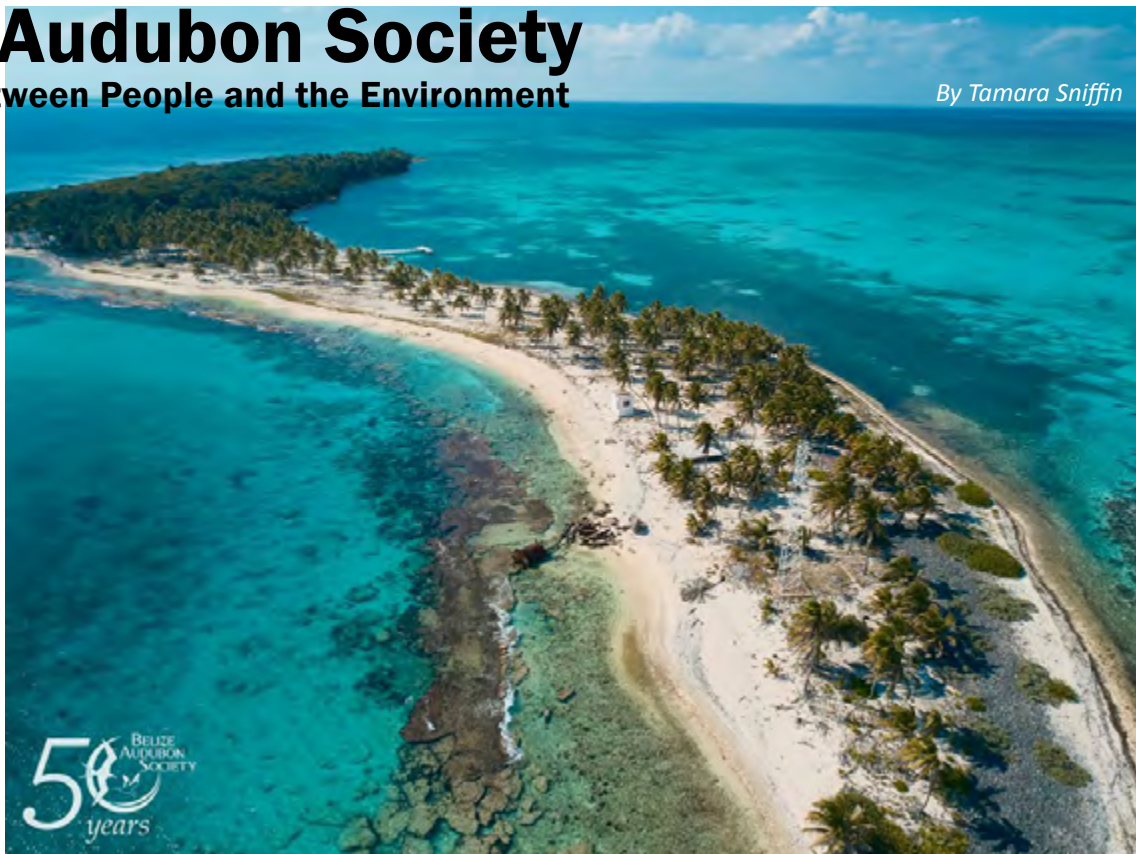
# The Belize Audubon Society

## Creating a Balance between People and the Environment

By Tamara Sniffin

In many areas of the world, The Audubon Society is synonymous with birds, birding and habitat conservation. The Belize Audubon Society (BAS), celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, takes their responsibilities to even a higher level, with the huge task of co-managing seven of Belize's most biologically and topographically diverse protected areas. These areas, which see more than 52,000 visitors a year, include the Blue Hole National Monument, Half Moon Caye National Monument, St. Herman's Blue Hole National Park, Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, Guanacaste National Park and Victoria Peak National Monument.

Founded in 1969 as a foreign chapter of the Florida Audubon Society, BAS became an independent organization in 1973. Now the longest standing and most respected conservation non-governmental organization in the country, they serve as leaders and development partners who inspire people to live in harmony with and benefit from the environment. This dynamic group tirelessly advocates for the environmental protection of Belize's priceless natural resources while assuring that the general public learns about and fosters an appreciation for its value and sustainable use. As a member-



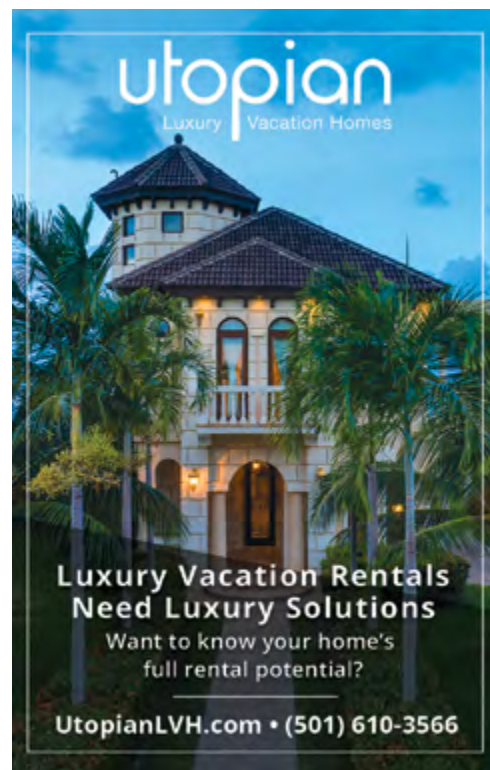
ship-based organization, they work closely with strategic partners and stakeholders for the benefit of people and the environment. They are funded by entrance fees, grant support, membership dues, contributions, interest income, and other fund generating activities. Once solely manned by volunteers, they now boast a staff of more than 40 dedicated professionals.

Convinced that education is at the heart of environmentally responsible development, each year BAS conducts countless programs within schools, communities, and visitor centers across the country. These include nature schools, summer programs, teacher workshops, awareness campaigns, environment camps, school and community presentations, publications, and special events to nurture growing minds. It is also their goal to involve local commu-

nities in the management of protected areas, and they facilitate the training of residents who live within buffer communities. They also organize an annual summit hike to Victoria Peak.

Belize Audubon Society's commitment doesn't end at community education as they are keenly involved in several long-term research projects within the protected areas as well. At Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, they engage in the monitoring of jaguars and pumas and their prey, along with the study of

**Continued on Page 6**





# The Belize Audubon Society Continued from Page 5

insect communities and butterflies within the reserve. At Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, there have been extensive studies on the behavioral ecology of the Ruby-throated hummingbird and banding migrant birds in the area. BAS has also been instrumental in participating in key monitoring activities within the Lighthouse Reef Atoll, particularly including the two marine protected areas they co-manage at Half Moon Caye and Blue Hole Natural Monuments. Ongoing research and monitoring within this area include Nassau grouper spawning and aggregation, seagrass health assessment, queen conch density survey, spiny lobster density survey, coral bleaching assessment, white-phase Red-footed Booby Bird count, and sea turtle nesting activity on Half Moon Caye and Sandbore Caye.

The community engagement of birding is also high on their priority list. Each February the Belize Audubon Society's staff and members participates in the annual four-day Great Backyard Bird Count where bird watchers of all ages count birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants can count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). In 2009 BAS started the Urban Bird watch activity designed to introduce bird conservation and the importance of wintering grounds. Each October, novice birders team up with expert birders and count birds within their urban area. The data collected is uploaded on eBird, and volunteer groups



gather throughout the month in Orange Walk Town, Belize City, Dangriga Town, Punta Gorda Town, San Pedro Town, and Corozal Town. Another big birding event is the Christmas Bird Count which Belize Audubon Society first participated in in 1972. They now coordinate this birding event each year, known as the longest running citizen science survey in the world. The first Christmas Day Bird Count was initiated by ornithologist Frank M. Chapman in 1900 and data collected provides critical information on population trends of birds. In 2018, BAS along with the Belize Tourism Association and the Belize Tourism Board organized the first annual Belize Birding Festival with great success with plans well underway for the second one over the weekend of October 19, 2019.

Over the last 50 years, the country of Belize can be thankful for the unfaltering commitment the Belize Audubon Society has to protect and conserve wild habitats and community livelihoods. To learn more about BAS, please visit their website at <http://www.belizeaudubon.org>.



# North Ambergris Caye

©2018, Map not to scale



## 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. 4PM to 10PM. 668-2156.



**CROCS SUNSET SPORTS BAR:** The newest bar north of the bridge, with refreshing cocktails, bar food, killer sunset views and all the games on large-screen TVs. Book upstairs bar for private events. Open from 11am everyday.



**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.



- 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.



**AJI TAPA BAR RESTAURANT:** Beachfront dining in a romantic setting. One of a kind 5-Star Tapa Bar and Restaurant situated on the enchanting island of Ambergris Caye. Breakfast: 8AM-10:30AM, Dinner: 5PM-10PM, every day except Tuesdays. Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday for lunch. Call +501-226-4047 for reservations.



**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.



**PIRATE'S NOT SO SECRET BEACH BAR & GRILL:** The island's 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!

**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.

## PLAY



**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.

**WHITE SANDS DIVE SHOP:** A PADI 5 star Dive shop in San Pedro Town on Ambergris Caye teaching scuba diving and certifying divers, as well as providing daily Diving and Snorkeling adventures to the beautiful Belize Barrier Reef. Scheduled (local) departures are at 9:00AM, and they pick you up at the hotel dock. 226-2405.

## 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 Everyday 8AM-6PM.** You can call us at 226-4290 or also order online at [www.matagrandegrocery.com](http://www.matagrandegrocery.com) ....we DELIVER!

## SuDoku Time! Answers on Page 10

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



## EATS & TREATS

**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 206-2121/280-2626 See map for our location!



**CALIENTE:** On the beach at Sprindrift, Caliente Restaurant serves delicious Caribbean and Mexican cuisine. Try our Jalisco chicken, or our awesome ceviche and don't skip the fabulous margaritas - including our specially priced **MAMARITAS!** Indoor and outdoor dining available. Locally owned/family run. 226-2170.



**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!



**IGUANA JUAN'S:** Thoughtful burgers, killer vegetarian, creative cocktails and more, served with an eclectic vibe overlooking Back Street! Specializing in American and Central American dishes. We're 'Conveniently' Located Upstairs, of an Old Building, on a Back Street, on an Island, in Central America... Come Find Us!



**MELT - NEW LOCATION** over the water in town at the Tackle Box Pier!! Live music & karaoke every night. 7AM – midnight; food served till 10PM. Specializing in MELT-y grilled cheese sandwiches - tons of delicious variety. Visit us!

## 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.

**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! [www.facebook.com/wantrum](http://www.facebook.com/wantrum) #15 Pescador Drive 226-4690.



**PALAPA BAR AND GRILL:** On the Wet Willy's Dock. Daily 11am – 11pm. 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!

## TRANSPORTATION

**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.

## ADVERTISE ON OUR MAP!

Rates start at \$150 per month!!

For ad rates and story opportunities, email us at:

[hello@mybeautifulbelize.com](mailto:hello@mybeautifulbelize.com)  
[www.mybeautifulbelize.com](http://www.mybeautifulbelize.com)

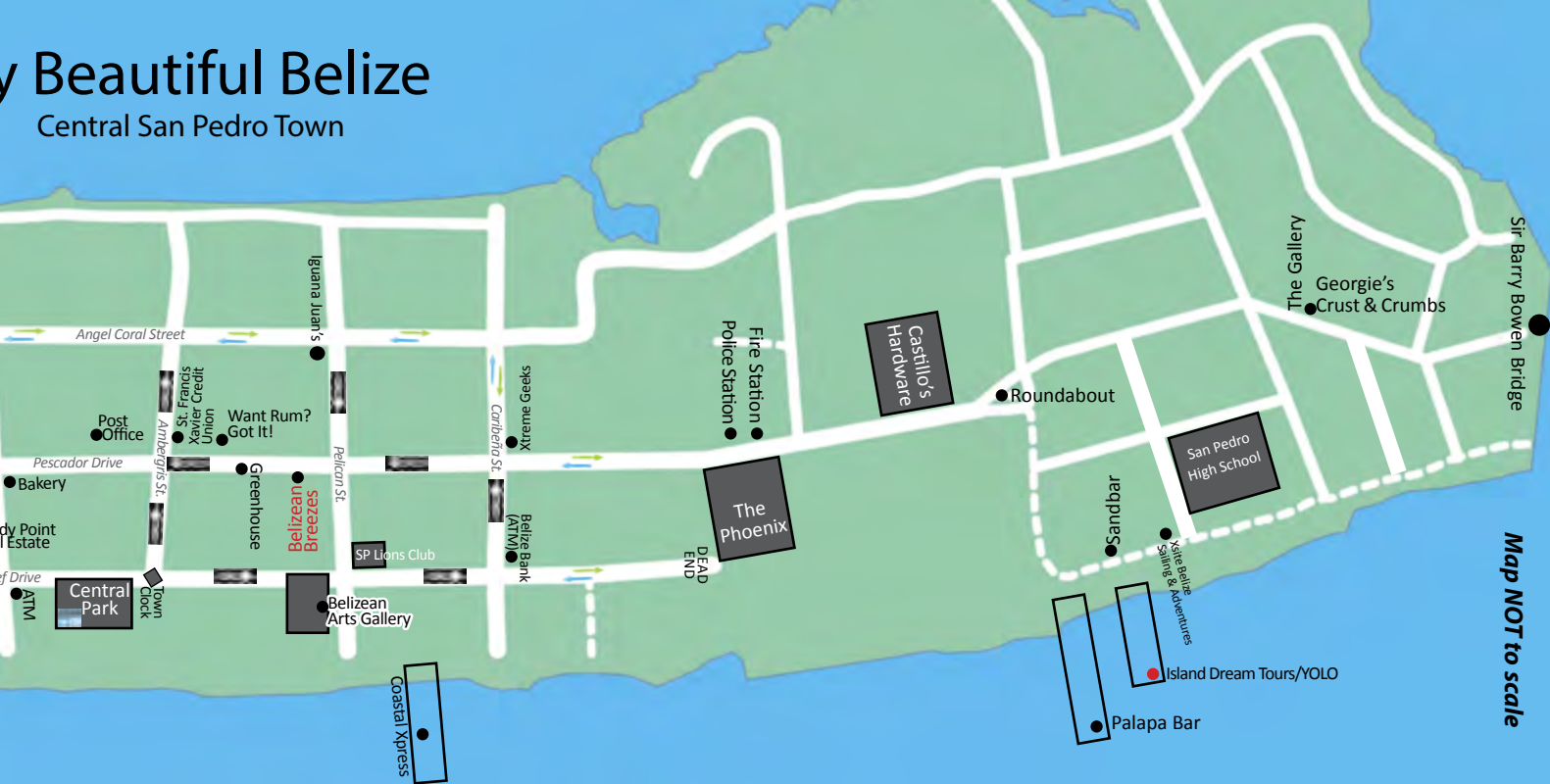
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# My Beautiful Belize

## Central San Pedro Town



Map NOT to scale

### UNIQUE OFFERINGS

## BELIZEAN ARTS GALLERY

Largest collection of original paintings in Belize. Featuring contemporary, native and realistic works by leading and on the rise artists. Gold and silver artisan jewelry, ceramics, fabrics and more. Open daily 9am to 10pm. Deep inside Fido's Courtyard. 226-3019.



**BELIZE CHOCOLATE COMPANY:** The first ever chocolate boutique in Belize, makes bean to bar chocolate on Ambergris Caye, together with delicious truffles, tasty hot and cold chocolate drinks and unique chocolate gifts. Located on Front Street. Call 226 3015.

**GRANIEL'S DREAMLAND:** Exotic Hard Woods and Mahogany Products made locally. 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



**"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.

**HAVANA CIGARS BELIZE:** Our walk-in humidor stocks an ever changing selection of some of the finest hand-made cigars from Cuba, Central America, and the Caribbean. We also offer an air-conditioned smoking lounge with a full bar and café. On Front Street, across from Holiday Hotel. 226-4576 Find us on TripAdvisor!



**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

July/August 2019

**BELIZEAN BREEZES SOAP CO.:** San Pedro's ONLY and ORIGINAL all-natural soap company! With 2 locations, there's something for everyone. Soaps, butters, scrubs, full facial line, Monkey Farts & more. GIFTS GALORE. 9a-9p, M-Sat. 226-4322, Pescador Dr. & Barrier Reef Dr.



**KIDTOPIA:** Located on the second floor of Sancas Realty Plaza (Unit #13) on Coconut Drive, downtown San Pedro, Kidtopia is a kids club/drop-off center for children between the ages of four to fourteen. Open Tuesdays-Saturdays from 10AM-7PM, and on Sundays from 12PM-5PM.

**GEORGIE'S CRUST & CRUMBS:** located inside "The Gallery" of San Pedro. The best Gourmet Pies from the "Pie Queen" with First Class Fresh Ingredients alongside The Largest Collection of Paintings in Belize. 2 1/2 blocks North of the Roundabout. Pies: 615-9327 Art: 226-4304.



**XSITE BELIZE SAILING AND ADVENTURES:** Come sail on our live aboard catamaran. For more information on Day Sailing Trips, One Night Sailing w/ Camping & Fishing and Multiple Day Charters, contact 501-610-0226 or xsitebelize@yahoo.com.



**LA SIRENE** is located at the southern tip of the island. Currently in the development phase, La Sirene's model home located on Coconut Drive is open to the public. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9AM to 5PM. For more information visit www.lasirene.bz







## EATS & TREATS



**CASA PICASSO RESTAURANT:** Tapas dining in an artful setting. Live music nightly. Global flavors featuring local ingredients...martinis, wines, cocktails. Vegetarian & gluten-free options. Open Tuesday-Sunday at 5pm, last reservation at 9pm. 226-4443 or [reservations@casapicassobelize.com](mailto:reservations@casapicassobelize.com). On Coconut Drive across from the upcoming Marriott Residences. Find us on Facebook or [casapicassobelize.com](http://casapicassobelize.com).

**PEPPERONI'S PIZZA:** The island's most delectable combination of traditional Italian crafted pizzas with Belizean influences. Handmade, local, and fresh ingredients made daily along with good vibes, music, and service. Dine-in, carry-out, & delivery offered. Open 7 days a week at 4:30pm-10:00pm and Friday-Sunday from 10:30am-2:30pm. 501-226-4515



**JORDANA'S ART OF TOUCH:** Providing a variety of treatments designed to keep you feeling and looking your very best, including luxurious body wraps, body scrubs, massages, facials, manicures, pedicures and more. Located inside Diamond Lodge on Sea Grape Drive. Open daily 8am-5pm. 602-8424 [spa@diamondlodgebelize.com](mailto:spa@diamondlodgebelize.com)



**EL DIVINO CARIBBEAN STEAKHOUSE & MARTINI BAR:** 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.

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



## PARTY PARTY!

**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: Live Music & Hermit Crab Racing @6:30pm Thursdays: Paint n Splash @2pm Fridays: Trivia @7pm Karaoke @8:30pm Sundays: Live music/horseshoes @3pm Follow us on Facebook. Phone: 670-8001

## Sudoku Answers Puzzle on Page 7

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



# International Costa Maya Festival: *Reignited!*



From its 1991 beginnings as the Sea and Air Festival to being re-branded as the International Costa Maya Festival - now it is a 'Reignited' festival set to bring entertainment to the masses. Both International and National entertainment will fill the venue in San Pedro Town, from folk and artistic entertainment to heart-pounding modern vibes, the International Costa Maya Festival: Reignited is set to make its mark for 2019.

A re-energized committee will bring back 'Noche San Pedrana' - making it a street affair, bringing the block party vibes that will keep residents entertained with local band Rompe Raja and up and coming young talent Guillermo 'El Criminal' Rivero. Steel band music will add to the island Caribbean feel and highlighting the evening will be the presentation of the eight beautiful delegates from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama. These beauties will be vying for the coveted title of Miss Costa Maya - an annual pageant that draws hundreds to the festival grounds. The title is currently held by Honduras' Mary Cruz Cardona Galindo. An all-night street party, Noche San Pedrana will set the tone for the rest of the festival plans on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>.

The actual festival kicks off on Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup> and runs through Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. Besides a spectacular pageant, complete with national costumes, dance presentations, and the ever so nail-biting question and answer segments, there will be musical acts throughout the evening as well. Featuring local Belizean artists like TR Shine (bringing the Belizean soca vibes) and Marlyn Vansen with her melodious pop vocals and energetic dance vibes, among other special guests, the stage will be non-stop energy.

Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> is the classic International Night, and oh will it be a sensation. While the festival initially began as a cultural display, organizers decided early on to feature an international artist to give the local attendees a bonus, and this year, the new committee came through with international reggaeton/pop sensation Becky G! Belize's Punta king, Supa G, is set to open the stage for the main act, and knowing his style and rhythm, the festival grounds at the Hon. Louis Sylvestre Stadium will be charged up!

Sunday's entertainment includes a comedic act and will be quite the family affair. If you are on the island and wish to check out one of the largest festivals in Belize, Costa Maya Festival: Reignited is the place to be!

Tickets for the concert for Becky G are \$150 for General, \$200 for VIP, and \$250 for Ultra VIP. Season passes are \$175 for General, \$250 for VIP and \$300 for Ultra VIP. Pageant night is \$50 and Closing Night is \$25. For further information on the full schedule, you can visit the committee's website at [www.costamayafest.com](http://www.costamayafest.com) or their office inside Oh Danny Boy Realty located on Barrier Reef Drive, San Pedro Town, or call 226-2180.

*Live the*  
**La Sirene**  
*experience*



*Where the road ends on the southern tip of Ambergris Caye*



*Architecture:*  
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# Butterflies, botanicals, and hummingbirds!

By Tamara Sniffin

Almost everywhere you explore in Belize has you immersed within a tropical paradise bursting with colorful flora and fauna. When visiting the Green Hills Butterfly Ranch in the Cayo District, you get a magical dose of these fabulous features showcasing gorgeous butterflies, jungle foliage and vibrant hummingbirds! Their butterfly pavilion is teeming with approximately thirty species of butterflies in all colors and shapes. From the iridescent Blue Morpho, which is one of the largest butterflies in the world, to the aptly named Malachite in glorious green and black, the air space within the enclosure is aflutter with a kaleidoscope of color. Adding to the enchanted ambiance are the tropical plants that each species depends on for survival, be it food or where they must lay their eggs. Dense with thriving vegetation that vines above and below, along with as many different types of plants as there are butterflies, those who admire the diversity of lush botanicals are in for an extra treat. What can be more beautiful than pretty butterflies floating amidst pretty plants?

Onsite guides, who speak English, Spanish, Dutch, Yucatec Maya, and Creole, give you an up-close and personal tour of the pavilion. There they explain a display of hanging cocoons where butterflies will soon emerge, and as you explore the area, they identify the many flying butterflies and plants, explaining how interdependent they are on each other. It could be easy to stay and explore for hours, as everywhere you look, there's an amazing butterfly or plant to admire.

From the enclosed pavilion, we move outside to a covered patio where they have created a hummingbird viewing area complete





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with seating and bird identification books. Using nectar feeders and natural foliage to attract these super-fast dynamos, several types of colorful hummingbirds compete for the food and thoroughly entertain the guests. Photo opportunities are endless, and once again the area begs you to stay and enjoy these darting darlings!

Last, but not least on the tour is the room where leaves laden with butterfly eggs that they have collected from the pavilion gestate in separate enclosures until they hatch into baby caterpillars, grow and ultimately form cocoons. Some of the eggs are even exported out of the country to other butterfly centers around the globe, while some of the cocoons end up back in the pavilion where the cycle repeats itself. It's a fun and fascinating process to learn about and so interesting!

Green Hills is situated at mile 8 on Mountain Pine Ridge (Chiquibul) road, Cayo District and is open daily, 9am to 4pm. For more information, please visit their website at [www.greenhillsbelize.com](http://www.greenhillsbelize.com)



# 50 years of Belikin

The beer of Belize, Belikin, celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. The actual date in history is May 29, 1969, when the Belize Brewing Company was founded by Eric W. M. Bowen and his son Barry M. Bowen.

It's the beer that almost never was, but as the company records tell it, 'vision' has the company standing strong today. Family encouragement kept the vision going, and despite disappointment from the first attempt and bringing that vision to life, there was no turning back.

Despite being told after a feasibility study that Belize was too small to support a brewery, that international brewers could crush this start-up, and that an independent brewery had little chance of success in Belize, the father and son duo set out to prove the 'experts' wrong.

The Bowens found an ally in Honduras, where Cerveceria Hondureña brewery was managed by Berty R. Hogge. Taking a chance on the Bowens' impressive ideas and their passion, he provided investment capital necessary to begin constructing the brewing company.

All but one piece of equipment was acquired second-hand to begin the process. The oldest piece of equipment was a German brew house built in 1927; an antiquated decommissioned four-vessel brew house which became the heart of Belize Brewing (replaced in 2000). The only brand new item was a diesel boiler that exploded on the day Berty arrived to visit the site. With such an inauspicious start, even the Bowens wondered about their dream. They never gave up, however – and pushed for the Belize Brewing Company to flourish.

Upon retiring in 1977, Eric Bowen sold his interest to Barry Bowen. In 1981, while Belize gained its independence, Barry was able to buy out Cerveceria Hondureña to also make Belize Brewing an independent, family-owned Belizean company. 50 years later, this still holds true as the company is run by Michael H. M. Bowen, an eighth-generation Belizean.

As for those experts' initial opinion? Well, clearly, 50 years of brewing and serving Belize and even beyond, as well as having the distinction of being one of the largest employers in the country – we could say Eric and Barry proved them SOUNDLY wrong. We raise our bottles of choice: Belikin, Belikin Light, Belikin Stout, Belikin Chocolate Stout or Belikin Sorrel Stout and salute the Beer of Belize! To Belikin, the beer that represents passion, vision, hard work, independence and great taste!



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## What's in a name?

The origin of the name "Belikin" dates back to the ancient Maya Classical Period and means "road to the east". This could also be referring to the eastward expansion of the Mayas toward Belize. It is believed to be what the native Mayas called Belize and connects Belikin with our Belizean heritage. (From [www.belikin.com](http://www.belikin.com))



# Summer is a Beach Blast!

I was born in August, so I am truly a summer baby! The months of July and August have always been extra special for me. In my younger days, it meant no school. Later on, when I joined the workforce, summer meant long days when I can end my nine to five shift and still enjoy the warmth of the sun for an hour or more.

There is so much potential for fun activities that staying indoors is just unthinkable. From a simple backyard BBQ to lounging by a pool, this is the best time for some outdoor fun. If you are lucky enough to have a Belizean summer vacation, you need to spend a day out on a boat!

Boat...beach...picnic...the words I yearn to hear. Why stay on land, when the azure waters of the Caribbean Sea beckon me to come and enjoy its rhythmic waves? Include a group of friends and family, with some food and drinks into your plans, and then you have a beach picnic as well! This is what my perfect summer day entails:

The day starts early, with beach bags and coolers packed with essentials and loaded onto the boat. Engines on, we are ready to go... Destination? The leeward coast of Ambergris Caye! The camaraderie starts from the get-go. Insulated tumblers are kept full of refreshing cocktails or beers because, it's five o'clock somewhere! Festive music plays in the background, adding to the fun. We might just make a random stop out on the open sea to take a quick swim, do a little snorkeling or even fish for our lunch while enjoying the natural beauty around us. Once back in the boat, its straight to our beach destination where we unload. Beach towels are laid on the sand for lounging, with huge umbrellas for added shade. The music plays, the drinks keep flowing, and it's all about the good vibes. Fun water games, beach volleyball, we even plan some exercise for the day! When it's time to eat, the grill is fired up. What are we having? Fisherman's




BBQ, of course. A favorite local medley of seafood is the perfect dish for that perfect beach day. I swear nothing tastes better than freshly prepared smoky seafood and vegetables, sides and cold drinks. We don't judge if you need a nap after. I take in the chill vibes as we lounge into the afternoon. Some of the best sunsets come after a fabulous day out like this, and as the last rays shine above,

*My all-time favorite season is summer - the days are longer, and the sun shines brighter (for the most part)! Belizean summers just call for fun in the water, with friends and maybe a cocktail or two.*

*By Janelle Cowo*

we speed back home, thankful to have access to the kind of paradise backyard that makes our summers that much more special. As we head to slumber, we're already planning the next outing.

Plan your very own beach day by booking a beach BBQ with your favorite tour company. It's worth every penny and will be the highlight of your visit to Ambergris Caye, for sure!



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# An island classic: Fisherman's BBQ

Growing up in a fisherman's family and living most of my life on an island, it's surprising how much I don't like fish - crustaceans and even mollusks are more my go-to in a seafood meal. While I'm not a fan of fish, I still do eat it, but on when served in the following ways; crisply fried whole fish, sushi (I love sushi) and, finally, in fisherman's BBQ!

'What is fisherman's BBQ?' one may ask. It's a medley of yummy seafood, basically whatever is caught during a day out at sea, grilled to perfection along with the Belizean holy trinity of vegetables - tomatoes, green peppers, and onion. From the seasonings used to the cooking time, there is a skill in making a tasty platter of fisherman's BBQ. This skill that has been mastered by generations of local men and women with the desire to feed family, friends, and guests only the best. Once you have a freshly prepared fisherman's BBQ, you'll know why we Belizeans think of it as 'home.' It is a reminder of how blessed we are to live surrounded by a bountiful sea.

## Ingredients:

4 julienned tomatoes	Salt and pepper to taste
3 julienned onions	An assortment of seafood such as: <i>Fish fillets, Lobster tails (seasonal), Crabs, Conch (seasonal)</i>
4 julienned green peppers	Aluminum sheet pan
2 sticks of butter	Aluminum foil
¼ cup mayonnaise	
2 packets of shrimp consommé	



## Directions:

In an aluminum sheet pan combine seafood along with vegetables. Season with salt, pepper and shrimp consommé. Spread butter and mayonnaise on top.

Cover with aluminum foil and place atop fired-up grill. Cook for around 20 to 25 minutes, or until lobster tails turn red or until fish becomes opaque and flakes.

**\*\*No grill? Don't fret! This recipe of fisherman's BBQ can also be cooked in the oven. Bake in a preheated oven at 350°F following the same guidelines as above.\*\***

Serve while still hot. Perfect sides include baked potatoes, a garden salad or Belizean rice and beans and tortillas of course! Enjoy!

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# Calendar of Events: JULY/AUGUST



**July 3<sup>rd</sup> to August 3<sup>rd</sup>** – East Indian Dance Workshop at the Corozal House of Culture, Corozal Town (sylvia.perez1@yahoo.com for more information)

**July 7<sup>th</sup>** – Succotz Archaeological and Culture Fair at San Jose Succotz Village, Cayo District starting at 10AM

**July 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>** – Benque Fiesta at Benque Viejo del Carmen Town, Cayo District



**July 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Deep Sea Classic Fishing Tournament at Grand Caribe Resort, north Ambergris Caye (guestrelations@grandcaribebelize.com for more info)

**July 20<sup>th</sup>** – Family Time BBQ at Goff's Caye, Belize District starting at 8:30AM

– Summer Fest at Princess Royal Park, Dangriga Town starting at 3PM  
– Noche San Pedrana at Central Park, San Pedro Town starting at 6PM



**July 25<sup>th</sup>** – PRO FC 2 at the Angel Nuñez Auditorium, San Pedro Town starting at 6PM

**July 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>** – Costa Maya: Reignited at the Honorable Louis Sylvester Sporting Complex, San Pedro Town (See story on *Page 11* for full details)

## August 1<sup>st</sup>

Deer Dance Festival at San Antonio Village, Toledo District starting at 10AM



**August 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Chronixx Live in Concert at the Marion Jones Stadium, Belize City starting at 9PM

– Belmopan Day Expo at the Mae Gordon Park, Belmopan City starting at 10AM

## August 16<sup>th</sup> to

**20<sup>th</sup>** – Yoga Retreat with Alicia Collier at Thatch Caye Resort, Dangriga Town (<https://thatchcayebelize.com/yoga-retreat-by-alicia-collier> for more info)



**August 24<sup>th</sup>** – Orange Walk Tourism Expo at Central Park, Orange Walk Town starting at 10AM



**August 29<sup>th</sup>** – Gary P. Nunn's 7th Belize Back at Victoria House Resort and Spa, San Pedro Town starting at noon





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