



# My Beautiful Belize

TRAVEL PUBLICATION

August - October 2025

FREE

Vol. 11 #03

## The Heart of Belize Culture, Cuisine, and Carnival





# From the Editor: Tamara Sniffin

## Festivals Taste Better with Friends!

The last few months have been a whirlwind of fun, flavor, and festivity here in Belize, and with my terminal “fear of missing out” condition, staying home was not an option!

June kicked things off with the always enjoyable Mango Festival in Hopkins. If you’ve never been, imagine an entire weekend dedicated to one of nature’s sweetest gifts. Mango salsa, mango BBQ sauce, mango margaritas, this little fruit gets the royal treatment in every form you can imagine. It’s a delicious, creative, and lively celebration that always reminds me just how original (and mango-obsessed!) we Belizeans can be.

Then, barely had we wiped the mango juice from our fingers when July 1st rolled in, marking the official start of lobster season. That means festivals from north to south, San Pedro, Punta Gorda, and Caye Caulker, each throwing its own unique spin on celebrating our favorite crustacean. Whether it’s a perfectly grilled tail with rice and beans, lobster kabobs, sushi rolls, or even a creamy lobster mac and cheese, one thing is sure: we know how to serve up deliciousness.

But you know what makes these festivals truly special for me? Running into friends, sometimes unexpectedly, from all over the country. Belize may be small, but our connections run deep, and these events feel like joyful reunions in one big national backyard.

We welcome you to My Beautiful Belize, where tasty traditions, happy reunions, and savoring the moments are a way of life.



*While enjoying Mango Fest in Hopkins, Editor Sniffin (r) catches up with friend Deseree Arzu, Communications Coordinator for the Wildlife Conservation Society, Belize.*



Welcome to our beautiful island of Ambergris Caye, La Isla Bonita.

We are honored to be a part of your Belize adventure as we share our island home, our vibrant culture, resilient people, and the stunning natural beauty that surrounds us.

We work every day to enhance the visitor experience and make our island a place worth living. Sargassum is the topic of the day throughout the Caribbean, and we thank you for joining us in this plight. We are doing everything within our reach to keep sargassum in check and stay open to guests. Every cleanup effort counts, and every guest allows us to keep going in the face of adversity. We truly appreciate your commitment to your Belize experience.

September is a festive time in Belize as we honor our history and celebrate our independence. It is a time of joy, remembrance, and national pride, and we warmly invite you to join us in the festivities. Our September celebrations highlight our pride as an independent nation and the strength of our people.

We continue to work every day to improve the experience for all who live here and all who visit. From preserving our natural environment to expanding access to public services, we believe that progress must be shared and sustainable. As our community grows, we continue to ensure safety and prosperity for all.

We encourage you to discover the heart of San Pedro and find meaning in your Belize experience. Our people are welcoming, our traditions are alive, and our island is open to all who come seeking adventure and fun.

Thank you for being part of our journey. We hope your stay is safe, joyful, and truly memorable.

## Key West, Florida

Joelle Zajk from Arlington, Virginia (r), and Jennifer Crowley from Saint Augustine, Florida, friends for over 25 years and longtime travelers to Belize, read My Beautiful Belize while visiting Key West, Florida. Nicknamed the Conch Republic, Key West has a simple yet meaningful flag that reflects its unique cultural and political identity. In 1982, the city symbolically seceded from the United States in protest of a federal roadblock, declaring itself the Conch Republic in a humorous yet pointed stand against government overreach - a spirit that still defines Key West's independent, quirky character today.



## Where do you Read



## Aspen, Colorado



While exploring the breathtaking Maroon Bells near Aspen, Colorado, the engaged couple, Brett Green and Bailey Sniffin, take a moment to read “My Beautiful Belize” amid the stunning backdrop. Framed by golden aspens and mirrored in the still waters of Maroon Lake, the Maroon Bells—two iconic peaks in the Elk Mountains—are among the most photographed in North America. Renowned for their dramatic beauty, these soaring 14,000-foot summits offer a picture-perfect backdrop, especially at sunrise and during the vibrant fall foliage season.

*Have a great picture reading this publication? Send it to us at [hello@mybeautifulbelize.com](mailto:hello@mybeautifulbelize.com) to be featured!*





**Belize Spice Farm & Tropical Magnolia Resort**  
By Tamara Sniffin

Nestled within the lush southern landscape of Belize, just outside the quiet village of Golden Stream in the Toledo District, lies a destination that delights the senses and surprises most travelers, the Belize Spice Farm & Botanical Gardens. Equal parts working plantation, tropical garden, and boutique resort, it's a peaceful, flavorful detour for those exploring the less-traveled side of the country.

The farm originated as a small project in the early 2000s, when its owners, originally from southern India, recognized that Belize's fertile soil and warm, humid climate were ideal for cultivating spices. Today, it's the largest spice farm in Belize and one of the few of its kind in Central America, producing vanilla, cinnamon, black pepper, turmeric, cardamom, and nutmeg, among others.

Visitors are invited to tour the grounds aboard a shaded trail pulled behind a tractor or along walking paths, accompanied by knowledgeable guides who explain the growing, harvesting, and processing of each spice. You can smell, touch, and even taste spices in their raw form, like peeling cinnamon from bark or sampling peppercorns straight from the vine.

**Continued on Page 4**



# The Bamboo Artist

GALLERY

**- Original Bamboo Art Creations -**

41 BARRIER REEF DRIVE, SAN PEDRO BELIZE.

## "Bamboo Art Class"



**- Explore Your Creativity -**

Join us for creativity, refreshing mock tails, tasty bites, & great company as you create your own one-of-a-kind bamboo art piece.

SCAN CODE TO REGISTER



+501-637-4767

omo@bambooartist.com | www.bambooartist.com





## Tropical Magnolia Resort at Belize Spice Farm

Continued from Page 3

The experience is both educational and immersive, fostering a new appreciation for everyday flavors.

The surrounding botanical gardens are equally captivating, filled with exotic flowering trees, orchids, blooming lotus, and tropical plants. The farm is a haven for photographers, birders, and curious travelers alike.

What truly sets this destination apart is that it's also home to the Tropical Magnolia Resort, a boutique eco-retreat within the farm's property.

The resort features a dozen teak cabanas, handcrafted by local Maya artisans. Each one feels like a comfortable, elevated treehouse, connected by shady walkways and surrounded by fragrant gardens bursting with jasmine, ylang-ylang, and magnolias. Solar power and generator backup make it both eco-conscious and reliable, making it ideal for travelers who want to unwind in nature without sacrificing comfort.

Continued on Page 5

**LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN CUISINE**

**THE Hidden Treasure RESTAURANT & LOUNGE**

Serving Dinner: Wednesday - Monday  
Join us for live music on Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays  
South of San Pedro Town, Escalante Area  
Call 226-4111 / 226-4236 reservations recommended

Leave Your World Behind. Find Serenity in Ours.

**VICTORIA HOUSE**  
RESORT & SPA ~ BELIZE

Phone: (011) 501-226-2067  
Open Daily

**MOON BAR**  
The Ultimate Adults Only BEACH BAR Destination!

SWIMMING POOL KAYAKS BEACH GAMES PIZZA COCKTAILS BEACH

OPEN DAILY FROM 12 PM TO 9 PM

QR code, @moonbarbelize, 501-610-8953, Located 6.5 Miles North

**MANGATA VILLAS**  
mangatavillas.com

**FRIDAYS**  
GOLF CART DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT @ 7 PM





## Tropical Magnolia Resort at Belize Spice Farm continued from Page 4

Guests staying at the Tropical Magnolia Resort enjoy complimentary access to the farm, along with discounted guided tours. Meals at the on-site restaurant are a highlight, with a farm-to-table menu that incorporates freshly harvested spices. You might try turmeric rice, cardamom-spiced tea, or chocolate made from Belizean cacao. Many visitors describe it as one of the most unexpectedly delicious meals in the country.

The resort's setting is ideal for relaxation and downtime. Lounge in a hammock near a lily-covered pond, take a dip in the pool, or spot wildlife like iguanas and frogs among the greenery.

Whether you're a spice enthusiast, foodie, or just seeking a quiet, nature-filled retreat, the Belize Spice Farm & Tropical Magnolia Resort offers a one-of-a-kind experience where culture, sustainability, and relaxation meet. It is also a perfect stop en route to Punta Gorda or other southern destinations.

Check out their website at <https://belizespicefarm.com> for special offers through October 2025!

Email: [jason.turley@remax.net](mailto:jason.turley@remax.net)  
Text / WhatsApp: +1 (740) 525-8859  
for Pricing and Availability

Two minute walk from Happy Island and Secret Beach Water Park

50' PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS

Jason Turley, Broker/Owner  
**RE/MAX**  
REAL ESTATE GROUP  
San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye, Belize

- New Subdivision!
- In the of Secret Beach!
- Lots from \$110K US.
- Seller financing available.
- ONE ROW OFF THE BEACH!!!
- Tremendous land-bank opportunity!
- The bullseye in the path of progress!!
- Super low property taxes.
- Perfect for residential or commercial use.
- Beach access road directly across the street!!

**COOL BEANS Cafe & Bar**  
SAN PEDRO BELIZE C.A.S.

**LOCATED OVER THE WATER ON DREAMCATCHER PIER**

**BREAKFAST**

**LUNCH**

**SEAFOOD OPTIONS**

**SUSHI SPECIAL**

**COFFEE'S & MOCKTAIL AND COCKTAILS MUCH MUCH MORE !**

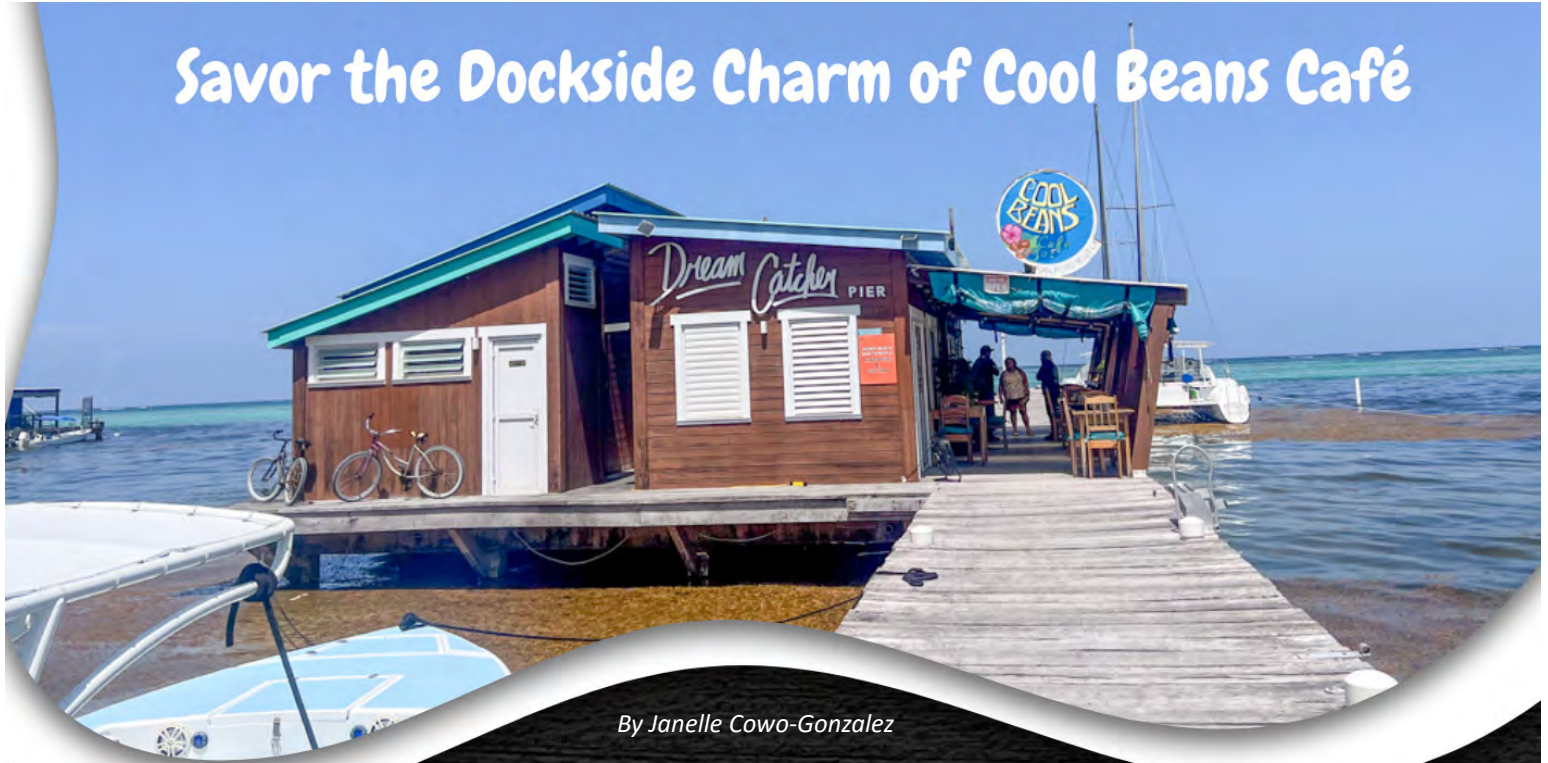
SCAN FOR MENU

USE THE CAMERA ON YOUR PHONE

**+501-621-6945**



# Savor the Dockside Charm of Cool Beans Café



By Janelle Cowo-Gonzalez

There's something undeniably magical about dining over Caribbean waters, the gentle sea breeze, the sound of waves beneath your feet, and sunlight casting ripples below. But at Cool Beans Café, the real magic isn't just in the view, it's in the people behind the counter and the food made with care.

Tucked away in the Boca del Rio neighborhood on the Dreamcatcher Pier, right in front of Ocean Tide Resort, Cool Beans Café is a family-owned gem that's been quietly delighting guests for the past three years. Open daily from 5:30 AM to 5:30 PM, it offers more than just breakfast and lunch; it serves a whole experience of warmth, flavor, and island charm.

The kitchen belongs to Karen, a seasoned cook whose passion and expertise are evident in every detail. She doesn't cut corners. Everything is made from scratch, from her homemade bread to her sauces and dressings, all crafted using fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Her dishes are balanced, flavorful, and filled with personality, just like Karen! Up front, her husband, Ivan, and brother, Javier, keep things running smoothly, providing friendly service and mixing drinks with just as much love and attention.

Guests often come for the stunning ocean view, but they return for the food. The signature avocado toast is anything but ordinary, featuring thick homemade bread topped with mashed avocado, feta cheese, deviled eggs, cherry tomatoes, and a smoky bacon jam that's unforgettable.

In lobster season, the café shines with cheesy lobster bites, golden and crisp, served with mango sauce and chipotle aioli. For something hearty, try the seafood soup, a rich tomato-based broth filled with lobster, shrimp, fish, and octopus, paired with coconut rice and crunchy totopos, an authentic taste of the Caribbean.

Continued on Page 7



## CRYSTAL

### Auto Rental Belize

A Trusted Name since 1989!

International Airport & 5 Miles Philip Goldson Hwy, Belize City

Free Pickup & Dropoff anywhere within Belize City and Ladyville

[www.crystalautorentalsbelize.com](http://www.crystalautorentalsbelize.com)

 US Line (936)-307-1325
 Belize Line (501)-223-1600
 Belize Phone/WhatsApp (501)-670-7617

Rentals allowed to Tikal, Guatemala



## COME DINE WITH US

# Famous Anglers Seafood House

Heart of Town  
For Reservations: 607-3434




Mention this ad, get a free gift!



12

WE HAVE  
MOVED

- Skin/Hair Care & Itch Relief
- Leather Goods
- Bags & Purses
- Spices & Sauces
- Home Decor
- Dolls & Toys
- Books & Puzzles

+ (501) 670-5272  
info@12belize.com

Carefully curated collection of the finest items everything made in

## Belize

Find us at



on Coconut Drive

Monday thru Friday  
10AM - 3PM

Find us on   @12 BELIZE



## Cool Beans Cafe continued from Page 6

Meat lovers will appreciate the Blue Cheese Arrachera Sandwich: grilled steak glazed with pineapple, topped with blue cheese, avocado, crispy onions, and lettuce, served on a toasted brioche bun. It's bold, savory, and completely satisfying.

Here, dessert shines as well. The frozen Oreo cookie cheesecake is rich and creamy, served perfectly chilled, and pairs beautifully with a cappuccino or a fresh Cool Beans latte from the bar.

Speaking of drinks, Ivan and Javier mix some of the most creative beverages around. Mocktails like the Watermelon Basil are refreshing and unique. If you're looking for a stronger sip, try the floral Rose Frizz made with gin, or the Mezcalito, served in a cantarito rimmed with Tajín, which delivers a smoky, citrusy kick.



Then come the margaritas! Over 17 flavors, from dragon fruit to the crowd-favorite Side Chick Margarita, made with strawberry and lemon-infused tequila. Better yet, weekends bring 2-for-1 margaritas, a great way to sample their extensive selection.

As a final surprise, every Wednesday from 5 PM to 9 PM, the café hosts Sushi Night, serving beautifully crafted rolls that meet Karen's high standards.

At Cool Beans, the food is delicious, but the heart is in the hospitality. As Karen puts it, "Love is the secret ingredient that keeps everyone coming back."

For reservations, call 621-6945 or email [coolbeansbz@gmail.com](mailto:coolbeansbz@gmail.com). Cool Beans Café is located at the Dreamcatcher Pier in Boca del Rio, San Pedro Town, right in front of Ocean Tide Resort. Find them on Facebook @Cool Beans Café.



*Javier, Karen and Ivan*

The Only Wine and Bourbon Bar in San Pedro focusing on premium, current vintage, New World Wines and Premium Bourbon.



10% off with \$125 usd or 15% off with \$250 usd Wine Purchase.

**Convenient Location:**

Middle street across from Caramba in Center of town.

**Come relax on our outdoor Patio!**

Over 125 Wines incl—

Caymus, Quilt, Silver Oak, Duckhorn, Stags Leap, Daou, The Prisoner, Decoy, Orwin Swift, Frank Family, Cakebread, La Crema, Sonoma Cutrer, Mer Soliel, Kim Crawford, Matua, Bella Glos, Austin Hope, Veuve Clicquot, plus many Boutique Brands.

OPEN 7 Days 10 AM – 10 PM



We feature Eagle Rare 10, Blanton's, Buffalo Trace, 1792, Bakers 7, Basil Hayden, Woodford Reserve, Whistlepig Rye, Elijah Craig, Buchanan 12, Bulleit, Glenfiddich Select, Hendricks, Angels Envy, Makers Mark, Garrison Bros, TX Yellow Rose, Four Roses, Titos, Grey Goose, Gentleman's Jack, Beam Black, Monkey Shoulder, Macallan 12, WH Weller and more.

[www.corkandcooperage.com/shop](http://www.corkandcooperage.com/shop)  
facebook.com/corkandcooperage





**The leading experts  
for your financial  
freedom and security**

**YOUR ONE-STOP BOUTIQUE  
IN BELIZE FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
FINANCIAL SERVICES.**

Designed to Support Your Current  
and Future Lifestyle

- Asset Protection
- Global Investment Options
- Corporate & Banking Services



**Get Customized International Services to Gain  
Financial Freedom & Security**

**GEORGETOWN TRUST HAS 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE  
HELPING INDIVIDUALS WITH INTERNATIONAL SERVICES  
SUCH AS ASSET PROTECTION AND GLOBAL INVESTMENTS.**

Established in 1999 in the jurisdiction of Belize, Georgetown Trust, Ltd. is a one-stop financial services boutique offering you the best in customized international structures such as asset protection and management, international corporations and other international investment opportunities designed to create and preserve your wealth. With our global network of affiliate partners, and the backing of the strong legislation of Belize, we are an unmatched gateway to the world's equity and debt markets.

As part of Belize Advantage, a business team of international financial experts that specialize in international asset protection and international investments, Georgetown Trust provides efficient, professional and comprehensive international services in an atmosphere that respects your privacy with strict confidentiality.



**Talk with us today!**

Belize: (+501) 226-3569

Cell: 625-9043 (Whatsapp)

Email: [georgetown@btl.net](mailto:georgetown@btl.net)

## Whimsy and Color: The Art of Walter Castillo

*By Tamara Sniffin*

A singular artistic voice captures the vibrant spirit of Belize with bold color and imaginative scenes: Walter Castillo, one of the nation's most beloved and internationally celebrated artists.

"I've been painting for many years," Castillo shares with a warm smile. "My first international exhibit was at 17, held at Cavendish Square in London. I went just for fun, never expecting to sell anything. But I sold out completely, and everything changed after that."

Since then, his work has traveled the globe from Japan and Italy to France and the United States. "I've become a kind of ambassador for Belize," he says. "My art travels, but it always speaks of home."

Born in Nicaragua but raised in San Pedro Town on Ambergris Caye, Castillo was deeply moved by the vibrant culture around him. "When I arrived here, the country overwhelmed me in the best way. The dances, colors, and freedom of the people left a lasting impression."

This inspiration bursts through his canvases with whimsical scenes of village life, breezy coastlines, and lively characters rendered in his unmistakable style. "People ask where I get my inspiration. I say, 'Look around. Belize is full of beauty. I paint everyday life through a lens of joy and wonder.'"

With no formal art education, Castillo developed his style through intuition and experimentation. "I started with raw color, painting what I felt. Over time, this evolved into what I call 'naïve fine art'—whimsical in movement and color, yet detailed and thoughtful."

After decades of work and travel between Europe and Belize, Castillo now lives in the Cayo District, continuing to paint daily. "I put a lot of love into my work. As long as there's Belize around me, there will always be inspiration."

Castillo's original paintings are sold at GariMaya Gift Shop in Hopkins, Stann Creek District, or through his studio in Bullet Tree Falls, Cayo District. He can be contacted via Facebook Messenger at [www.facebook.com/waltercastilloart](https://www.facebook.com/waltercastilloart) or WhatsApp (501) 622-4936.






# North Ambergris Caye



**Maruba Beach Klub** - Shhhh... Tell everyone not to tell anyone about Secret Beach. Open daily, 9AM - 5PM; Tel: +501-610-3779. E-mail: [marubasecretbeach@gmail.com](mailto:marubasecretbeach@gmail.com)



**Moon Bar at Mangata Villas** - Your ultimate beach bar destination! Adults-only (18+), strong drinks, gourmet pizza, and excellent service! Relax on the beach in complimentary lounge chairs and hammocks. Free use of kayaks, SUPs, and swimming pool. Golf cart drive-in movie every Friday. Open daily 12PM to 9PM at Mangata Villas. 501-610-8953.



**Portofino Restaurant** - Join us at Portofino Restaurant at Portofino Beach Resort for a globally inspired dining experience. Savor our signature freshly made pasta, spectacular steak au poivre, and succulent stone crab, all crafted with the finest ingredients. Dine in our open-air, elevated setting on stilts, offering breathtaking views of the Caribbean Sea. With impeccable service and a memorable atmosphere, we promise an unforgettable dining experience for lunch or dinner. Reservations Recommended. Tel: +501 226 5096 or Whatsapp: +501673 5096. Email: [info@portofinobelize.com](mailto:info@portofinobelize.com)

## ADVERTISE ON OUR MAP!

[illegible]

## \$450/per quarter



For ad rates and  
story opportunities,  
e-mail us at:

**hello@mybeautifulbelize.com**

*\*Display advertisers get a free listing!*







**Elvi's Kitchen** – The most famous kitchen in San Pedro! This award-winning restaurant serves Belizean, International, Mexican, Caribbean and seafood cuisine with vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options. Mayan Buffett on Fridays (seasonally) Open Monday – Saturday, 11am – 9:30pm. WhatsApp 610-3584 or 610(ELVI) E-mails: [reservations@elviskitchen.com](mailto:reservations@elviskitchen.com) | [info@elviskitchen.com](mailto:info@elviskitchen.com)

**Paradise Cream** - Paradise Cream Parlor offers its customers a variety of over 30 flavors of homemade ice cream. Open Daily, 11am - 9:30pm; TEL: 501-226-5959



**Tiburon Rum** - Tiburon rum is a hand-crafted, aged, premium rum. Our family-owned distillery is near the shores of the Caribbean Sea in Belize. Visit our tasting room in San Pedro! Web: <http://WWW.TIBURONRUM.COM/>. E-mail: [basil@sharkbaitco.com](mailto:basil@sharkbaitco.com)



Nestled in the heart of San Pedro Town, **Havana Cigars Bar** offers a selection of fine handmade cigars. Walk-in humidor stocks some of the finest premium cigars from Cuba, Central America, and the Caribbean. Open Tuesday thru Saturday noon to midnight; Tel: 501-632-2538



**The Bamboo Artist** – Original bamboo art creations, custom picture framing, bamboo art classes, gift shop, and more. Located at 41 Barrier Reef Drive in the center of San Pedro Town. Phone/WhatsApp (501) 637-4767. Open 9AM-6PM – Monday through Saturday. Find us on Facebook @thebambooartist



**Anglers Seafood House** - Experience a truly Belizean taste at Anglers Seafood House! Enjoy fresh, sustainable seafood in a cozy, affordable setting. We proudly use local ingredients to support our community. You're our #1 priority! For reservations, WhatsApp us at +501 607-3434 or +501 636-2644.



**El Fogon Restaurant** - "The Firehearth," located in the heart of downtown, specializing in authentic Belizean cuisine. Our menu consists of a diverse selection of dishes that represent our Belizean culture. Air conditioning. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at @elfogonbelize. Tel +501-673-2121.



**REEL Belize** - Discover unparalleled fly-fishing experiences at REEL BELIZE Fly Shop in San Pedro. Expert guides, top-notch gear, and breathtaking Belizean water await. Located at The Commons, Coconut Drive, San Pedro Town, find us online at [www.reelbelize.com](http://www.reelbelize.com) or call/WhatsApp: +501-610-5182



**SP BTIA Tourism Information Center** – Hosted by the Belize Tourism Industry Association San Pedro Chapter, providing information on all things tourism on Ambergris Caye and beyond. On Almond Street, next to the Artisan Market. <https://www.facebook.com/spbtiaic/> for hours.



**The Cork & Cooperage** - The only Wine and Bourbon Bar in San Pedro focusing on premium, current vintage, New World Wines and Spirits. On Pescador Drive across from Caramba in the center of town. Open 10am-10pm daily. Facebook. [com/corkandcooperage](https://www.facebook.com/corkandcooperage)

**Palapa Bar and Grill** - Belize's original over-the-water beach bar. Float in our innertubes, enjoy the sundeck, and savor delicious food and cocktails. Live music daily. Open daily from 10 am - 11 pm; TEL: 501-615-8811



**Cool Beans Café** - Let us be part of your itinerary when visiting Ambergris Caye, Belize. We are located over the water at the Dream Catcher Pier, serving breakfast and lunch all day from Monday to Sunday. Don't forget to join us every Wednesday for our famous sushi night and Sat-







Monday and Sunday for 2x1 margaritas. PH: 621-6945. Opening hours 5:30AM to 5:30PM.



**Avis Cart Rentals** - Offering a top-notch rental experience from online booking to the newest golf carts on the island. Customize features and some of the lowest pricing together to provide you with great rentals for that special vacation in Belize. Contact +501-226-4422 or +501-627-5257

## ...and more

**Crystal Auto Rentals** – #1 auto rental in Belize! Offices conveniently located at 5 Miles Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, and at the Philip Goldson International Airport. Open seven days a week. [www.crystalautorentalsbelize.com](http://www.crystalautorentalsbelize.com) – US Line: (936)-307-1325, Belize Line: (501)-223-1600, Belize Phone/WhatsApp: (501)-670-7617



**Table Rock Jungle Lodge** – An award-winning ecolodge on a 105-acre jungle reserve along the Macal River, offering eco-friendly cabanas and farm-to-table cuisine. Located Mile 5 Cristo Rey Road, San Ignacio Town. WhatsApp at +501-672-4040.

## Calendar of Events

From Patriotic Parades to Spooky Nights — Don't Miss a Thing!

Planning your trip around Belize's biggest events? From the vibrant September Celebrations to spine-tingling Halloween fun, find all the details on our online calendar. Scan the QR code to explore our full event calendar and ensure you're part of every unforgettable moment.



## Important Information

**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.

**ACES Wildlife Rescue:** Don't take matters into your own hands. Call 623-7920 for wildlife conflicts and rescue.

**Al-Anon Meetings:** Wednesdays, 5:30PM, SP Catholic Church Hall [islaboritaalanon@yahoo.com](mailto:islaboritaalanon@yahoo.com)

**Ambergris Caye Masonic Lodge:** [ambergriscayemasoniclodge@gmail.com](mailto:ambergriscayemasoniclodge@gmail.com) 672-2265

**Belize Hotel Association:** 223-0669, [bha@btl.net](mailto:bha@btl.net)

**Belize Tourism Board:** 227-2419

**Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA):** 227-5717

**Dr. Otto Rodriguez San Pedro Poly-Clinic II:** 226-2536

**Emergency Veterinarian care:** 610-3647

**Hope Haven:** 226-2333

**Island Emergency Services:** Certified medical emergency service. Call 615-2998

**Narcotics Anonymous:** By request at 623-0316.

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

**Rotary Club of Ambergris Caye:** Join Rotary at our weekly meetings Wednesdays at noon at THE FACTORY. Find us on Facebook!

**RRR Response:** Emergency response team Call 627-1117

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

**San Pedro Police Department:** 206-2022

**San Pedro Fire Department:** 206-2372

**San Pedro Tourist Guide Association:** 226-2391

**SP Post Office:** 206-2260.

**SP Town Library:** 206-2028





# South Ambergris Caye

**Caye Bank International** - Easy access to your private – personal or corporate bank accounts with no taxes applied within the leading international jurisdiction for banking in Central America. Offering a full range of traditional and non-traditional banking services as well as accounts in multiple currencies. Email [services@cayebank.bz](mailto:services@cayebank.bz)



**Georgetown Trust Ltd.** - One-stop financial services offering the best in customized international structures. Asset protection and management, international corporations, and other international investment opportunities. Contact 226-480.



**Best Western Grand Baymen Gardens Resort**, Ambergris Caye, - Offering a serene, tropical escape. This rare find boasts lush gardens, scenic views, and is an ideal location for vacation or a rental property. <https://www.grandbaymen.com>

**The Galleon Building** - at the Best Western Grand Baymen Gardens is the 6th building in queue featuring 5-stories, and stunning garden views of the compound. The Galleon building will feature a rooftop bar with stunning 360-degree views of the beautiful island of Ambergris Caye.



**Marriott® Residences Belize Ambergris Caye** - Experience beachfront living at its finest. Coming soon to San Pedro, Belize. Your oceanfront dream awaits. Secure your ocean view residence today! <https://ecidevelopment.com/community/belize-marriott-residences/>

**12 Belize** - Lifestyle boutique featuring Belizean-made products. Mention this ad and receive a gift! Located at Corona del Mar on Coconut Drive, San Pedro Town. Open Monday through Friday, 10AM – 3PM TEL: 501-670-5272 Find us on Facebook @12Belize



**The Beach Bar @ Caribbean Villas** – Full restaurant and bar. Enjoy our beachside location! Serving island favorites and cool libations. Open daily 7am – 10pm. 622-1857



**Hidden Treasure** – Tucked away on a back street in the Escalante residential neighborhood south of San Pedro Town, discover fine dining in a rustic yet elegant and romantic setting. Specializing in Latin American and Caribbean Cuisine. Opening Wednesday through Monday from 5pm – 9pm; TEL: 501-226-4111



**The Palmilla Restaurant at Victoria House** - Romantic and comfortable ambiance, serving a unique mix of island seafood and continental cuisine. Admiral Nelson Bar is beachside-casual, offering breakfast, lunch, and dinner with magnificent views. Reservations recommended: 226-2067



**RE/MAX Real Estate Group** - Discover your dream property in Belize with Jason Turley at RE/MAX. Specializing in Ambergris Caye real estate, Jason offers expert guidance and local insight. Contact: +1 740-525-8859 | [jason.turley@remax.net](mailto:jason.turley@remax.net) | [belize-property.com/en/](http://belize-property.com/en/)

**Black Orchid Restaurant and Lounge** - Serving outstanding meals, offering private dining booths and cocktails. Open Tuesday through Saturday, Happy hour & appetizers 3 – 5pm Dinner 5:30pm – 9pm TEL: 501-206-2441



**THE HULA BAR** A Tiki Bar over the water serving authentic tiki cocktails and tapas in a tropical atmosphere. Happy hour daily from 2-4PM. Check out our new in-the-water seating! Located just south of San Pedro Town at Mosquito Coast. For hours and more information, find us on Facebook @Thehulabar or call (501) 633-4600.





# OWN A PIECE OF PARADISE

## WHO WE ARE

If you're looking to bank in Belize, invest in real estate, or buy a future home in Belize, we're here to help you every step of the way. Caye International Bank (CIB) is an award-winning bank located on Ambergris Caye island. We specialize in serving international clients and are committed to providing exceptional service to meet our clients' needs.

## DEPENDABLE

Keep your money safe in Belize, with one of the highest liquidity ratios in the world and a dependable bank that has been in business for over two decades. CIB started off as a mortgage company in 1996 and became an international bank in 2003.

## WHAT WE DO

At CIB, we provide a wide range of financial services to help our clients manage their money and achieve their financial goals. Our services include private and corporate banking, investments, international wire transfers, and mortgage loans for properties in Belize, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama.

## CONVENIENT

With a wide range of services, including mortgage loans, wire transfers, debit cards, term deposits and the option to bank in multiple currencies, Caye International Bank is a convenient option for those who want to explore international banking.

We understand that investing in a foreign market can be challenging, which is why we offer personalized support to our clients. We can provide the banking services you need to succeed financially offshore.

## CONTACT US



4th Floor, Caye Financial Center,  
Coconut Drive, San Pedro,  
Belize, Central America



[services@cayebank.bz](mailto:services@cayebank.bz)



+ 501 226-2388



[www.cayebank.bz](http://www.cayebank.bz)

## LOANS DEPARTMENT



[loans@cayebank.bz](mailto:loans@cayebank.bz)



+ 501 609-1131





## The Timeless Charm of Saint George's Caye

By Tamara Sniffin



TABLE  ROCK  
JUNGLE LODGE

EXPERIENCE THE UTMOST IN PEACE & TRANQUILITY



Situated on a 175-acre jungle reserve along the Macal River, settle into 1 of 10 eco-friendly cabanas, enjoy farm-to-table cuisine, and sip on tropical cocktails in our infinity pool!

+501-672-4040

info@tablerockbelize.com

tablerockbelize.com

Just eight miles off the coast of Belize City lies a tiny island with a big story. Saint George's Caye is tranquil, uncrowded, and steeped in history; it's the kind of place where hammocks sway in the breeze, cell signals fade, and the Caribbean Sea becomes your constant companion.

Saint George's Caye is best known as the site of the Battle of St. George's Caye in 1798, when a small group of British settlers and formerly enslaved Africans successfully defended Belize from a Spanish invasion. This pivotal moment is honored every September 10th, now a national holiday. But on the island, history is quietly woven into the palms, the breeze, and the rhythm of daily life.

Getting here feels like a secret. With no airports, cruise ports, or commercial ferries, the caye is accessible only by private boat transfer, typically arranged through your resort or host. The 20- to 30-minute ride across turquoise waters is part of the experience, setting the tone for a slower pace.

**Continued on Page 15**

**Black Orchid**  
Restaurant & Lounge

Fine Dining at its best

Social Hour 3PM to 5PM

Friendliest Staff on the Island



2.5 Miles South Open Tuesday to Saturday Reservation Recommended (501) 613-5039





Once ashore, the island's charm is immediate. There are no cars, crowds, or distractions, just sandy paths, warm smiles, and quiet spaces where the sea is never far away. It takes less than 15 minutes to walk from one end of the island to the other, passing through a mix of historic homes and private retreats.

Prominent Belizean families have owned many beachfront properties for generations. These quiet, elegant legacy homes reflect a longstanding tradition of retreating to the caye for holidays, long weekends, and national celebrations. Though understated, they form part of the island's cultural fabric, a testament to its place in the hearts of Belize's well-established families.



Saint George's Caye also played a lesser-known role in recent history. In the late 20th century, it served briefly as a recreational and training outpost for the British Army Training Support Unit Belize. Soldiers stationed on the mainland occasionally came to the island for water-based exercises and rest from inland jungle training. Today, that chapter has passed, and the island has returned fully to its original purpose: rest, reflection, and reconnection with nature.

Mornings are best spent sipping coffee barefoot, taking in the ocean views. Daytime adventures include snorkeling along the nearby Belize Barrier Reef, kayaking through mangroves, or exploring sandbars that emerge at low tide.

As evening falls, pastel sunsets fade into star-filled skies. With virtually no light pollution, stargazing here is sublime, and on the clearest nights, the Milky Way stretches in full view above the sea.

The island's primary accommodation, St. George's Caye Resort, is a laid-back, all-inclusive retreat featuring overwater and beachside cabanas, fresh Belizean cuisine, and personalized service. A handful of private vacation rentals are also available. Whether honeymooning, seeking solitude, or simply unplugging, the experience here is unhurried and heartfelt.

Saint George's Caye isn't a place to do it; it's a place to do very little and love every second of it. With its blend of natural beauty, rich heritage, and understated elegance, this small island holds a special place in Belizean culture, offering travelers a rare opportunity to slow down and immerse themselves in the story of a place that is both historic and timeless.

# THE HULA BAR

## THE TIKI BAR OVER THE WATER

**HAPPY HOUR**  
2PM - 4PM

**CHECK IT OUT! NEW WATER SEATING!**

Tiki Cocktails and Tapas

**f** Find our Hours on Facebook @Thehulabar

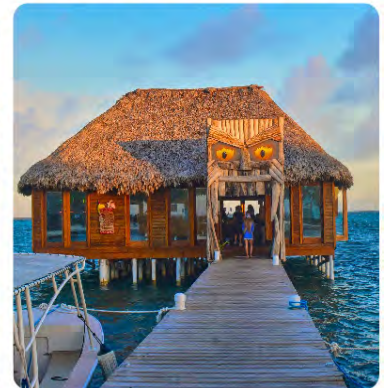


TRADER VIC'S GROG

## ALOHA MAKI NIGHT



## POKE BOWL



**www.thehulabarbz.com**

**+5016334600**

**Mosquito Coast San Pedro, Belize**





**restaurant & bar  
serving island favorites  
& cool libations!**

@ **Caribbean  
Villas**  
HOTEL

SEAGRAPE DRIVE ON THE BEACH  
622-1857

OPEN DAILY  
7AM - 10PM

**Homemade ice cream,  
shakes, and malts.  
Choose from dozens  
of flavors!**



**Paradise Cream**  
Homemade

Open Daily 11am - 9:30pm  
226-5959

Located on Coconut Drive next to Carlo  
& Ernie's Runway Bar ~ San Pedro Town

**Reel  
Belize**

**Make your connections count!**

Reel Belize Fly Shop & Guide Service

NEW  
LOCATION

**The Commons**  
COCONUT DRIVE - SAN PEDRO TOWN

011 501 610-5182  
WWW.REELBELIZE.COM - FISH@REELBELIZE.COM

**My  
Beautiful Belize**  
TRAVEL PUBLICATION

www.mybeautifulbelize.com

# Elevated

## Island Cuisine Awaits at Hidden Treasure

Tucked away just beyond the lively heart of San Pedro Town on Ambergris Caye lies Hidden Treasure Restaurant, a beloved island gem that offers a truly elevated dining experience in Belize. Family-owned and operated for over 17 years, this dinner-only destination is known for combining warm, genuine hospitality with flavorful cuisine and an ambiance that feels made for celebration.

Perfect for birthdays, anniversaries, or simply reconnecting over a great meal, Hidden Treasure lives up to its name.



From the moment you step inside, the space invites you to slow down and savor. Handcrafted wooden décor, flickering candlelight, and gentle Latin-Caribbean rhythms create a relaxed, romantic atmosphere.

Cocktails here are more than an afterthought—they're part of the experience. The Ginger Lemon Drop Martini is bright and citrusy, while the Sunset Cosmo and Tropical Fruit Martini strike a just-right balance of refreshing and bold. Island favorites such as Cadillac Margaritas and Frozen White Sangrias round out the bar's impressive offerings, each one crafted with flair.

Our meal began with Seafood Fritters, crispy, golden bites paired with a tangy watermelon rind chutney and creamy coconut curry aioli. The flavors were vibrant and surprising in the best way.

At the culinary helm is Chef Enrique Awe, originally from San Ignacio. With years of experience in U.S. kitchens, he returned to Belize to bring global techniques to local ingredients. His passion shines through every dish, as does his commitment to mentoring young Belizean chefs. Awe has refined the butcher's selections on the Hidden Treasure menu as well, showcasing premium steaks and chops alongside new surf-and-turf offerings.

For the main course, the Bacon-Wrapped Beef Tenderloin stood out for its tenderness and depth of flavor. The Surf and Turf Special, featuring a grilled lobster tail and a juicy pork chop, was presented beautifully, accompanied by herb-mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables, and proved to be rich, hearty, and satisfying.

We capped off the meal with the restaurant's signature Caye Lime Pie. Creamy, tart, and served on a buttery cookie crust with cherry compote, it was the perfect sweet note to end the evening.

**Continued on Page 17**





## Hidden Treasure

Continued from Page 16

Your evening doesn't have to stop at dessert. Hidden Treasure recently unveiled The Loft, an upstairs after-dinner lounge where guests can unwind with cocktails, enjoy happy hour specials, or join in on karaoke every Saturday. It's a fun, casual way to keep the night going.

Whether you're visiting the island or lucky enough to live nearby, Hidden Treasure is the kind of place you'll want to return to again. Let them know if you're celebrating something special; this team goes above and beyond to make every night unforgettable.

Open Wednesday to Monday, 5PM–9PM. For reservations or a complimentary shuttle, call +501 615-0063 / 226-4111 or email [info@hiddentreasurebelize.com](mailto:info@hiddentreasurebelize.com).

By Janelle Cowo-Gonzalez

# SELLING NOW!

## Developer Direct SAVE 5%

**CALL: 800-290-3028**

Marriott Belize @ [EciDevelopment.com](http://EciDevelopment.com)



**MARRIOTT RESIDENCES**  
BELIZE AMBERGRIS CAYE



*coming soon*



Visit the world famous




**PALAPA**  
BAR & GRILL

Live Music Nightly


Float In The Tubes




Enjoy Our Sun Deck



Great Food & Drinks



Visit Our Gift Shop



Located IN TOWN at the  
beginning of  
Boca Del Rio Beachfront

For Menu, Music schedule  
and more, visit us online:  
[Palapabarandgrill.com](http://Palapabarandgrill.com)

[www.facebook.com/PalapabarBelize](http://www.facebook.com/PalapabarBelize)

[@PalapabarBelize](https://www.instagram.com/PalapabarBelize)

# Belize @44

A GOLDEN CARNIVAL FOR A PROUD NATION



By Janelle Cowo-Gonzalez

In Belize, September isn't just a month, it's a feeling! It's the sound of steelpan and Soca music echoing through the streets, the aroma of BBQ wafting through the air, cool Belikin beer in hand, and the sight of red, white, and blue flags waving proudly from every home, building, and lamppost. Ask any Belizean and they'll tell you: September is OUR month.

The 2025 theme, "Belize@44 – Stronger Together, Rising Forever," echoes the spirit of this special time. Starting in late August and continuing through Independence Day, the entire country transforms into a vibrant canvas of color and celebration. From the northern border town of Corozal to the southern shores of Punta Gorda, every village, town, and cayes joins in with parades, concerts, fireworks, and flag-raising ceremonies. Schoolchildren march with a sense of patriotism, communities build elaborate floats, and families line the streets, cheering with flags in hand and happiness in their hearts. The festivities are rooted in pride, a month-long crescendo of parades, concerts, fireworks, and community spirit that culminates in Independence Day.





## Carnival is the heartbeat of it all

Belize's September Celebrations are unlike any other in the Caribbean. While most regional Carnivals are tied to the Lenten calendar, Belize brings the revelry into September, celebrating freedom and nationhood with unapologetic joy.

This year's celebrations carry even more significance as Belize marks 50 years of Carnival. On September 6th (tentatively), Belize City will come alive with the golden anniversary of the iconic Carnival Road March, where glittering costumes, booming Soca beats, and thousands of revelers will transform the streets into a living, dancing tapestry of national pride. It's not just a party; it's a cultural movement!

While Belize City's Carnival Road March sets the tone with its grand spectacle, the celebration doesn't end there. On Independence Day, September 21st, the Carnival spirit radiates across the nation. Destinations like Orange Walk, San Pedro, Placencia, Caye Caulker, and Corozal bring their vibrant versions to life, smaller but bursting with just as much energy, music, and flair. Whether you're dancing along the beach in San Pedro or waving flags in Orange Walk's town center, Carnival connects Belizeans in a shared, electrifying experience.

What truly sets Belize's Carnival apart is its meaning. This isn't just about costumes and music. It's about celebrating identity, resilience, and freedom. Every sequin, every beat of the drum, every movement on the road tells a story, the story of a people who wear their patriotism proudly and know how to celebrate it with style, unity, and soul.

So, if you've ever wondered when to visit Belize, let the answer be September. Pack your brightest outfits, bring your dancing shoes, and get ready to be swept up in a month-long celebration unlike anything you've ever experienced.

Come for the Carnival. Stay for the culture. And fall in love with the heartbeat of a nation dancing in freedom.



**COME AND VISIT OUR TASTING ROOMS IN  
SAN PEDRO & PLACENCIA VILLAGE**

## The Tiburon Tasting Rooms

Tiburon Rum's Tasting Room is a must-see. Come visit us at Placencia Village or San Pedro for an exclusive rum tasting with our friendly and knowledgeable staff. Or simply pop in for a t-shirt and some rum to go.

**Placencia Village**  
Open everyday from 10am – 7pm

**San Pedro**  
Open everyday from 10am-7pm



Tiburonrum.com | basil@sharkbaitco.com | 847-309-7700





M  
A  
R  
U  
B  
A



## MARUBA BEACH KLUB + SPA

SECRET BEACH • SAN PEDRO • AMBERGRIS CAYE

#1 BEACH CLUB IN BELIZE

OPEN 8AM - 5PM



+501-610-3779



/@marubabeach



/marubasecretbeach