

TRAVEL with Bates

By Sandi Bate



Discover colorful Belize, tucked away between Mexico's Yucatan and Guatemala in Central America, two hours by plane from Miami.

This beautiful exotic paradise is on the threshold of tourism development. Slightly larger than Massachusetts with a world-famous reef second only in size of the great Barrier reef in Australia.

A former British Colony once called British Honduras, Belize has been independent since 1981. It is still part of the British Commonwealth.

Belize is the last best adventure in the Caribbean. It is what the Caribbean used to be 30 years ago. The primitive streets are dirt or sand. Wood-frame houses in bright Caribbean colors are perched on stilts. The sun is hot and the water's colors, blue and green, warm and clear. It is a place where you can unwind, leave your watch at home, grow a beard, spend the afternoons in a hammock, drink rum or coconut milk and call that a good day's work.

Enjoy the friendly courteous joyful mixed population of Creoles, Mayon Indians, Mestizos, African, Carib Indian, Hindus, Chinese and Mennonites. The people are loyal to the Queen and serenely tolerant of one another.

English is the official language and 93% of the population is literate with fewer than 200,000 residents in the entire country.

Explore 800 feet of sandy, palm beach, a short boat ride from San Pedro is Captain Morgan's Retreat. True to its name is a quiet paradise of a "retreat" ready to restore the spirit of any guest. Tourists enjoy reef tours, bird watching, or sport fishing.

Belize City offers the tourist the opportunity to visit the Belize Zoo, the Community Baboon Sanctuary, and the Mayon Ruins. Vacationers may also enjoy a nice hotel like the Ramada. They may take a comfortable air condition van out for the day to observe sea activities, ruins and wild life of Belize.

Experience the living connection between land and sea as it relates to the economy of Belize. See the Mangroves which are trees with tangled roots visible above the water that live on the coast and around neighboring Cayes, and also inhabit the island waterways of Belize. They serve as home to the endangered monatees, red footed boobies and crocodiles. Mangroves trap sediment.

It also builds the Belizean coastline and protects it from flooding erosion and storm waves. They are the breeding ground for shrimp, crabs, and fish. Mangroves are vital to the survival of Belize's fishing industry, world famous sporting fish, snorkeling and scuba diving. They provide habitats for endless species of birds for enthusiastic bird watchers. Citrus, bananas, and sugar have

The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE

uncertain future for the local economy.

Don't miss the 1993 Jazz Festival May 20-23 featuring Nancy Wilson, Herbie Hancock, and Deleayo Marsalis who will top the list of internationally known artist to perform at this years St. Lucia Jazz Festival.

Explore the artist beauty of Belize.

TRAVEL TIPS

St. Lucia Jazz Festival - Contact St. Lucia Tourist Board, 820 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017. (212)867-2950.

For more information Contact: Belize Tourist Board, 415 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10001, 800/624-0686, Fax (212) 695-3018.

Tours-Mayaland Tours and Travel, P.O. Box 137, Belize City, Belize 32242.

Captain Morgans' Retreat— P.O. Box 1560, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502.

WEATHER - Hot and Sunny - Take lots of sun screen and lotion.

DRESS - Casual, take swim suit and sandals.

REAL ESTATE PERSPECTIVE

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someone else. To find a reputable mortgage broker, ask a real estate agent you trust or any of your friends who recently used the services of a mortgage broker. In addition to this, you can also call the National Association of Mortgage Brokers to obtain names or mortgage brokers in your area with proven track records. Their telephone number is (602) 992-6181. Be smart and do your homework!

As always, please contact a professional for all your Real Estate needs or write to me c/o REAL ESTATE PERSPECTIVE, Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice Newspaper, 1201 South Eastern Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89104.



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