



The Toledo Howler

Newspaper of the Toledo Chapter of the Belize Tourism Industry Association

SEPTEMBER 2007

YEAR 1, ISSUE 1

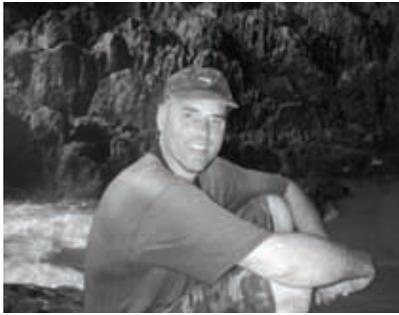
BTIA Chairman Welcomes the Howler's First Roar

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Dear Visitors,

I personally welcome the first edition of our Toledo Howler. I am sure it will be greatly welcomed by our hoteliers, tour operators and travel agents, our guests and visitors and our Toledo tourism industry in general. The Toledo District shows great potential for tourism growth, and has seen a significant increase in visitation over the last few years. Toledo is now receiving international recognition and I am sure our many visitors will enjoy this informative newsletter. BTIA Toledo and the tourism stake-



Bruno Kuppinger, Chairman of BTIA Toledo

holders in Toledo are committed to building a first-class product that visitors will continue to enjoy for years to come. In Toledo hoteliers, tour operators, tour guides, community leaders, NGOs and

other stakeholders are joining together for the protection of Toledo and promotion of the area as a tourist destination.

Our greatest resource is our 20,000 people; warm, friendly and awaiting you. And you won't be bumping elbows with too many other tourists. On behalf of BTIA Toledo, welcome to Toledo, our lovely jewel in the heart of Central-America and the Caribbean. We hope you have your best vacation ever.



PRETTY IN PINK Local hotel wins prestigious award

As you drive along the coast road into PG town, you are bound to notice the two storey, bright pink building on the right just before Joe Taylor Creek. This is Beya Suites,

local couple Darius and Lisa Avila. Beya Suites opened its doors in November 2005 to a full house for the Garifuna Settlement Day celebrations and has been going strong ever since.



This year Beya Suites won the Belize Tourism Board's 'Small Hotel of the Year' award. This was a real achievement for the Avilas, who were new to the tourism business when they first opened. The Toledo branch of the Belize Tourism Industry Association congratulates them on the award. We're proud to have you as a member of the BTIA!

Beya Suites offers 4 well designed rooms, each with private bath, air conditioning, cable T.V. and private balcony. Facilities at Beya Suites include a bar, restaurant, laundry service and high speed internet. There's also a sun deck on the top for relaxing and taking in the wonderful sea views. The shops of Punta Gorda are a mere 15 minute walk away. For more information and reservations contact Darius or Lisa Avila on Tel: 722-2188; Fax 722-2509;

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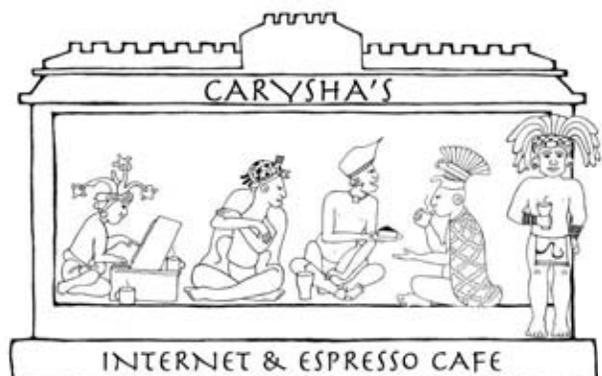
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CARYSHA'S/DEJABREW CAFE, Central Park, PG

Village Life

Laguna Village and the Laguna Village Women's Cooperative



Not far from PG lies Laguna Village, one of the most beautiful, friendly and easily accessible villages in Toledo. Here you will find the Laguna Village Women's Cooperative, a group of ladies who have organized to sell their weavings and improve their lives. The Laguna Village Women's Cooperative was started about 3 years ago with the help of Crissie Ferrara, a peace-corps volunteer from New York City. Women in the Mayan villages of southern Belize have been weaving cuxtales (bags) and other practical items for many years, but very few were sold as crafts to tourists. Crissie saw great potential in the weaving of the women and was able to work with them to increase the quality and marketability of their cuxtales (pronounced "cush-talls"). She helped them improve the color selections of the yarn they were using in their cuxtales and taught them the importance of consistency in sizing of the bags, quality workmanship and finishing. This has created more of a demand for the cuxtales as craft souvenirs for tourists, and the bags are now sold in two locations in Punta Gorda, as well as a gift shop on Caye Caulker.

The cooperative is a loosely knit group consisting of about 6-10 women, headed

up by sisters Paulina & Juanita Sacul. Paulina and Juanita make deliveries and collect monies earned. Although cuxtal sizing and quality are fairly consistent, each woman's cuxtales have their own distinct style. Bags are individually labeled with the name and photo of the woman who wove them.

Weaving is done on a backstrap loom, so named because the warp threads are stretched between a support and the weaver's back. This makes the woman an integral part of the loom, as the weaving is strapped around her waist. The weaver controls tension to the threads by leaning forward or back. The weft thread is then passed through alternating threads of the warp, using a bobbin stick. One weft goes under the warp, and the next goes over it. Several rows are done and then the weft is beaten to make it tight. A batten stick is used to separate the threads of the warp, which allows the weft to pass through them. When I have watched the ladies weave, this process is done so fast that you can't see the threads moving. They make it look deceptively simple; but when I tried it, it was difficult and I felt very clumsy! I wasn't able to weave, but I was able to make them all laugh.

Backstrap weaving is not as fast as weaving with a treadle loom, but loom parts are inexpensive, and the loom is portable, so weaving can be done anywhere. The weaving of a cuxtale can take up to several weeks, as most women work on their weaving in between doing daily tasks.

The latest improvements to the village are a running water system and internet access, yet most families live in a traditional fashion, patting out corn tortillas by hand and

cooking over a wood fire hearth. So weaving is done when other chores are finished.

Laguna Village is also the location of a test project in raising Gibnut (Paca), a member of the rodent family, which is a popular game meat in Belize. A number of villagers received grants to build enclosures to raise Gibnut. The animals are trapped in the wild, and brought to the farms to breed. This program is still in its infancy. Seeing these nocturnal animals, which resemble giant guinea pigs with buckteeth, is an interesting experience. To see them, ask for Vicente Sacul; informal tours are \$5 BZ.

Cuxtales are available for sale at Machaca Hill Lodge, and Carysha's Deja Brew Café in Punta Gorda. For the largest selection, head out to Laguna, and ask for Juanita or Paulina Sacul. The village phone number is 702-2970. They are happy to provide you or your shop with cuxtales. If you wish to stay over night, there is a TEA guesthouse in Laguna; cost is \$20 per person. Meals are taken with families, and range from \$6.50 to \$8.00 BZ. Tours can also be arranged; cost is \$7 BZ per person per hour. Contact Vicente Sacul in Laguna for information about tours and accommodations. The Laguna turnoff is 13 miles from PG, and a further 2 miles on a good dirt road leads you to the village. You can get there on the Laguna village bus, which runs on market days (Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday), or take any bus from PG and get off at the turnoff and walk. Any taxi driver will be willing to bring you out here also.



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Contact Toledo BTIA at the Tourism Information Center, Front St., Punta Gorda Tel. 722-2531 E-mail btiatoledo@btl.net
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SPOTLIGHT ON CRAFT



Mr. Fileon Choc

Fileon Choc (35) was born and bred in the village of Pueblo Viejo where he lives with his wife Bernarda and their three children.

His craft work focuses on carving calabash

gourds (*Crescentia cujete*) decorated with animals (jaguars and monkeys) or ancient Mayan gods. He has been doing this for the past ten years

helped in the first place by his wife who comes from Maya Center which has its own strong craft traditions.

He began working seriously on his carving when he was recovering from a long illness which gave him time to practice and develop his ideas.

His first tools were bartered with the people of Maya Center in exchange for slate rocks which Fileon traded. He also has a book of Maya designs donated by a visitor from Canada which is useful resource.

Apart from calabash carving Fileon also makes wooden animal masks from a variety of woods including mahogany, zericot, pur-

ple heart, and teak and Mayan harps, violins, and guitars which he can make to order.

When he is not carving Fileon grows corn, rice and other crops on his plantation and enjoys telling his children stories and legends of the ancient Maya.

Gift shops and hotels wanting to order Fileon's crafts can contact him on the Pueblo Viejo community phone at 702-2974 or send an email order to btia-toledo@bt.net and Fileon will pick the order up when he comes into Punta Gorda on market day and deliver it via Tropic air.



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NEW TOUR OPERATOR ON JOE TAYLOR CREEK



Over the past year the citizens of Punta Gorda have seen a gradual transformation of the property at Joe Taylor Creek where the Garbutt's, a local family of commercial fishermen are building a different future on the sea as a tour operator. As Dennis Garbutt says "The sea is what we know. But we also know we cannot make a long term future from commercial fishing. We need to protect what we have so we can continue to make a living from the sea."

A handsome two-storey building now stands ready to join the growing band of investors in tourism in Toledo. There are gradually more visitors to Toledo and the Garbutt's think the time is right to extend the range of sea tours on offer to them.

Garbutt's Fishing Lodge will be drawing on the skills and experience of Dennis, Scully, Oliver and Eworth Garbutt in their family-run business. Scully is a sought after guide by many of the repeat fly-fishermen to Toledo. Fly fishing will be a main focus of their operations with packages to include stays at Joe Taylor Creek and on Lime Caye at the southern tip of the Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve, a World Heritage site.

On the ground floor of the new tour HQ will be the main office, a tackle shop for fishermen and their food service operation, which will offer drinks and lunch snacks for guests to take on board for the day. Upstairs is the bar and restaurant with an open area for diners. The restaurant will serve local food with a strong emphasis on the fruits of the sea. The menu will concentrate on lobster, shrimp and conch dishes as the seasons dictate.

A playground appealing to local kids is planned on the ocean side. A dining area next to it on the shore will give the restaurant extra capacity. Cabanas are planned for a very small three room lodge. Diving should be introduced within a year of launching. Launching is a soft launch from September with the restaurant being fully operational by the beginning of December.

Dennis wants to make sure there is controlled growth of the business and a tight emphasis on quality. He accepts that growth may be slow but takes heart from other recent tourism investments which are growing slowly but steadily.

Dennis wants to find ways of working with other local operators to offer a range of new packages which will all help to develop Toledo's products and unique brand. BTIA wishes them success!

Contact Dennis 604-3548 or 722-0070 or e-mail at garbuttmarine@yahoo.com with their web site coming at www.belizefishinglodge.com News of the web site in our next edition.

JEWELS OF TOLEDO

Rio Blanco National Park

This beautiful park is located 30 miles west of Punta Gorda between the villages of Santa Cruz and Santa Elena. The pre-classic Mayan site of Uxbenka is nearby. No doubt the ancient Maya enjoyed this lovely cool spot as much as today's visitors. For refreshing fun in a jungle paradise, Rio Blanco is hard to beat.

The park comprises 105 hilly acres surrounding a picturesque waterfall about 100 feet wide (in the rainy season) and 20 feet high. The water falls into a round, deep pool which is perfect for swimming. Jumping into the pool off the surrounding rocks is a lot of fun... if you've got the nerve! Otherwise you can clamber down the rocks to the water's edge. You can also swim above the falls, where the Rio Blanco spreads out into small pools enclosed by smooth river rocks. Lovely wildflowers and butterflies decorate the river's edge.

There are several maintained trails running along the river above the waterfall. A sign at the trailhead next to the stairs has an interpretive map of the park trails. The park is home to many types of birds, reptiles and small mammals as well as a dazzling variety of flora. Following the closest trail upriver, you will come to a suspended footbridge over the water. The bridge is about 30 feet high and, yes, it does sway when you walk across it! If you can pluck up the courage to continue, a trail on the far side will take you back down river. You may end up feeling a bit like Michael Douglas or Kathleen Turner in *Romancing the Stone*, which is part of the appeal of this natural adventure playground.

The park was established in 1994. It is co-managed by the Rio Blanco Mayan Association (made up of members from Santa Cruz and Santa Elena) and the Ministry of Natural Resources. There is a sign and Visitors Centre at the park entrance by the road and a craft shop next door. The entrance fee is BZ\$5 per person for visitors. Food and drink are not available in the park so bring your own - and of course take all your trash home with you. A rustic changing room has been built at the top of the stairs and there is a toilet at the Visitors Centre. The best way to get to Rio Blanco is to drive but there are also village buses which will drop you nearby. Ask at the Toledo Information Center on Front Street in Punta Gorda for more information. Travel time to the falls is approximately 1 hour; a bit more if you take a village bus or the road is rough due to a lot of rain.



Did you know...

The Big Falls citrus plantation recorded 33.07 inches of rain in July 2006. The annual total for 2006 was 137.4 inches (3.49 metres)



BTIA TOLEDO MEMBERS 2007

Business Name	Email	Phone	Contact Person
Beya Suites	info@beyasuites.com	722-2188	Lisa Avila
Blue Belize Guest House & Tours	info@bluebelize.com	722-2678	Dan Castellanos
Bobby Tour Guide Services		722-2135	Robert Polonio
Coral House Inn	ridarbelize@yahoo.com	501-722-2878	Rick & Darla Mallory
Cuxlin Ha Time Share	cuxlinha@hotmail.com	501-614-2518	Dona Lee Scafe
Dem Dats Doin	demdatsdoin@btl.net	501-722-2470	Yvonne Villoria
Fish & Fun Guiding Services	bzdeepsouth@hotmail.com	722-0193	Ovel Leonardo
Garbutt's Marine Investment	garbuttsmarine@yahoo.com	604-3548	Dennis Garbutt
Hickatee Cottages	cottages@hickatee.com	662-4475	Ian & Kate Morton
Juli Puryear	julizeinbelize@yahoo.com	722-2276	Juli Puryear
Larry Smith	larry@seafrentinn.com	722-2300	Larry & Carol Smith
Machaca Hill	info@machacahill.com	722-0050	Ovel Leonardo
Obsession Bar & Grill	stcharlespg@btl.net	722-0193	Carlo Wagner
Requena's Charter Service	watertaxi@btl.net	722-2070	Julio Requena
Romero's Charter Service	rcharters@btl.net	722-2625/2924	Frances Romero
Sun Creek Lodge	suncreek@huges.net	604-2124/614-2080	Bruno & Melissa Kuppinger
The Lodge at Big Falls	info@thelodgeatbigfalls.com	671-7172	Marta & Rob Hirons
Tumul Kin Center of Learning	tumulkin@starband.net	608-1070	Esther Sanchez Sho

RESTAURANTS IN PUNTA GORDA & AROUND TOLEDO

Business Name	Address	Type of Food	Phone number
Carysha's/Deja Brew Cafe	Queen Street, Central Park, PG	Bagels, espresso, desserts	722-2276
Coleman's Restaurant	Big Falls Village	Belizean	720-2017
Dream Light Bar & Grill	Main Street, PG	Belizean	
Earth Runnins	Main Middle Street, PG	Eclectic Belizean	702-2007
El Café	North Street, PG	Belizean	207-2993
Emery's Restaurant	Main Street, PG	Sea Food/Belizean	722-2317
Fei Wang	Main Street, PG	Chinese	722-0037
Garays' Kitchen	Water Supply area, Indianville	Local Dishes	702-0144
Grace's Restaurant	Main Street, PG	Belizean/International	702-2414
Gomier's Restaurant & Soy Center	Alejandro Vernon Street " the Y intersection"	Vegetarian	722-2929
Hang Cheong Restaurant	59 Main Street, PG	Chinese	722-2064
Hickatee Cottages	Ex-Service Men's Road to Boom Creek village	Eclectic International	662-4475
Karamba's Restaurant	Front Street, PG	Belizean	
Las Faldas	Big Falls Village	Belizean	
Marenco's Ice Cream Parlor	Main Street, PG	Belizean /Spanish	702-2572
Marian's Bay View Restaurant	Front Street, PG	East Indian /Belizean	722-0129
Mira Mar Bar & Grill	95 Front Street, PG	Belizean, burgers	722-2033
Obsession/Black Pearl Bar & Grill	Sapodilla Street, Indian Ville	Belizean	722-0193
Ramclam's Kitchen	R.K. Pennell Boulevard , PG	Local Dishes	
River's View Bar & Grill	Big Falls Village	Belizean	
SeaFront Inn	Front Street, PG	Breakfast only	722-2300
The Lodge at Big Falls	Big Falls Village (dinner reservations required)	Mediterranean/Middle East	671-7172
The Snack Shack	Main Street (behind BTL), PG	Breakfast , snacks, desserts	702-0020
Waluco's Bar & Grill	Hopeville (across from the T.I.D.E. wharf)	Belizean/International	665-3066

Distribution Points:

The Toledo Howler will normally be distributed at the Toledo Tourism Information Center, on Front street in Punta Gorda as well as at other shops, restaurants and places of business of BTIA members. It can also be obtained at Maya Island Air and Tropic Air terminals around the country.



Vanilla planifolia Jacq.
Image processed by Thomas Schoepke
www.planz-pictures.de

Vanilla Orchid

Vanilla has grown wild in Toledo's rainforest since time immemorial and was harvested by the ancient Mayans. Today, however, most of the world's commercial vanilla is grown half way around the world in Madagascar. After a thousand year hiatus, an interest in vanilla cultivation is once again emerging in Toledo District. Sub Umbrea Floreo (Latin for 'I flourish in the shade') is the motto on the Belizean flag, and seems an appropriate moniker for this beautiful and fragrant orchid. A small vanilla growers group has formed in Toledo. This group includes Ophelia Sanchez, Eugenio Ah, Tereso Sho, Cancy Ramclam, Andy Jones, Teresa

Vanilla - Sub Umbra Floreo

Donovan, Lenna Morgan, Egbert Valencio, Irma Gonzalez, Antonio Cucul and Louis Ishim. It is just the beginning for this group, but they will each be developing small model vanilla plantations in their respective communities.

Vanilla is an ideal crop for Toledo. It fetches a higher price than any crop grown here, including ganga.

Vanilla is an intensively managed plant, so you don't need much land to make money with it. In fact, worldwide, most vanilla is grown by farmers who work less than 2 hectares. It's also an ideal crop for women because it doesn't require heavy manual labor or a big plantation far from the house, just ordinary horticultural skills and the patience to hand-pollinate each flower.

Because vanilla is a shade-loving high bush plant, it is easily integrated into an agroforestry system, such as a cacao plantation. Agroforestry systems mimic the structure of the primary rainforest and support biodiversity while providing ecological services such as water and soil retention, air purification and wildlife habitat.

Vanilla (*Vanilla planifolia*) is a vining orchid, which begins to bear in 3 or 4 years. It is grown from cuttings. To reach its full market value and signature scent, it must also be

cured, a process which takes several months.

As of today, no infrastructure exists in Belize to cure or process vanilla, but these things can develop, and in the meantime vanilla lends itself well to cottage industries. In major vanilla producing areas of the world a whole vanilla-based tourism sector has sprung up including such disparate things as vanilla farm tours, restaurants specializing in vanilla, or fragrant miniature alligators woven from glossy vanilla beans.

Maya Mountain Research Farm near Columbia Village has been cultivating vanilla for the last 2 years, and have 250 vines on which they are keeping exact horticultural and growth records. In the next year a *Toledo Organic Vanilla Production Manual* will be produced which will help additional farmers begin cultivating this cash crop. So... here's to vanilla, a truly Belizean crop with huge potential.

Internships and tours of the farm are available, and anyone with further interest in vanilla can contact Dawn Dean at ddean@mnmrfbz.org.

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FESTIVAL FEVER

This has been a year of festival firsts for Toledo. The first Monkey River Village Festival took place on the 18th & 19th August. Despite concerns about Hurricane Dean, the village was in festive mood and warmly welcomed hundreds of visitors to the tiny, seaside community.

Highlights of the festival included a fishing competition, football marathon, 'Tidy Yard' competition and face painting for the younger visitors. Live music was supplied by the BDF band and the ever popular Coolie Rebels.

No Belizean festival is complete without delicious, home-cooked food and this festival was no exception. The mouth watering Creole delicacies on offer included lobster, fish, garnaches (tostadas), locally reared lamb and blue crab soup.

Next year's Monkey River Village festival will take place earlier on

the 24th & 25th of May. The organizers say it will be even bigger and better with stronger Creole themes. Be there or be square!

Also held this same weekend was the first annual Barranco Festival, in the Garifuna village of Barranco, about an hour from PG. It was a rainy day, but people still came out to celebrate with the folks from this unique, usually tranquil village. Put on with help from radio station KREM, the festival included football and basketball tournaments, and Garifuna food such as Hudut. A good time was had by all.

Other firsts for Toledo included the Cacao Festival in May and, more recently, the East Indian festival on August 15th. All these festivals are planned to be annual events and the Howler will keep readers up to date on all of them. Watch this space...

CROCODILES ROCK!

Roaming the earth 84 million years ago, crocodiles are truly living dinosaurs. Worldwide there are 23 species of Crocodylians, all of which are in danger of extinction. The wetland habitats of Belize are one of the last refuges for two species, the fresh water Morelet's Crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) and the saltwater tolerant American Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*).

The American Crocodile Endangered Sanctuary (ACES) is a non-profit organization committed to conserving Belize's critical habitats and protected species, specifically American Crocodiles, through scientific research and education. Just a few miles from PG, the sanctuary is located seven tenths of a mile up the Rio Grande River on a private canal. ACES's twenty acres is an educational wildlife refuge for the monitoring and protection of Belize's American Crocodiles.

Currently, a mating pair of American Crocodiles are residing in ACES's natural and private sanctuary. A nine foot, nesting female, and a severely injured, adult male. Most likely amputated by a machete, approximately three feet of his tail is missing. Without injury, this animal's estimated length would have been over twelve feet. In addition, the crocodile's right eye has been poked out. It is believed the injuries were caused by poachers wanting the crocodile's tail which can be sold for high dollars as food on the black market. It is ACES's intent to reduce cruelty of this nature and protect these endangered animals through public awareness and education. Also residing on the property are several yearlings and sub-adults. A Scientific Collection/Research Permit from the Belize Forest Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources has been granted to ACES so that crocodile tagging and sighting surveys can begin on the Rio Grande River and Belize's Bay of Honduras coastal waters later this year. The collected data will provide crucial information to produce an essential assessment of hatchling and habitat viability, along with a population distribution of American Crocodiles in this region.

Sadly, Belize's crocodylian populations are decreasing due to the destruction of major nesting grounds, low hatchling survival rates, needless killings largely resulting from public ignorance and

insufficient means to adequately enforce protection laws. Nesting areas on the cayes and mangrove areas are currently threatened by Belize's impending development. In sight of this increase in competing forms of land use, not only are crocodile wetland habitats in danger of devastation but crocodile and human encounters are imminent. ACES's considerable conservation efforts will not only protect American Crocodiles but will facilitate the collaboration of researchers, educators, conservationists, and partner and non-partner organizations while promoting community involvement and augmenting public awareness through education so that human-crocodile interactions can become safer for both.

Still evolving, ACES is currently seeking funding through grants and private donors for the construction of a sustainable refuge area for nurturing vulnerable members of the species. This secure habitat will enable professional care for ill/injured and problematic crocodiles while providing study opportunities and safe observation of these feared and yet admired reptiles.

For more information or to make a donation, contact ACES's Executive Director, Marine Biologist Cherie Chenot-Rose at P.O. Box 108, Punta Gorda, Toledo, Belize or email acesnpo@hughes.net. Online donations may be made through ACE's stateside partner, American Friends of Belize, americanfriendsofbelize.org.



Wan Lee Bit a Kriol

"Yu no fi give yu fren peppa in a dey hand, cause it fi mek we quarrel."

If you give someone a chili pepper, set it on the table or plate.

Do not put it in their hand, or you will quarrel in the future.

Did you know...

The village of Cattle Landing, 1 mile from Punta Gorda, is now a quiet place. But in the 1930's it was known for it's 'moonshine' by the name of Rocky Run Rum.

CAN YOU DIG IT? ARCHAEOLOGY IN TOLEDO



For anyone with an interest in Mayan archaeology, Toledo is the place to be. Some of the most thrilling discoveries of recent years have been made here.

Archaeologist Dr. Heather McKillop of Louisiana State University has been working in Port Honduras Marine Reserve and Paynes Creek National Park for the last 25 years. These areas were used by the Maya in ancient times for sea trade and for the mass production of salt. Demand for the salt came from the large Mayan settlements of Lubaantun and Nim Li Punit and further inland from Caracol and Tikal. Dr. McKillop and her team have discovered vast areas under water where

wooden structures once stood. No other wooden buildings from the ancient Maya have been found anywhere in Central America so these finds are extremely important. The wooden support posts, still standing up, have been well preserved in the peat bog just below the sea floor. Rising sea levels submerged the structures and eventually buried them in peat and fine silt.

The problem for Dr. McKillop and her team was figuring out how to survey the sea floor in shallow water. Working in deep water is much easier because archaeologists can use scuba equipment. In shallow water of only a few feet, any movement will disturb the fine silt bottom and reduce visibility to zero. The team came up with some unique methods including laying on flotation devices so they could float over the bottom without disturbing it. They found a seabed littered with artifacts from a bygone age.

In 2004 Dr. McKillop's team discovered a complete wooden canoe paddle. It was immediately recognized as ancient because of its distinctive shape which appears on Mayan artwork. The paddle has been carbon dated and is approximately 1300 years old. This is the only canoe paddle ever found in the Mayan world. (photo of paddle from famsi.org). Many other fascinating artifacts have also been found.

Despite the difficulties of working under water, the location has proved to be a perfect preservative for ancient artifacts, particularly wood which

normally decomposes quickly in the tropics. Ancient wood is always an exciting find since wood retains so much information about the period it comes from. The salt works would have been above water 1300 years ago, according to Dr. McKillop. As the seas continue to rise, documenting these sites is a high priority. Next year the team will be back to continue the search for wooden architecture. We wish them luck and look forward to hearing about more exciting discoveries.

This research is under permit from the Belize Institute of Archaeology and funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society. A report of the discovery of the canoe paddle, with photographs, is published on the internet at www.famsi.org.

Paynes Creek and Port Honduras Marine Reserve are also protected areas for wildlife, including the West Indian manatee, and can be visited by boat from Punta Gorda. For more information about tours or about other archaeological sites in Toledo, contact the Toledo Tourist Information Office on 722-2531 or visit the office on Front Street near the market.



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Sun Creek Lodge—The Hidden Charm

WAT'S COOKING!!!!

<p style="text-align: center;">Potato Pun</p> <p>Ingredients:</p> <p>1 lbs sweet potato 1 lbs brown sugar 1 tbs cinnamon powder 1tsp all spice 1 tsp vanilla 1 stick butter 1 coconut that is grated & squeezed 3 cups or 2 large carnation mi</p>	<p>Preparation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wash and grate the sweet potato ● Mix all the ingredients together and pre cook on stove top until the mixture obtains a light brown color. ● Grease or butter a pan and transfer the potato mixture into the baking pan <p>Bake at 350° until edges are</p>	<p>dark brown and the middle is cooked inside when pricked.</p> <p>This dish is a traditional Creole food that is normally made at Easter time. A small piece of ginger that is grated into the mixture would give the dish added flavor and spice.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Corn Porridge</p> <p>Ingredients:</p> <p>2 cups of ground green corn 2 cups of water 3 cinnamon sticks Milk Sugar</p>	<p>Preparation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Put the two cups of corn and the cinnamon sticks in a skillet with 2 ½ cups of water ● Stir occasionally when heating and constantly after the mixture reaches boiling point to avoid corn clumps in the porridge. <p>Cook until the mixture has thickened to your satisfaction and add sugar and milk to taste</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Serves 3</p> <p>This porridge is made early in the corn season while the corn is still young</p>
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TRANSPORT SCHEDULES

Bus Schedule for Buses leaving Punta Gorda

Departs from Punta Gorda	Arrives in Belize City	Price	Service Provider	Type of Service
4:00am	11:00am	\$22	James Bus Line	Regular
4:30am	9:15am	\$22	National Transport	Regular
5:00am	11:00am	\$22	Usher's Bus Line	Regular
5:30am	12:30pm	\$22	James Bus Line	Regular
6:00am	11:00am	\$26	James Bus Line	Express
6:00am	1:00pm	\$22	James Bus Line	Regular
8:00am	3:00pm	\$22	James Bus Line	Regular
9:00am	4:00pm	\$22	BBDC	Regular
10:00am	5:00pm	\$22	James Bus Line	Regular
12:00 noon	7:00pm	\$22	James Bus Line	Regular
1:30pm	7:30pm	\$22	Usher's Bus Line	Regular
3:00pm	9:00pm	\$22	James Bus Line	Regular

Boat Schedule from Punta Gorda

To Puerto Barrios

Exit fee is \$7.50 BZ

Business Name & contact info	Departs Punta Gorda	Arrive in Puerto Barrios	Fare Single one way	Days of departure	Notes
Requena's Charters tel:722-2070 Email: watetaxi@btl.net	9:30am	10:30am	\$35	Mon-Sun	Customers are asked to arrive at the customs at 9am for customs clearance.
Pichilingo	2:00pm	3:00pm	\$38	Mon-Sun	
Marisol	4:00pm	5:00pm	\$43	Mon-Sun	

Tropic Air Flight Schedule from Punta Gorda

Flight	Leave	Arrive	Cost in Bz
Belize International			
310	7:00	8:10	\$218 Adult & Child
340	9:40	10:50	
350	11:35	12:40	
360	1:35	2:45	
380	4:00	5:00	
Belize Municipal			
310	7:00	8:00	Adult \$185 Child-\$130
340	9:40	10:40	
350	11:35	12:35	
360	1:35	2:35	
380	4:00	5:00	
Dangriga (DGA)			
310	7:00	7:40	Adult \$137 Child-\$93
340	9:40	10:20	
350	11:35	12:15	
360	1:35	2:15	
380	4:00	4:40	
Placencia (PLJ)			
310	7:00	7:20	Adult \$84 Child-\$54
340	9:40	10:00	
350	11:35	11:55	
360	1:35	1:55	
380	4:00	4:20	

Boat Schedule from Puerto Barrios

to Punta Gorda

Applicable exit fees and taxes: \$80 Quetzals

Business Name & contact info	Departs Puerto Barrios	Arrive in Punta Gorda	Fare Single - One way	Days of Departure
Pichilingo	10:00am	11:00am	\$35	Mon-Sun
Requena's Charter Service tel:722-2070 Email: water-taxi@btl.net	2:00pm	3:00pm	\$38	Mon-Sun
Mari Sol	2:00pm	3:00pm	\$43	Mon-Sun

Maya Island Air Flights from Punta Gorda

PUNTA GORDA			
FLIGHT #	TZA-PND	FLIGHT #	PND-TZA
103	8:00	102	6:50
103	1:00	104	9:30
115	2:30	116	4:00

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EDITORIAL

For a few years now it has been said that tourism in Toledo was going to explode. Well, it has not “exploded” yet but tourism in Toledo grows year by year and is on an upward path. BTIA in Toledo thinks it is time to shout about it.

So what better beast to help us spread the word than the Black Howler Monkey whose calls echo daily from the Maya Mountains across the lowland forests to the Gulf of Honduras. Toledo is one of Belize’s largest districts and there is plenty to howl about. We specialize in nature, culture and adventure with so much to offer in each. The Toledo Howler will be our mouthpiece.

As we began to think about content for the paper we realized just how much there is to write about and we will be including regular themed features to let the world know just what wealth we have to share.

In our first issue we focus on the craft work of Fileon Choc from Pueblo Viejo (page 3) who carves and sell calabashes. We will be writing about other skilled craftspeople in the district and aim to help increase our local craft exports to the rest of Belize by offering them a shop window in the Howler. We will also be focusing on destinations like Rio Blanco National Park (page 4) and activities such as kayaking, caving, hiking and snorkeling.

We will highlight restaurants, accommodation and tour operators. Read about Beya Suites run by Darius and Lisa Avila on page 1 the winner of the 2006 Small Hotel of the Year Award. Garbutt’s Fishing Lodge on Joe Taylor Creek is a new tour operator offering accommodation and world class fly fishing guides for the Gulf of Honduras.

Our growth is being fuelled by a healthy mix of local and inward investment by people who share a love of the deep south. They also share a commitment to a kind of sustainable tourism that brings economic benefits to the wider community and demonstrates we have more to gain by conservation than exploitation.

The Toledo Howler is a free paper and will be self sustaining through advertising. Our colleagues in the Belize Chamber of Commerce can grow their business and access Toledo’s developing market through advertising in the Howler. We will be publishing four times a year for now. Get your copy, enjoy it, share it and then come and visit us in Toledo, buy from us in Toledo and find partners in tourism to work with in the south. Visitors always find a warm welcome here.

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SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS EVENT CALENDAR

September 02 nd *	Ecumenical Candle Light Central Park 7:00pm
September 07 th *	Mayor & Town Councilors' visit to urban schools * Clean Up campaign (youths, schools, & NGO's)
September 08 th *	Mini Queen of the Bay: 6:00pm * Karaoke Competition 3: Sports Complex 9:00pm
September 09 th *	Karaoke Completion 4: Sports Complex * Fire Engine Motorcade 7pm * Local Concert: Sports Complex 8pm
September 10th**	Battle of St. George's Caye Day
September 12 th *	Children's Talent Show: Central Park 7pm * Cultural Awareness Day
September 13 th *	Social Studies Quiz Contest (High school) * Karaoke Contest (High school): Civic Center (Central Park) 5:00pm
September 14 th *	Children's Rally: Central Park 9:30am
September 15 th *	Miss Toledo 2007 Pageant 7pm & Dance 10:30pm-4am: Sports Complex
September 16 th *	Football Marathon: Union Field 7pm * Volley Ball Tournament, Dominos Tournament, Billiard Tournament
September 19 th *	Poetry, Song, & Story Telling Competition: Central Park 7:00pm
September 20 th *	Sounding of Sirens & Motorcade 7pm * Karaoke Finals 7:30-11pm * Flag Raising Ceremony 11:50pm * Dance with Coolie Rebels:
September 21st **	Independence Day * Sounding of Sirens 6am * Official Ceremony at Central Park 10am * Judging of floats & uniform parade * All day block party with Coolie Rebels 6pm

TOLEDO EVENTS CALENDAR 2007

October

12th - Pan American day

November

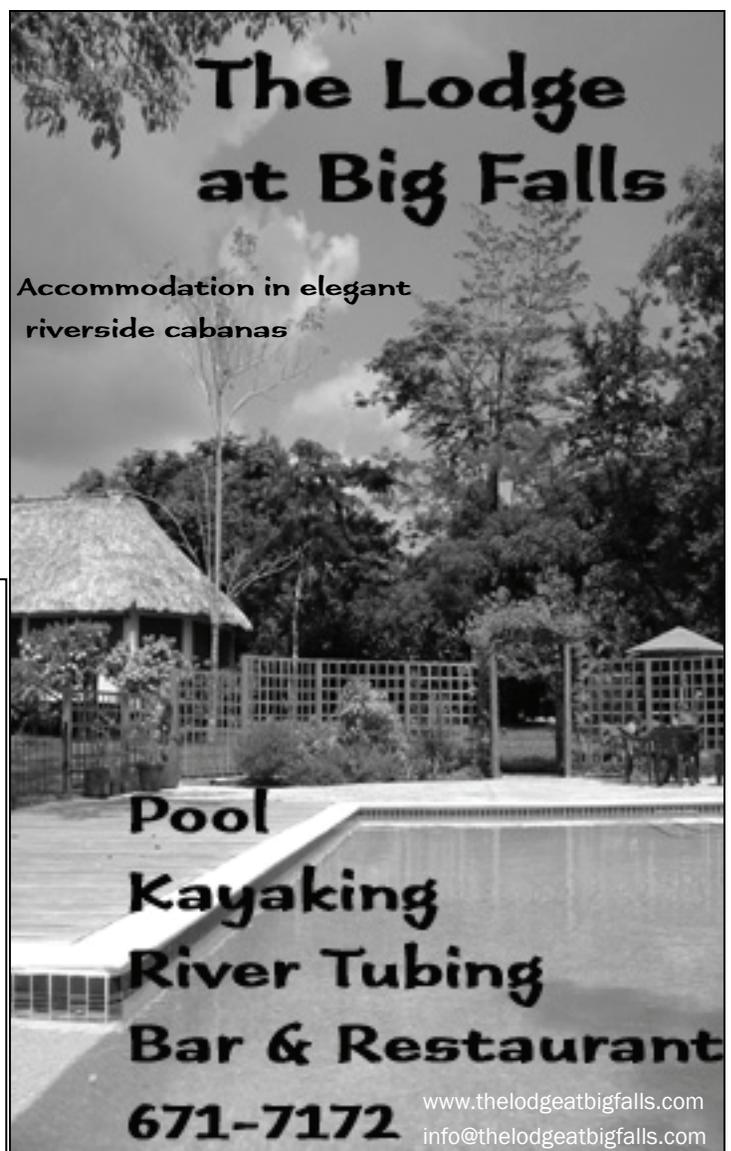
17th-19th - Fisherman's Festival, TIDE Compound

19th- Garifuna Settlement Day

December

25th - Christmas Day

26th - Boxing Day



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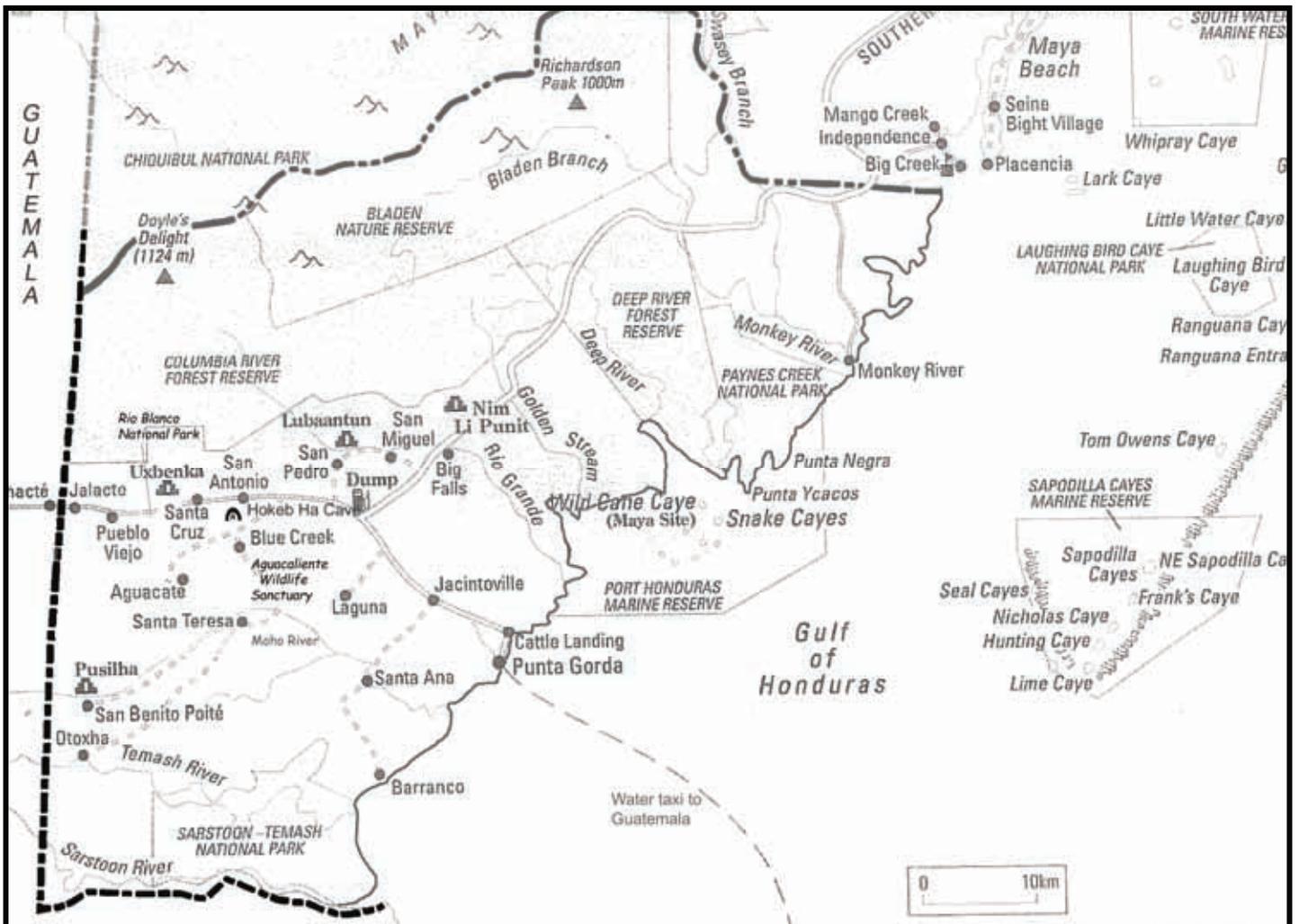
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MAP OF TOLEDO DISTRICT



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702-0113/607-0033 dreamlightpg@yahoo.com or timdami01@yahoo.com

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