



# Press Kit

## 2010



cherylandrews

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

2655 Le Jeune Road, Suite 805

Coral Gables, FL 33134

305.444.4033 f305.447.0415

[ashley@cam-pr.com](mailto:ashley@cam-pr.com) / [sasha@cam-pr.com](mailto:sasha@cam-pr.com)



## FACT SHEET

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**TELEPHONE**

(800) 813-8498

**E-MAIL**

[Office@GoodDiving.com](mailto:Office@GoodDiving.com)

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.st-georgesresort.com/>

**OWNERS**

John and Susan Spencer

**DESCRIPTION**

St. George's Caye Resort is a secluded paradise located on a private residence island just off the Belize Barrier Reef. The resort, comprised of quaint private cabanas, a main lodge, the Island Spa and lush gardens, recently completed a \$2 million renovation and now has double the accommodations, along with a new swimming pool area.

The resort's nightly cabana rates include airport transfers, freshly prepared meals and unlimited use of non-motorized watersports and start at \$225 per person outside of holidays, based on double occupancy.

**LOCATION**

Just 20 minutes away from Belize City, St. George's Caye is easily accessible by boat, yet feels worlds away from everyday life. The resort's location parallels the Belize Barrier Reef, the world's second longest barrier reef system.

American, Continental, Delta and US Airways operate direct flights to Philip SW Goldson International Airport in Belize City from Atlanta, Charlotte, Dallas, Miami, Houston and New York. Maya Island Air also operates regional connector flights from Cancun.



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## ACCOMMODATIONS

Guests can choose to stay in one of 11 cabanas located oceanfront, on a lagoon or in the gardens. Thatched roofs and rich woodwork give these rooms a warm and intimate feel, while a private porch complete with a hammock allows guests to take in views of the island. All rooms include air conditioning, hair dryers and mini refrigerators stocked with snacks and refreshments. Eight additional rooms are available in the resort's lodge.

## ACTIVITIES

Best known for its world-class diving and fishing, St. George's Caye Resort focuses on providing divers with the most personalized experience possible. The resort's signature Valet Diving program allows divers to sit back and relax while the experienced in-house dive team takes care of all the little details, from assembling equipment to making sure divers' masks are clear to washing down the equipment at the end of the dives. Divers can simply slip into their vests and dive right in.

The dive team takes the safety of its divers very seriously and ensures that all dives are designed based upon divers' experience and comfort level. There is always a close ratio of divers to divemasters who take the time to point out even the smallest sea life. Because of the resort's remote location and small number of divers on each dive, divers will feel like they have the whole sea to themselves and rarely encounter other large diving groups, as can be common at sites frequented by highly populated cays.

The waters off the coast of Belize attract anglers from across the globe in search of tarpon, permit, bonefish and countless more species. The resort's fishing excursions are designed to guests' specifications and led by some of Belize's most knowledgeable guides.

Private tours of the many cultural and ecological attractions that Belize has to offer allow guests to customize excursions based on their interests, rather than follow the itinerary of a large group. Popular adventures include the howler monkey nature walk, visits to Maya ruins, a manatee tour through the island's mangroves, golfing, trips to the Babcab Eco Park and Belize Zoo, as well as jungle zip lining and cave tubing in a river that runs through Belize's rainforest.

## DINING

Freshly prepared meals are served each day based upon pre-submitted dietary preferences, along with appetizers served during happy hour. Offerings include hearty meals that feature local ingredients, fresh catches and homemade desserts. Fresh juice and coffee are delivered



to guests' doors each morning. Every week, weather permitting, guests are taken by boat to a nearby sandbar for a lunchtime beach barbeque.

## SPA

The Island Spa, a full service oasis nestled in the lush gardens of the resort, offers a wide variety of services. Spa technicians live onsite and are always available upon request.



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## DIVING & FISHING FACT SHEET

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With its location just off of the Belize Barrier Reef, the world's second longest coral reef system, St. George's Caye Resort has a variety of SCUBA diving and fishing excursions available for guests.

### DIVING

The resort's signature Valet Diving program focuses on providing divers with the most personalized experience possible. Guests can sit back and relax while the experienced in-house dive team takes care of all the details, from assembling equipment to washing it down at the end of the dives. Divers can simply slip into their vests and explore some of the most magnificent dive sites in the world including:

**The Great Blue Hole**, the world's largest underwater sinkhole, is approximately 1,000 feet wide with spectacular stalactites and depths greater than 400 feet. Once thought to be bottomless, Jacques Cousteau dispelled that myth in 1970, using a minisub to reach the bottom.

**The Turneffe Atoll**, the largest of the three offshore atoll reefs in Belize, features varied depths suitable for all dive levels and diverse marine life including the rare whitespotted toadfish, eagle rays, sting rays, moray eels, jewfish, nurse sharks and reef sharks.

**Little Finger** enchants divers with regular bottlenose dolphin encounters and depths greater than 100 feet.

**Gorgeous** lives up to its name. With vivid coral formations and plenty of gorges for divers to explore, loggerhead turtles can be spotted year-round. Divers may even find lobster hiding in dark caves!

**Certification:** St. George's Caye Resort offers several levels of open water certifications taught under the globally-recognized standards of SCUBA School International (SSI.) A "Try SCUBA with SSI" course is also available for novice divers.

### FISHING

The waters off the coast of Belize attract anglers from across the globe in search of tarpon, permit, bonefish and countless more species. The resort's privately led fishing excursions are designed to guests' specifications and led by some of Belize's most knowledgeable guides.

**Flats fishing** in the waters that surround St. George's Caye is famous for vast numbers of bonefish, tarpon and permit.



**Offshore atolls**, located just beyond the reef, plummet thousands of feet, and are teeming with sailfish, marlin, wahoo, mackerel, bonito, pompano, blue fin, black fin and albacore tuna.

**The Belize Barrier Reef** is home to grouper, cobia, barracuda, rainbow runners, and triggerfish.



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## ACTIVITIES & ADVENTURES FACT SHEET

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St. George's Caye Resort provides private tours to the abundance of cultural and ecological attractions that Belize has to offer, allowing guests to customize excursions based on their interests, rather than follow the itinerary of a large group. Visitors looking for adventure, excitement and insight into the history and wildlife can explore other cayes and the mainland by boat or visit the country's countless cultural and ecological sites.

### ONSITE ACTIVITIES

St. George's Caye Resort offers sailing, fishing, kayaking, windsurfing, beach bonfires, volleyball and snorkeling gear at no charge.

### ADVENTURE TOURS

#### **Manatee Tour**

Guests can take a guided trip through the mangroves to see these incredible creatures in their natural environment.

#### **Cave Tubing**

An adventurous combination of cave tubing and hiking, this tour allows guests to explore underground river caves sparkling with mica-studded stalactites and stalagmites and filled with 1,000-year-old pottery shards, statues of fertility gods and Maya footprints.

#### **Trip to the Sandbar**

Guests can take a quick boat ride to the sandbar to enjoy floating mattresses and chairs in its warm and shallow waters, a picnic and some leisurely swimming.

#### **Snorkeling Excursion**

Exploring the coral reef from the surface offers a look into the wide variety of sea life among corals, anemones and sponges, where guests might see manatees, dolphins, stingrays and more.

#### **Zip Lining**

Secured by a harness, zip line riders will traverse through the rainforest canopy between 75-foot high platforms on this thrilling one-of-a-kind jungle adventure.

#### **Helicopter Tours**

Helicopters can be chartered to pick up guests from St. George's Caye for a birds-eye view of the Blue Hole. Also available are helicopter tours over the ruins of Lumanai and Altun Ha.



### **Night Crocodile Tour**

Thrill-seekers can go on a nighttime exploration through the dark mangroves that surround St. George's Caye in search of the elusive crocodile.

### **CULTURAL & ECO TOURS**

For guests interested in cultural and eco tours, the resort's proximity to the mainland makes it very easy to take part in inland trips. In keeping with its high level of service, St. George's Caye Resort offers safe, quality excursions with private, knowledgeable guides. Numerous tours are accessible by boat including the Howler Monkey Nature Walk, the Lamanai Jungle River Adventure and visits to the Bacab Eco Park and Belize Zoo.

Believed to have been at the heart of the Maya civilization that dominated Central America from about 250 to 900 AD, Belize also possesses the greatest concentration of Maya sites in the entire region. Day trips can be arranged to Lamanai and Altun Ha ruins to see monumental architecture of temples and palaces dating back from the Classic and Pre-Classic periods.



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## THE HISTORY OF ST. GEORGE'S CAYE

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Rich in culture and history, St. George's Caye, Belize's original capital, is the bedrock of this Central American nation's independence from the imperial stronghold of Spain. Intent on conquering and subduing the Yucatan coast in 1511, the Spaniards made constant attempts to control the region, which included the country of Belize.

In the mid-1600s, shipwrecked British sailors became the first recorded European settlers in Belize. Known as the Baymen, this group of pirates, buccaneers and adventurers cut logwood in Belize for export to Europe. Periodic attacks by Spain to reclaim sovereignty ensued, resulting in treaties between England and Spain, allowing the Baymen to continue their trade.

On September 10, 1798, the Baymen were forced to defend their tiny settlement against a Spanish invasion of 32 ships carrying 2,000 troops and 500 seamen. Heavily outnumbered and against the odds, the Baymen achieved a decisive victory. The Battle of St. George's Caye, which took place in the waters surrounding the resort, was the last attempt made by the Spanish to control Belize. Today, more than 200 years later, September 10 is still celebrated as a national holiday.

The historical significance of St. George's Caye has been immortalized on Belize's five dollar bill which depicts a map of the island, along with images of important landmarks including a sarcophagus that is still believed to be buried behind the villa located on the property of St. George's Resort.



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