## passport Compiled by Gene Gentrup

# **DIVE EXPLORATION**

### HAMANASI ADVENTURE & DIVE RESORT, BELIZE

The popular Hamanasi Adventure & Dive Resort, nestled between Belize's lush Maya Mountains and the turquoise Caribbean Sea, is an ideal location from which to explore the best of Belize on and offshore. The resort features 25 spacious, air-conditioned, comfortable treehouses, beachfront rooms and honeymoon suites plus a full-service bar and restaurant, pool and inviting beachfront property.

Hamanasi guests can tailor-make their vacations by selecting barrier reef diving or snorkeling, waterfall hikes, hiking the world's only jaguar preserve, climbing Mayan pyramids, exploring caves, zip-lining, or kayaking a jungle river. Hamanasi's dive center offers trips to the famous Blue Hole on Lighthouse Reef Atoll, Glover's Reef Atoll, Turneffe Islands Atoll, Half Moon Caye, the Elbow, Hell Hole and the stunning walls in the South Water Caye Marine Reserve — the largest marine reserve in the country.

Reef & Rainforest packages of eight days, seven nights and five adventures begin at \$1,895 per person, double occupancy required, in a Beachfront Room, including continental breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, round-trip air transfers from Belize International airport to Dangriga, round-trip ground transfers from Dangriga to Hamanasi, service charges, and hotel and sales tax. Rates valid from June 6 to November 20, 2015. All prices are in U.S. dollars and subject to availability, blackout periods and change without notice. For more details, call toll-free 877-552-3483 or the Florida office at 954-453-5047, visit hamanasi.com or email hamanasi@trsres.com.





### CARPE VITA EXPLORER, MALDIVES

Diving in the Maldives is among the world's best year-round — hard and soft corals, swim-throughs, myriad pelagics and, above all, manta rays and whale sharks.

The Carpe Vita Explorer's itineraries are designed to take advantage of the conditions and take divers to the best diving areas for different seasons. The Maldives also are known for unusal underwater topography encompassing outer and inner reefs, small coral pinnacles known as thila, caverns and walls. Divers will see the largest living fish species, the whale shark, plus colored flatworms, anemones, turtles and copious amounts of reef fish. Mantas can be seen throughout the year and whale sharks are seen almost monthly. The water

temperatures remain a toasty 82-86 degrees Fahrenheit (28-30 degrees Celsius) year-round. Carrying 20 guests and 14 crew, the *Carpe Vita Explorer* features 10 large, luxurious air-conditioned staterooms, all with private bathrooms and showers, on three decks; all can be configured to accommodate a couple or two singles. The top deck features the sundeck, offering both shaded and full-sun areas and a hot tub. The upper deck includes the alfresco dining area with ocean views, a bar, a small lounge area and the bridge. The main deck contains the air-conditioned salon, TV lounge and indoor dining area, galley, camera charging station and a large camera table. Four dives are conducted daily directly from a 61-foot (18.5 m) dhoni, which is fully equipped with a bathroom, hot-water showers and air and nitrox compressors. The *Carpe Vita Explorer* offers 10-night and seven-night itineraries starting at \$2,320 per person (double occupancy). Reservations are required. For more details, email info@explorerventures.com, call 800-322-3577 (United States and Canada) or 1-307-235-0683 or visit explorerventures.com.

## SUNSET HOUSE, GRAND CAYMAN

Escape to a world where time slows to match the soothing rhythm of turquoise waters lapping on sun-drenched shores. It's an idyllic setting for Sunset House on Grand Cayman, which bills itself as the perfect dive family summer retreat.

With its house reef, six custom dive boats and hundreds of nearby dive sites, Sunset House provides 24-hour shore diving, accessing a healthy stretch of reef, a small wreck, a submerged mermaid statue and a wall teeming with aquatic life. The resort's thatched-roof beachside My Bar of-



fers a variety of libations, cuisine served from the neighboring SeaHarvest Restaurant, and the chance to mix it up with locals, dive bums and vacationers. On-site operator Sunset Divers tends to all your diving needs.

A summer savings package priced at \$920 per person, double occupancy required, includes a fifth night of accommodations for free, one morning two-tank boat dive for free, daily breakfast, airport transfers, and all tax and service charges. At check-in guests also will receive an "Only in Cayman" card, good for savings on local attractions and dining. Divers who book online must book the courtyard room package for five nights. The fifth night will automatically be deducted. Since days diving can vary, choose the "number of days" dive package, *minus one* for the day of free diving per person. The free day of diving will be added upon arrival. Reservations are required and other restrictions apply. For more information, call 800-854-4767 or email reservations@sunsethouse.com.



#### CARIBBEAN CLUB BONAIRE

Located north of Kralendijk at the foot of Bonaire's hills and just steps away from pristine dive sites is Caribbean Club Bonaire, a friendly 39-unit resort combining affordable accommodations with full resort facilities, a restaurant, bar, two pools, an on-premises dive shop/activity center, along with front office and security services. Guests may choose from basic studios to spacious villas overlooking the crystalclear blue waters of the Caribbean Sea to a penthouse to comfortable one-bedroom cottages. All units have air-conditioned bedrooms while the living rooms and porches feature ceiling fans. Kitchens in the one-

bedroom cottages and studios are equipped with the utensils and equipment you need to prepare a good meal, while in the two-bedroom cottages the kitchens provide you with all the luxury you can wish. Cable TV and safes are included as well. Bonaire dive sites are just a few minutes drive away. A "Book 7, Pay Only 6" dive package is valid for travel from April 25 to June 27, 2015. Simply book the Dive & Explore package (diving) or the Explore package (activities) for seven nights and get one night of accommodations for free. The Dive & Explore package starts at \$612 per person for the whole week (based on four people in a two-bedroom standard cottage). Reservations are required and restrictions apply. For more details, call toll-free 800-906-7708 or go to caribbeanclubbonaire.com.

## CASTLE COMFORT LODGE AND DIVE DOMINICA

A casual and relaxed atmosphere beckons divers to this 13-room guesthouse that's part of the island of Dominica, a true Caribbean dive destination in the West Indies. The Castle Comfort Lodge sits on the ocean's edge at the base of some of Dominica's impressive mountain ranges. The rooms come with air conditioning, private bathrooms, ceiling fans, direct-dial telephones and cable television. On-site amenities include a breakfast restaurant and a waterfront bar and

grill, kayaks and Wi-Fi. On-site dive operator Dive Dominica can take you snorkeling and whale watching or diving along sheer walls, drop-offs and swim-throughs, all nestled in the Soufriere Scotts Head Marine Reserve.

Winter dive packages start at \$1,210, double occupancy required, and include seven nights of accommodations, seven breakfasts, five days of two-tank boat dives, unlimited shore diving, round-trip airport transfers, weights and tanks, use of sea kayaks, service charge and government taxes. Reservations are required and restrictions apply. For more details, call toll-free 888-414-7626, 767-448-2188 or visit castlecomfort divelodge.com.

