

 **SPORT**

DIVER

9 TOP
REGULATORS
FOR EVERY
BUDGET
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 **PADI** THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PADI DIVING SOCIETY

10 AMAZING ENCOUNTERS

- DOLPHINS IN THE BAHAMAS
- WHALE SHARKS IN BELIZE
- WRECKS IN THE FLORIDA KEYS



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SEPTEMBER 2011 Vol. 19 No. 8

U.S. \$4.99



Getaways

Your Ticket to
Adventure &
Travel Around
the Diving World

Belize

ADVENTURES AWAIT
AT THESE RESORTS
BY TANYA G. BURNETT
AND KEVIN PALMER

Jacques-Yves Cousteau put Belize on the map when he explored the magnificent Great Blue Hole. Ever since, divers, adventurers and eco tourists have flocked to this small nation in increasing numbers, lured by lush, exotic landscapes above and below. The key to unlocking Belize's remarkable treasures? Finding the resort that's right for you.

DESTINATION PRIMER Average water temp High 70s in winter, mid-80s in summer
What to wear 3 mm wetsuit in winter; shorty in summer
Average viz 100-plus feet
When to go year-round

A diver soars over the top of the reef off Carrie Bow Cay.

TANYA G. BURNETT

Find Your Eco Bliss

HAMANASI ADVENTURE & DIVE RESORT, HOPKINS VILLAGE

Arriving at Hamanasi is the kind of experience that invites a re-assessment of the word “paradise.” The award-winning PADI IDC resort is equal parts boutique eco-lodge, romantic getaway and first-class dive resort. Its 23 rooms and bungalows are delicately woven into 21 acres of tropical gardens, fruit trees and barely contained jungle, where brilliantly adorned birds and blooming orchids clearly outnumber the guests.

Resort manager Andrew Usher and his gregarious local staff have mastered the ambience of escapism in a way that keeps guests returning for more. Fresh fruit and juices flow from the garden in overwhelming abundance, and provide the perfect complement to a siesta under the palms by the pool or sea. After a couple of days at Hamanasi, more than one guest has been heard to exclaim, “I am never leaving!”



Enormous stalactites drip from the Great Blue Hole; a rock beauty (top).



Owners Dana and David Krauskopf have worked tirelessly to create a green resort, introducing many concepts new to southern Belize – their efforts have been rewarded with a Green Globe Certification and a staff spirit that trickles down to activities in local villages as well. They’ll gladly point out many of the efforts implemented on site.

Toby Truelove, head of dive operations at Hamanasi, thrives on the variety of diving options he has right off his dock. He runs trips all the way from the South Water Caye Marine Reserve to Lighthouse Reef Atoll on special “Blue Hole Day Trips.”

“I like to dive sites a little differently than other operators, to maximize enjoyment and photo ops,” Truelove says.

Glovers Atoll – a World Heritage Site – lies directly east of the resort, providing spectacular diving on Belize’s most remote atoll. “Glovers has more than 45 miles of drop-offs, pinnacles, massive elkhorn coral and loads of fish,” Dana Krauskopf effuses about her favorite area. “So much of the atoll is unexplored – we’re still discovering new sites.”

In April, May and June, Hamanasi runs whale shark encounters around the time of the full moon, to coincide with the snapper spawn. Being on the mainland also makes it easy to organize land adventures for nondiving spouses and family members when their diving partners refuse to get out of the water.

Hamanski Adventure & Dive Resort

HAMANASI.COM

» PADI INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT CENTER

with PADI instruction to Assistant Instructor

» **BOATS** *Hanou*, 20 divers max; *Big Dipper*, 16 divers max;

Belize Adventure, 20 snorkelers or eight divers max

» GUIDED DIVES

By instructor and divemaster, max eight per guide

» MAX DIVE TIME

One hour, longer if prearranged

» **GAS MIX** Nitrox support

» **RENTALS** Dive gear, computers and cameras

» **STORAGE** Staff rings and stores gear overnight

» NEAREST AIRPORT

Belize International Airport (BZE), about three hours; Dangriga Airport (DGA), 45 minutes

» ACCOMMODATIONS

Twenty-three air-conditioned rooms, including deluxe and regular treehouses (free-standing

units nestled in coastal littoral forest; deluxe have kitchenettes), honeymoon suites, deluxe and regular beachfront rooms, with hand-crafted Belizean hardwood furnishings, private porches with hammocks, and spacious bathrooms

» AMENITIES

Private dock and beach; training pool and air-conditioned classroom; close to Glovers and Turneffe atolls and South Water Caye Marine Reserve, and can dive Blue Hole, Lighthouse Reef and Gladden Spit; 50-foot freshwater infinity pool; Singanga restaurant and bar; grocery in Hopkins Village; Mayan ruins

» RESERVATIONS

501-520-7073, 877-552-3483 or info@hamanski.com



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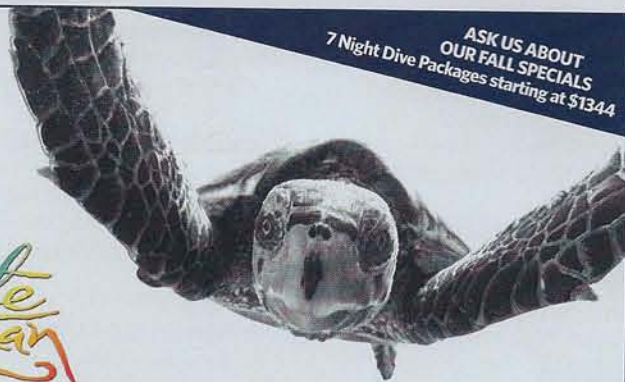
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