

Our Customers Report.....

Everything here is taken from comments made to us by customers, and is quoted regardless of whether we agree (although we often do):-

- 1) Banana Beach is a great hotel, not fussy but honest good value, especially with the humungous breakfast that's included. It's also big enough to take large groups, and the pricing is keen.
- 2) In town you can't go wrong with Spindrift hotel. A bit faded and past its best, but comfortable, very reasonable, and run by really nice caring people who will always go the extra mile. It also houses Caliente restaurant, one of the best reasonably priced restaurants in the area, and of course the famous chicken drop!
- 3) Quiet hotels south of town don't come better than Xanadu, with Caribbean Villas a close second. Both are located in natural bird sanctuaries, and have a very peaceful ambience. CV has an observation platform for bird viewing.
- 4) The top hotel in the south seems acknowledged to be Victoria House. Not cheap, but if you have the money and want the luxury you won't be disappointed.
- 5) The Palms is on a busy bit of beach, but once you're inside everyone who's stayed there says it's lovely.
- 6) Sunbreeze is a well-regarded upper-middle price hotel at the southern end of town, incredibly convenient for the airstrip. It houses Blue Water Grill restaurant, also highly regarded.
- 7) Although it's well presented and seems attractive to someone who's never stayed there, we have had a number of negative comments about Ramon's hotel. Mind you, I also see lots of positive comments about it.
- 8) Ruby's hotel in town is basic and has no pretensions to be otherwise. But it has a very loyal following and is prominent on back-packer books about Ambergris Caye.
- 9) AC's rough diamond is our very own Pedro1 (as he's known on message boards), and his Pedro's Backpacker's Inn. Not nearly as basic as you might expect, the only significant downside is that there's no possibility of air conditioning. That's in the bedrooms – he has one of the few air conditioned bars on the island, where he serves superb thin-crust pizzas and other hot food. Not so much a bar as a social club where expats congregate – and locals feel welcome as well. An institution. Staying there isn't cheap – it's FREE (for the time being) so long as you spend some money in the bar, which you're sure to do anyway. Even if you prefer to stay in more luxury, pay the bar a visit while you're here.
- 10) We hear occasional good comments about Banyan Bay, but although people like the facilities I heard that it's a bit "impersonal". Comes down to style and expectations – that's the worst anyone's ever said. Quite a few people have said they don't like their restaurant Rico's.
- 11) On restaurants and other places to eat, in town and to the south (we don't see much of the ones north of the Cut), names that keep cropping up are Casa Picasso, Tastes of Thailand, Victoria House, Caliente, Blue Water Grill, Reef Restaurant, Papi's Diner, el Fogon, Hacial Kiik (mainly a bakery, but also serving food on the premises; very good and insanely cheap). Stretching the definition to ice cream parlors there's Manelli's on front Street and DanDee's on Middle Street.
- 12) Internet connection is widely available in hotels – even Pedro's has wireless and a computer that's free to use. Next to Manelli's is Steve DeMaiao's Coconet, where all you pay for is your drinks. Island Internet is down south and also offers computer repairs (hardware and software) and solutions to problems, as does CSM2000 in town. Actually, you'll also find free wireless at Protech.
- 13) The best fruit is to be found next to Coconet, including decent apples. They also sometimes sell wholewheat bread, a bit of a luxury on the island.
- 14) The best supermarkets are San Pedrano on Front Street, SuperBuy on Back Street, and Marina's next to Xanadu in the south. Island Supermarket near Ramon's is enormous and air conditioned, but prices are rather higher.
- 15) If you're an animal (pet) lover try to visit Saga animal shelter while you're here.