

Roatan Property Management - Travel Tips and Island Information

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Roatan Property Management offers select vacation rentals to meet the needs and desires of all travelers. From simple beach cottages and condos to luxurious hillside homes and beach houses, all are private homes and fully equipped so our guests can enjoy their home away from home. Many are private and secluded yet Roatan being a small island all homes are convenient to dining, shopping, entertainment and other activities. For those homes that are somewhat secluded we suggest a rental car to get the most out of your vacation on Roatan.

About Roatan:

Roatan is the largest of the Bay Islands located about 30 miles off the north coast of mainland Honduras. The islands are the tips of undersea mountains that extend out from the mainland's Omoa Ridge and form the Bonacca Ridge with steep walls they are one of the most rare and beautifully formed reefs in the world and the second largest after the Great Barrier Reef. Honduras means "deep water" and the reefs are natural breakwaters creating ideal conditions for diving, fishing, swimming and sailing. The Bay Islands cover about 92 sq. miles and include Utila and Gaunaja, as well as the smaller islands of Morat, Barbareta and St. Helene east of Roatan. The island is 30 miles long and approximately 4 miles wide situated in the Bay of Honduras running from the south west to northeast. At 16 degrees north latitude the climate is Tropical Wet with an average temperature of 84 degrees F. The rainy season is October through January though the summer months of July and August can also have some intermittent rain showers. Roatan's population is about 75,000, the people are friendly, easy going and approachable and English is widely spoken. Historically the main industries have been fishing and boat building though tourism has surpassed these in recent years with foreign investment mainly from North America and Europe. There is a large expat community who have come to set up various businesses as well as many retirees. Roatan is not as commercially developed as other Caribbean Islands so you may not have all of the conveniences as other islands though this is rapidly changing and part of the charm of this island paradise.

Coxen Hole where the airport is located is the capital where you will find larger grocery stores with imported foods and a number of banks. Also the town of French Harbour has large groceries and banks. West End has smaller grocery stores as well as vegetable & fruit vendors. There is one bank in West End and there are ATM's located at various parts of the island.

Local Cuisine:

The majority of restaurants are in West End and West Bay where most tourist activities are located. For a small island there are a variety of ethnic foods offering seafood & imported meats including Italian, Argentine, Thai, Tex Mex, & Mexican as well as local cuisine. Gio's famous for its King Crab has two locations, in French Harbour & Flowers Bay. Also in Flowers Bay on the south shore is Portside with seafood specialties. Sandy Bay has a Peruvian restaurant with a huge menu.

Things to Do:

The reefs are easily reachable from shore for diving, snorkeling, water sports & fishing. Excursions to the neighboring Cayos Cachinos (Hog Islands) can make for a fun day or overnight with sailing charters. Other local attractions include Museum of Roatan at Anthony's Key Resort (AKR) where you can also swim with dolphins, Carambola Botanical Gardens in Sandy Bay offers a short hiking trail. Visit the Iguana Farm or play Golf at Pristine Bay in French Harbour. There are 5 Zip Lines, three in the West End / West Bay area and two near French Harbour. Further east are two fishing villages on the south shore Oakridge and Jonesville off the beaten path where it feels like time stood still & Punta Gorda a Garifuna Village on the north shore. Continuing east is Marble Hills Farms offering homemade jams with local fruits and a restaurant on site & Paya Bay with its white sand beach. All these locations make for fun day trips.

Diving:

There are many dive operators especially in West End, West Bay & Sandy Bay offering day, night & wreck dives as well as various training & certifications programs. There is a Decompression Chamber & Medical Clinic at Anthony's Key Resort in Sandy Bay with on call 24 hour medical service staffed with a doctor and EMT's, open for basic medical service 8 am to 5 pm. (2445-1049, 2445-1003)

Medical Facilities:

Along with the clinic at Anthony's Key Resort there is an outpatient clinic, Clinica Esperanza in Sandy Bay run by volunteers mostly from the U.S. as well as local volunteers and doctors. There are two hospitals on the island, Roatan Municipal Hospital and a private hospital, Woods Medical Clinic both are located in Coxen Hole.

Getting to Roatan:

Roatan (RTB) has an international airport with direct flights via American from Miami, Delta from Atlanta, United & TACA Airlines from Houston. There are also daily flights to San Pedro Sula (SAP) with connections to Roatan via local carriers, CM Airlines, SOSA & TACA Regional.

Iberia flies from Madrid, from other parts of Europe Lufthansa, KLM, Air France, British Airways, Alitalia all fly to Miami and Houston where you can make connections to Roatan. Air Europe has weekly direct flights from Milan, Italy and Sunwing has weekly direct flights from Toronto and Montreal.

Honduras Entry Policies:

Visitors to Honduras must present a passport valid for at least six months beyond travel dates. No visas are required for citizens of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States and most Western European countries for tourist visits up to 30 days. A return ticket or onward travel is required. Citizens of other countries are required to obtain a tourist card, which can be purchased from Honduran consulates.

Upon Arrival:

If you have informed us that you require transportation from the airport, our driver will meet you and drive you to your rental where we will meet you and check you in. If you are renting a vehicle the rental agent will allow you to use their phone to call us so we can arrange to meet you at an easy to find location, from there we will have you follow us to your rental and check you in.

Departure:

Check out is 10 A.M, this time can be flexible as long as there are no other guests checking into the same rental the same day. One of our representatives will check you out. There is a departure tax collected at the airport of \$39.00 U.S.

What to Bring:

A valid Passport valid for at least six months beyond your travel dates

U.S. Dollars are accepted almost anywhere on the island, so there is no need to exchange money prior to arrival though it is best to bring at least some dollars of small denominations as larger bills might be difficult to cash in smaller establishments.

The local currency is the Lempira and the exchange rate is 20 Lempiras to 1 U.S. Dollar.

Credit cards are **not** accepted everywhere, where they are accepted there is usually a 6 to 7% surcharge.

Suggestions:

Diving certification card if you have one and will be diving

Snorkeling gear though it can be easily rented

Bathing suits (2) and cover ups

Lightweight clothing, T-shirts, shorts, blouses, comfortable walking shoes or sandals, lightweight long sleeve tops & slacks.

Ladies might enjoy summer dresses though dress is very casual everywhere on the island.

Sunglasses, personal items and toiletries, medications, sunscreen, insect repellent, antihistamines, anti itch cream.

Camera, Music, Videos & Reading Material. These items are also readily available as well.

We hope this information has been helpful and that you enjoy your island vacation...

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Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or we can be of further assistance...

Roatan Property Management

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