

**HONDURAS THIS WEEK** *online*  
 YOUR CENTRAL AMERICAN WEEKLY REVIEW  
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Monday, June 27, 2005 Online Edition 25

**Copan Update**

Copan's newest form of mass transit are its mototaxis or tuk-tuks (just listen to them as they chug by and you will know why they call them tuk-tuks) as some call them. They are small, easy on gas, can hold up to 4 passengers and are very popular amongst local townfolk and tourists alike. For a modest fare of Lps 5, one can tool around the village and nearby outlying areas without having to hoof it. Previously there was exactly one real, honest to goodness taxi in town... there are now some 70 or so mototaxis in town. At first the number of mototaxis were modest and business was brisk, however now the number of mototaxis has mushroomed exponentially and some fear that there are just plain too many of them for such a small market like Copan. Another issue which has become a topic of much discussion in town of late is the the lack of driving ability of the drivers who are for the most part, very young and very inexperienced. Accidents in and around town have occurred and one pedestrian outside of the village has already been struck and killed by a mototaxi. The municipality has tried to implement regulations for the mototaxis, but enforcement is lax.

Due to the accelerated deterioration of Honduras one and only lake, El Lago de Yojoa, the Honduran Congress has again attempted to take up the issue as to what to do about the problem. If the government is not careful to act forcefully and quickly, within a few years Honduras one and only lake may cease to exist, which would be a great shame and an economic and ecological nightmare for the country.

The Xibalba Bar, located just alongside of Hotel Camino Maya has changed hands again. Tanya of Twisted Tanyas fame has

**All About Roatan**

**Is There Life After A Shrimp Festival?**



Ms Suyappa Edwards did the nearly impossible. The First Annual International Shrimp Festival was a winner. Literally thousands of local residence coupled with hordes of visitors from La Ceiba, San Pedro Sula, Tegucigalpa, Utila and Guanaja came to Roatan for the event. It was better publicized than the Academy Awards and proved to be just what the island needed. A perfect family day that segued politely into a great night of entertainment and dancing for the adult set. Security was excellent and

taken over the lease and will open the place with a new name that for right now is labeled Top Secret by Miss Tanya. The bar which I still call X Bar for short ( because Xibalba is virtually unpronounceable ), may soon become the new place in town for happy hour festivities as Tanya brings a wealth of behind the bar experience and promises some surprises as well.

In today's Believe It Or Not Column.... did you know that San Pedro Sula which is the nation's second largest city with a population of some 3/4 of a million souls has exactly 65 traffic lights ... little wonder why there are so many accidents, fender benders and other assorted vehicular mishaps both great and small.

A recently held coffee tasting competition and online specialty coffee auction was held in Copan Ruinas at the Hotel Marina Copan. For those who think of Copan as a one attraction town, Copan is also a major coffee growing region and although it does not grow a lot of high quality, high altitude coffee, the Copan region does grow some solid, sturdy, rich mountain grown coffee which can be obtained freshly roasted and just ground here in the town of Copan Ruinas. Coffee tourism is also beginning to take hold in Copan with tourists opting to spend a few hours or an entire day up in the mountains visiting a coffee plantation and seeing the incredible amount of work which goes into brewing the worlds favorite brewed beverage.

According to coffee taster Tim Wendelboe of Norway, Honduran coffees have some of the most original flavors in all of Central America. Tasters at the Cup of Excellence event, noted that Honduran coffees reveal tastes of tropical fruits, strawberries, green apple, passion fruit, chocolate, honey and molasses amongst others.... and you though you were just drinking a plain old cup of coffee! For experienced tasters, coffees are like fine wines; Tim noted that some Honduran coffees are clean and sweet, comparable to drinking a cup of fine wine. The 20 something coffee taster offered the above insights in an interview with the La Prensa newspaper, rounding off the interview, Mr Wendelboe took a left turn from talking coffee and turned to the topic of Honduran women, stating that " In addition to good coffee, Honduras has very beautiful women. " ..... for those of us who call Honduras home I would say this Norwegian speaks the truth with great clarity and wisdom ... yes ... Honduras does have great coffee and even greater women... or is it... great women and even greater coffee? Well I guess that depends on which side of the espresso bar you are sitting on ... right!

Pizza Jims continues to move onward and upward in Copan's small world of dining and munching options. Shiny tiled counters, a new thatched roof and his recently inaugurated sacred toad jacuzzi/wishing fountain, Jims has become something of a local institution for expat locals and hungry gringo turistas looking for a hit of food just like dad cooked up at home. With his front and center gas fired Brazilian pizza oven and a well used good ole American BBQ grill Jim churns out good old stars and stripes food like pizza and subs complete with corn on the cob and cole slaw.

planning and control systems were on automatic. This event will go on the travel agents MUST-DO calendars. Congratulations Ms Suyappa to you and to all of your support organization.

### **Rumors, Chisme And Scuttle-Butt**

It seems the Wyndham House organization has bitten off another piece of paradise and are planning great things for the island installation. When these people make a move to a new destination you can be certain it was well planned and feasible.

That Mystery Store in Plaza Jackson utilized the high traffic situation at the Shrimp Festival to give a sneak preview to the public. The store will be the backdrop for the showing of plumbing and lighting fixtures, stainless steel appliances, stucco and paint products as well as imported and domestic furniture. They will have qualified interior decorators on site to assist with the beautifying of their clients new or existing dwellings. Target date for the opening is now set for July 9th, a Fourth of July party on Honduran time, ever so fashionably late.

A successful motorcycle sales and service operation is headed toward Roatan. Someone read our list of needed businesses and seized the opportunity.

There we hear there is yet another plan afoot to bring name entertainment to Coral Caye in the near future. Alcalde Jerry Hinds was seen at the Shrimp Festival enjoying himself and taking notes.

### **Taxi Anyone?**

The fleet of taxis that work so hard when the cruise ships visit but sit idle at other times all got their share of business. Shuttling partygoers going to, and coming from, Parrot Tree kept hundreds of them moving all day and night.

## Social Tourism

By MARCO CACERES  
projecthonduras.com

I'd like to give you a great example of the growth effect of social tourism. Back in 2003, a small "scouting team" from Church of the Holy Comforter in Vienna, Virginia visited Honduras. The group consisted of Fr. Lou Mattia, Audrey Wood, Hillary Wilson-DeGrazia, Liz Hargrove, and me. Our mission was to visit various projects of the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras.

During our week-long trip, the team traveled to San Pedro Sula, Tela, La Ceiba, Copan Ruinas, and Tegucigalpa. It visited churches that needed repair, communities that needed a church, orphanages that needed sponsorship for their children, and homes for youth that needed academic scholarships for their teenage students, and schools that needed funding, equipment and materials.

The goal of the team was to select a project or two for Holy Comforter to sponsor and begin to develop a direct relationship with the Diocese of Honduras. The team spent about \$5,500 on its mission, including airline tickets, lodging, food, transportation, souvenirs and fees, as well as monetary donations for some of the projects.

When team members returned to the US, it was clear that they had been inspired by the people they met, the places they saw, and social opportunities that they imagined for getting involved and making a difference. Everyone seemed filled with energy and enthusiastic about the idea of doing something in Honduras.

The team put together a 20-minute video of its trip and showed it several times to Holy Comforter's congregation. It was immediately clear that Holy Comforter would establish some sort of Honduras Mission Team that would be responsible for building on that first mission experience.

In 2004, Holy Comforter sent two teams to Honduras. The first team consisted of only two people. Its mission was to "scope out" the town of Copan Ruinas and make arrangements for another mission scheduled that summer. The second team arrived in June. It consisted of 30 people, including 20 from Holy Comforter and 10 from Hope Episcopal Church in Melbourne, Florida.

The summer mission in 2004 lasted 10 days and focused on leadership training for all of the Episcopal clergy and seminarians of Honduras, completing construction of a medical clinic, and developing relationships with various mission churches in the department of Copan. That team spent a total of approximately \$56,000 during its mission, including airline tickets, lodging, food, transportation, souvenirs and fees, as well as monetary donations for the projects.

Has anyone thought of "grounding" some of them when there are no ships in port or other important special events?

### The Galaxie Family Expands

A beautiful model of the new ferryboat terminal was unveiled to the public. Renderings of a catamaran hull luxury ferryboat now under construction were also shown. When this service is available, the airlines will do something to retain their clients and we will have more competition. This is a good thing.



### Property For Sale

**Beach Front Property** - 10 minutes East of La Ceiba at Boca Viaja. Best & most desirable beach in area. Approx 1.6 acres, cleared with mature trees. Several upscale beach homes in area. Asking \$89,000. Info & photos email FULL99MOON@AOL.COM or call 954 473 6927.

**La Casa de Cafe B&B, Copan Ruinas.** Copan's first Bed & Breakfast Inn. Ten rooms, private hot water bath, full breakfasts included in rate. Excellent complimentary Copan mtn grown coffee served all day. Lovely garden with panoramic views of the Copan River Valley & distant mtns of Guatemala, hammocks. Colonial charm, excellent service, bilingual hosts. Four blocks to downtown, close to all restaurants, museums & shops. A charming and comfortable base from which to explore the Mayan ruins of Copan. Recommended by Lonely Planet Central America, Footprint Guide Central America & Mexico, Rough Guide Central America,

This year, a two member scouting team from Holy Comforter visited Copan Ruinas for a few days in April. A second team consisting of 15 people will visit Copan Ruinas in July to participate in a 10-day mission to complete construction of the Church of the Holy Trinity in Santa Rita de Copan and provide construction support to the small Episcopal mission church in the village of Quebracho. The team, which includes seven individuals from the 2003 summer team, will follow up a January 2005 construction mission to the Church of the Holy Spirit by an 18-member team from Trinity Episcopal Church of Staunton, Virginia.

Holy Comforter is coordinating with Trinity and is also communicating with representatives of St. John's Episcopal Church in McLean, Virginia to plan future joint missions to Copan. You should be starting to get the picture by now. Little by little, Holy Comforter has become a regular and growing contributor of social tourists and development dollars to Honduras. It has all happened very quietly, without much fuss. But the social and economic impact is real.

Holy Comforter is solidifying its presence in Copan and spreading the word among other Episcopal churches in the Washington, DC area about the beauty of Honduras, the warmth of its people, and the tremendous amount of work that needs to be done. You can't ask for better marketing and better tourists.

And the great thing about it all is that Holy Comforter is only one of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of humanitarian and volunteer organizations from around the world that are engaged in similar efforts to support the people of Honduras.

This is social tourism.



Moon Handbook Honduras,  
 Honduras Adventures In Nature,  
 Open Road Honduras.

Information:

casacafe@hondutel.hn

casadecafe@mayanet.hn

<http://www.casadecafecopan.com/>

**158 acre farm and ecological sanctuary for sale. Borders Pico Bonito National Forest.** Has

cacao, citrus, bananas, pineapples, forest, 6 streams, waterfalls, 1/4 mile along river with swimming holes. Concrete block house built in 2000 needs interior finished. Shed. Mountain and Caribbean views. Asking \$100,000. e-mail:

treevrr@yahoo.com

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Quiet street, 5 blks from Central Park, all shops, restaurants, cafes, museums. Newly remodeled, 2 bdrm w/ 1 dbl bed in each bdrm, 1 bath w/ hot water, fully furnished, sleeper couch, full kitchen w/ all new appliances, all utensils, purified water, living room, dining room, maid service included, a/c, ceiling fans, color tv w/ cable, travel & Maya culture reference library, hammocks. Available for rental by the night, week, month.

<http://www.casajaguarcopan.com/>

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## All About Roatan

### Sneezes

Did you know that every second of every day there are an average of 3,482,000 people sneezing simultaneously? Fortunately they are not the same people over and over because magically nature spreads the work around. Some individuals of course contribute far more to the statistics than others, but we all do our share.

Another interesting fact is that one cannot successfully pull off a good healthy sneeze without closing ones eyes. Now this is a problem if you are driving a car or truck and you have to sneeze, your eyes are off the road for a few seconds at a time and a lot of people have a double sneeze condition and some even a triple or more seizure. This can add up to a full 8.5 seconds of blind driving, enough time for the road condition to change considerably.

I mention this because we had a taxi go off the road and end up in a ditch upside-down the other night and the driver blamed it on a multiple sneeze. The driver also admitted he was on his cell phone at the time and that contributed greatly to the chaos. Imagine what that episode sounded like to the person he was speaking with.

### About Residency

Over and over we find foreigners wanting to open a bank account in Honduras. They come down quite frequently and want to establish a way to transfer funds and conduct business here. One hears it can be done with just a passport in hand. I do not agree as I have spoken directly to the Branch Managers of all three of the major banks on Roatan and they say no, there must be an



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application for residency pending and a Constantia issued. With that document some banks will do the deed. To get that you absolutely must have your birth certificate and your police records from the community in which you have been living, then file an official request, I suggest, through a reputable attorney. There are several categories of residency and that is another reason you should speak with a Honduran attorney for the details. If you are going to work and play on Roatan you should start the process, it will open many doors for you.

### **Roatan International Shrimp Festival**

By the time you read this article the Festival will be history. Over five thousand people are expected to attend and not all from island residence or visitors. The buzz is all around, Utila is talking shrimp, Guanaja and La Ceiba are talking shrimp and some industries travel agencies are selling packages all over the world. The booths are set up, the designated areas are formed and waiting for the final touches. Restaurants are gathering supplies and no doubt the dancing set are practicing their Punta steps. HONDURAS THIS WEEK will have an information booth and will cover the event in detail. BAY ISLAND VOICE has commissioned Doctor Von to do an in person investigation and write a feature article about the days events. The good Doctor has all but agreed to do an autograph session sometime during the early evening hours. Doctor Von is a local celebrity who everyone knows but cannot quite place the face.

## **Social Tourism**

By MARCO CÁCERES  
projecthonduras.com

During the past year, projecthonduras.com has been developing a relationship with the International Institute of Tourism Studies (IITS) at George Washington University in Washington, DC. We have identified a common interest in the phenomenon of "volunteer tourism" (or "voluntourism")... which is essentially the same as our "social tourism".

This relationship has matured through a number of informal meetings in Washington, as well as through our participation in VolunTours' second annual Voluntourism conference on February 2, 2005.

Because social tourism is a growing niche within the tourism market, the IITS has a keen interest in tracking it and developing a better understanding of it. Our interest in looking at social tourism, on the other hand, has to do with creating an incentives system that would encourage humanitarian and volunteer workers to keep traveling to Honduras and actively promote the country to their friends, relatives, colleagues, and acquaintances. In order to encourage businesses in Honduras to help create this incentives system by offering discounted rates, we first have to quantify the economic contribution of these social tourists.

to explore the Mayan ruins of Copan. Recommended by Lonely Planet Central America, Footprint Guide Central America & Mexico, Rough Guide Central America, Moon Handbook Honduras, Honduras Adventures In Nature, Open Road Honduras.

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We have estimated that the social tourism segment of the tourism market in Honduras accounts for about one-quarter of tourism-related revenue each year. This one-quarter equals approximately \$75-100 million. However, our estimates are based on very "rough" statistics and incomplete data.

Projecthonduras.com is now working with the IITS to refine our study of social tourism's impact in Honduras. We would like to present more solid, detailed data regarding this matter during the Social Tourism Segment of the Conference on Honduras 2005 (<http://www.projecthonduras.com/conference>).

During June 23 - July 1, the IITS and projecthonduras.com will provide a simple online survey consisting of no more than 12 questions. The survey is being designed by a group of students from the IITS, led by Zachary Rozga. It will help analyze the economic impact of social tourism in advance of the Conference on Honduras, where the findings will be released.

If you are a member of a group that sponsors missions (medical, construction, evangelism, water, education, etc.) to Honduras, we ask that you take a few minutes to thoughtfully fill out the online survey. If you are the organizer/director of one of these groups, please spread the word about the survey to members of your teams and encourage them to participate. The survey should take no more than 5-10 minutes.

Remember, the goal is to be able to quantify the economic worth of social tourism to Honduras. Social tourists already have a good idea of the impact they are making to the communities they serve through their contribution of time, experience, expertise, and talents. We now need to understand the total value of their presence, so that we can use that information to help build mutually beneficial partnerships with the business sector in Honduras.

If you are interested in participating in the IITS/projecthonduras.com survey, e-mail [hondopost.com](mailto:hondopost.com).  
Selected Upcoming Missions to Honduras

June 24-July 3, 2005

Christian Medical & Dental Associations ([www.cmdahome.org](http://www.cmdahome.org)) of Bristol, Tennessee, will sponsor a medical/dental mission to Santa Rita de Copan (Copan) during June 24-July 3, 2005.. Contact: Dale Holloway, [gho@cmdahome.org](mailto:gho@cmdahome.org)

June 26-July 2, 2005 / El Progreso

First United Methodist Church ([www.vanalstynefumc.org](http://www.vanalstynefumc.org)) of Van Alstyne, Texas, will join a Honduran team in a medical/dental mission and Vacation Bible School in El Progreso (Yoro) during June 26-July 2, 2005. The parish of Nuestra Senora de Suyapa and First United have a sister church relationship. Contact: Karen Howarton, [photokcook@msn.com](mailto:photokcook@msn.com)

July 1-10, 2005 / Copan Ruinas

Church of the Holy Comforter ([www.holycomforter.com](http://www.holycomforter.com)) of Vienna, Virginia, will send a 20-member youth mission team to Copan

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Ruinas during July 1-10, 2005 to help complete construction of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Santa Rita and provide operational support for the La Esperanza medical clinic in Copan Ruinas.

Contact: Fr. Lou Mattia, [lmattia@holycorforter.com](mailto:lmattia@holycorforter.com)

July 2-9, 2005 / San Pedro Sula  
Honduras Baptist Medical Dental Mission  
([www.medicaldental.org](http://www.medicaldental.org)) of Laurel, Mississippi, will sponsor a medical/dental mission to San Pedro Sula (Cortes) during July 2-9, 2005. Contact: Larry Murphey, [Larrym2710@aol.com](mailto:Larrym2710@aol.com)

July 2-9, 2005 / Tegucigalpa  
Lovers Lane United Methodist Church of Dallas, Texas, will send a 20-25 member mission team to work in Hope for Honduras, Inc.'s ([www.hopeforhonduras.org](http://www.hopeforhonduras.org)) the Nueva España de Mogote neighborhood of Tegucigalpa (Francisco Morazan) during July 2-9, 2005.

The work will vary from construction & repair and feeding children to medical care and evangelism. Contact: Ron and Shelley Jones, [hondoron@multivisionhn.net](mailto:hondoron@multivisionhn.net)



Monday, June 13, 2005 Online Edition 23

## Copan Update

Usually the ruins of Copan are open 12/365 .. that's 12 months .... 365 days a year .... which is great for visitors as they never have to be concerned about the ruins being closed on the day they happen to visit. However this past Monday the ruins were closed for the day as the Chorti Maya Indians who live scattered in mountain villages near Copan took to the gates of the archeological site, blocking access to the park, demanding the government in Tegucigalpa pay more attention to their demands. Unfortunately this is not the first time the Chortis have taken to blocking access to the park. Luckily for all concerned, the government immediately choppered in a delegation to meet with the Chortis and apparently an agreement was hammered out in quick order, thus by Tuesday the ruins were open for business as usual.

## Social Tourism

By MARCO CACERES  
[projecthonduras.com](http://projecthonduras.com)

Within the next few weeks, humanitarian and volunteer workers traveling to Honduras by air will be greeted at the country's four major airports (Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba, and Roatan) by banners thanking them for their efforts to help the people of Honduras. Each of the blue and

Looking for quick, inexpensive and efficient transport to and from Guatemala - Copan Ruinas? Well check out the shuttle services of Monarcas Travel which runs a great shuttle service daily. The shuttle leaves at 2pm from Copan Ruinas and takes you direct to Guatemala City and Antigua. From Antigua the shuttle departs at the downright horrific hour of 4am .. however the upside of the early am departure is that you will arrive in Copan by 10am or so, with plenty of time to see the sights and take advantage of the day. Info contact [www.mayabus.com](http://www.mayabus.com) [info@mayabus.com](mailto:info@mayabus.com)

Great news for those of us expats who call Honduras home ... finally resident foreigners in Honduras will be receiving a brand spanking new, honest to goodness foreign resident card. No longer will we have to carry around a resident card which looks like it was handmade by a high school student. the new card will be a high security document which will include personal data, migration status, digital photo, and other info ... and best of all the card will be valid for five years which is wonderful news since now the current system requires foreigners to renew their resident card each and every year.

Omoa is getting a brand new paved access road to the beach which will link Omoa with the new Puerto Cortez - Corinto highway, CA-13 which is currently under construction. Omoa currently has a dirt road linking the highway and the beach. Omoa is primarily a weekend destination for hot and sweaty families from San Pedro Sula who pile into anything on wheels to escape the city heat and get a little beachside R&R for a day. As Omoa is primarily a destination for locals, quality tourist infrastructure is sorely lacking. Although there are a number of reasonably priced hotels and beachside restaurants, they are mostly geared towards the low end local market, not to the upscale foreign tourist. One exception is Rolis Place which has been around for many years catering to the foreign backpacker market. He offers up cheap accommodations, free use of sea kayaks and bicycles and the atmosphere is informal and laid back. He is currently renovating a house next door which will have some nicer rooms with private bath, one even with a/c. With the completion of CA-13, the Omoa area may make some moves onward and upward in terms of tourism. Access between San Pedro Sula and the Corinto border with Guatemala will be quick and easy. Guatemalans in particular are interested in investing in the area as Guatemala lacks a substantial Caribbean coast on which to develop large tourism projects. Press reports in Honduras indicate that the Spanish based Barcelo resort chain is ready to invest in an all inclusive resort outside of Omoa, but as of yet construction has not started. Common sense has it that with the largest metropolitan area in the country nearby; the San Pedro Sula, El Progreso, Villanueva, Choloma, Puerto Cortez corridor which combined has an approximate population of some 1 million, there are plenty of potential sun worshippers and beach goers who are looking for something nice in terms of a well run, value priced beach resort nearby. As of right now there is not one, foreign owned, world class Caribbean resort on the North Coast which is a shame as Honduras boasts some of the most pristine and lovely extensions of beach in Central America.

The long awaited Tela Bay project near Tela may change this however. The government has placed their bets on attracting a number of

green "spiders" will read... Welcome Volunteers, Honduras appreciates your helping hands."

The campaign is an effort by [projecthonduras.com](http://projecthonduras.com) and the Institute of Tourism to begin to express their appreciation to the hundreds (perhaps thousands) of groups that visit Honduras each year to donate their time, expertise, experience, and talents to implement grassroots projects to empower the most disadvantaged segments of the country's population.

The number of individuals and organizations going to Honduras to provide assistance has noticeably increased since Hurricane Mitch hit in 1998... a classic example of a "blessing-in-disguise" tragedy. On any given flight to or from the country, you can count on about one quarter of the passengers belonging to medical brigades, church missions, university student teams, or some other type of group involved in social service activities.

These "social tourists" provide tremendous material and moral support to the poor, and I think Honduras must do all it can to ensure that they keep coming back year after year, and are also inspired to recruit their friends, relatives, colleagues, and acquaintances to join them. With an enthusiastic army of tens of thousands of humanitarian and volunteer workers traveling to Honduras each year and coordinating via the [projecthonduras.com](http://projecthonduras.com) online network, Honduras is pioneering an alternative model of development that relies less on financial capital and more on "human capital".

Everything possible should be done to grow this

foreign resorts on a stretch of beach near the Garifuna village of Tornabe. The planned tourism development includes resort hotels, condominiums, commercial areas, recreational areas, ecotourism, etc. Tela has one of the finest stretches of Caribbean coastal beach in the country and the nearby Punta Sal and Punto Izopo Coastal National Parks have great ecotourism potential. As well the Lancetilla Botanical Gardens are just minutes away as well. All this within an hour or so drive of the San Pedro Sula metropolitan corridor.

## All About Roatan

The numbers are in. The largest industry on Roatan is the construction industry. It is by far the most productive activity as far as employment, tax contributions and trickle down effects go. What feeds this group? The real estate industry with their land sales, the tourist industry with the bringing of potential investors and retirees to the island and the natural beauty and resources of the island.

How long will this building boom last, no one knows but guess-ti-mates range from ten to twenty five years. Is it being controlled? Yes, with strict zoning laws and building regulations and conscientious developers and contractors running the show, the environment will be protected and the skyline kept clean.

### The Shrimp Festival

The question has been asked is this a big party for a lot of little people? No, it is a lavish well-planned gathering around the Parrot Tree Lagoon bringing many different shrimp and seafood cooking to the public. There will be information booths representing local businesses and organizations and there will be almost too much entertainment all day and well into the night. It is this next weekend, Sunday the 19th.

### How's the Weather

Just about perfect in anyone's book. Sunny with gentle breezes and an occasional light rainfall, just enough to keep the dust down. It should be perfect for the Festival.

### A New Must Have

Bay Islands Marketing has just released the 2005 edition of their SMART pages, a really handy phone book for the island. With no information service available from the phone companies and no other phone books on the market this little gadget fills the communications gap. It contains some beautifully orchestrated full page color ads, a map of the Bay Islands, a map of Honduras, a map of Roatan, some important phone numbers covering emergency agencies, country codes, embassies and consulate offices and then, company names listed by categories. Don't stay at home without one. Call 455 7841 and ask for Sandra.

### A Sleeping Giant Awakens

Plaza Jackson in French Harbor is coming to life in a big way. It now

"unconventional movement" to change Honduras for the better and enable it to exit its cycles of bad times and less bad times. Publicly saying "thanks" is certainly a good place to start.

Note that social tourists also spend a fair amount of money in Honduras. We estimate that the social tourism segment of the country's tourism market accounts for about \$75-100 million in revenue annually. Social tourists buy airline tickets, stay in hotels, take taxis, visit museums and parks, eat in restaurants, and purchase souvenirs.

So while it is to the advantage of Honduras' poor that social tourists remain passionate about Honduras, it is in the country's economic interest as well.

One of the features of Conference on Honduras in Copan Ruinas during October 20-23, 2005 will be a Social Tourism Workshop designed to bring representatives of Honduras' tourism industry together to brainstorm a strategy for creating an alliance between them and social tourists that guarantees a growing volume of business for the former and discounted rates for the latter.

If you are interested in participating in this workshop or attending the conference in general, please e-mail [hondopost@yahoo.com](mailto:hondopost@yahoo.com) or see <http://www.projecthonduras.com/conference>.

### Upcoming Missions to Honduras

June 17-25, 2005 St. Aloysius Parish ([www.aloyusius.org](http://www.aloyusius.org)) of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, will sponsor a mission team to Flores (Comayagua) to provide support for Mission to Honduras ([www.missionhonduras.com](http://www.missionhonduras.com)) schools and orphanages during

sports paint and window supplier, a couple-three real estate companies, a meat market, a toy store, a law office, a computer store and a mystery store. Work is going on day and nighttime inside one of the larger spaces. There are arches and pillars and cement forms going in place. No one really knows what it will be when it grows up but it sure looks interesting. More information to follow.



#### Property For Sale

**Beach Front Property** - 10 minutes East of La Ceiba at Boca Viaja. Best & most desirable beach in area. Approx 1.6 acres, cleared with mature trees. Several upscale beach homes in area. Asking \$89,000. Info & photos email FULL99MOON@AOL.COM or call 954 473 6927.

**La Casa de Cafe B&B, Copan Ruinas.** Copans first Bed & Breakfast Inn. Ten rooms, private hot water bath, full breakfasts included in rate. Excellent complimentary Copan mtn grown coffee served all day. Lovely garden with panoramic views of the Copan River Valley & distant mtns of Guatemala, hammocks. Colonial charm, excellent service, bilingual hosts. Four blocks to downtown, close to all restaurants, museums & shops. A charming and comfortable base from which to explore the Mayan ruins of Copan. Recommended by Lonely Planet Central America, Footprint Guide Central America & Mexico, Rough Guide Central America, Moon Handbook Honduras, Honduras Adventures In Nature, Open Road Honduras. Information: casacafe@hondutel.hn casadecafe@mayanet.hn <http://www.casadecafecopan.com/>

**158 acre farm and ecological sanctuary for sale. Borders Pico Bonito National Forest.** Has cacao, citrus, bananas, pineapples, forest, 6 streams, waterfalls, 1/4 mile along river with swimming holes. Concrete block house built in 2000 needs interior finished. Shed. Mountain and Caribbean views. Asking \$100,000. e-mail: treevrr@yahoo.com

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June 17-25, 2005. Contact: Ross McCalip, RMccalip@aol.com

June 18-25, 2005 / San Pedro Sula Honduras Baptist Medical Dental Mission (www.medicaldental.org) of Laurel, Mississippi, will sponsor a medical/dental mission to San Pedro Sula (Cortes) during June 18-25, 2005. Contact: Peter Bernstein, quijoteps@juno.comso

June 18-26, 2005 A medical mission team from Chester United Methodist Church organized by The Friends of Barnabas Foundation (www.fobf.org) of Chesterfield, Virginia, will visit Honduras during June 18-26, 2005. Contact: Erin Caldwell at (804) 706-5663 or Rev. Linwood Cook, friendsofbarnabas@hotmail.com

June 24-July 3, 2005 / Santa Rita de Copan Christian Medical & Dental Associations (www.cmdahome.org) of Bristol, Tennessee, will sponsor a medical/dental mission to Santa Rita de Copan (Copan) during June 24-July 3, 2005. Contact: Dale Holloway, gho@cmdahome.org

June 26-July 2, 2005 / El Progreso First United Methodist Church (www.vanalstynefumc.org) of Van Alstyne, Texas, will join a Honduran team in a medical/dental mission and Vacation Bible School in El Progreso (Yoro) during June 26-July 2, 2005. The parish of Nuestra Senora de Suyapa and First United have a sister church relationship. Contact: Karen Howerton, photokcook@msn.com

serve you? <http://www.honduguide.com/>

**Copan Ruinas, Casa Jaguar Rental Home.** Charming & comfortable village residence. Quiet street, 5 blks from Central Park, all shops, restaurants, cafes, museums. Newly remodeled, 2 bdrm w/ 1 dbl bed in each bdrm, 1 bath w/ hot water, fully furnished, sleeper couch, full kitchen w/ all new appliances, all utensils, purified water, living room, dining room, maid service included, a/c, ceiling fans, color tv w/ cable, travel & Maya culture reference library, hammocks. Available for rental by the night, week, month. <http://www.casajaguarcopan.com/>

For rates & reservations [casacafe@hondutel.hn](mailto:casacafe@hondutel.hn)  
[casadecafe@mayanet.hn](mailto:casadecafe@mayanet.hn)

**Roatan OnLine: Guide to Roatan in the Bay Islands of Honduras.**

For Roatan Hotels, Vacation Rentals, Diving, Real Estate, and More. Pictures of beaches, Copan Ruinas and other mainland Honduras and Roatan locations; underwater pictures and Caribbean recipes, too. <http://www.roatanonline.com/>

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Monday, June 6, 2005 Online Edition 22

## Copan Update

Copan's newest form of mass transit are its mototaxis or tuk-tuks (just listen to them as they chug by and you will know why they call them tuk-tuks) as some call them. They are small, easy on gas, can hold up to 4 passengers and are very popular amongst local townfolk and tourists alike. For a modest fare of Lps 5, one can tool around the village and nearby outlying areas without having to hoof it.

Previously there was exactly one real, honest to goodness taxi in town... there are now some 70 or so mototaxis in town. At first the number of mototaxis were modest and business was brisk, however now the number of mototaxis has mushroomed exponentially and some fear that there are just plain too many of them for such a small market like Copan. Another issue which has become a topic of much discussion in town of late is the lack of driving ability of the drivers who are for the most part, very young and very inexperienced. Accidents in and around town have occurred and one pedestrian outside of the village has already been struck and killed by a mototaxi. The municipality has tried to implement regulations for the mototaxis, but enforcement is lax.

## Social Tourism

By MARCO CÁ CERES  
[projecthonduras.com](http://projecthonduras.com)

During the month of May, at least thirteen groups from the US visited Honduras to perform a variety of volunteer and research work. Most of the missions lasted about a week each and focused on providing either medical, dental, or construction services. Areas visited included El Cruce, Guaimaca, Ocote Paulino, Puerto Lempira, San Pedro Sula, Talanga, Tamara, Tamarindo, Tegucigalpa, Teñidero, Utila, and Villa Nueva.

We would like to thank Antioch New England Graduate School of Keene, NH; Christian Medical & Dental

Due to the accelerated deterioration of Honduras one and only lake, El Lago de Yojoa, the Honduran Congress has again attempted to take up the issue as to what to do about the problem. If the government is not careful to act forcefully and quickly, within a few years Honduras one and only lake may cease to exist, which would be a great shame and an economic and ecological nightmare for the country.

The Xibalba Bar, located just alongside of Hotel Camino Maya has changed hands again. Tanya of Twisted Tanya's fame has taken over the lease and will open the place with a new name that for right now is labeled Top Secret by Miss Tanya. The bar which I still call X Bar for short (because Xibalba is virtually unpronounceable), may soon become the new place in town for happy hour festivities as Tanya brings a wealth of behind the bar experience and promises some surprises as well.

In today's Believe It Or Not Column.... did you know that San Pedro Sula which is the nation's second largest city with a population of some 3/4 of a million souls has exactly 65 traffic lights ... little wonder why there are so many accidents, fender benders and other assorted vehicular mishaps both great and small.

A recently held coffee tasting competition and online specialty coffee auction was held in Copan Ruinas at the Hotel Marina Copan. For those who think of Copan as a one attraction town, Copan is also a major coffee growing region and although it does not grow a lot of high quality, high altitude coffee, the Copan region does grow some solid, sturdy, rich mountain grown coffee which can be obtained freshly roasted and just ground here in the town of Copan Ruinas. Coffee tourism is also beginning to take hold in Copan with tourists opting to spend a few hours or an entire day up in the mountains visiting a coffee plantation and seeing the incredible amount of work which goes into brewing the world's favorite brewed beverage.

According to coffee taster Tim Wendelboe of Norway, Honduran coffees have some of the most original flavors in all of Central America. Tasters at the Cup of Excellence event, noted that Honduran coffees reveal tastes of tropical fruits, strawberries, green apple, passion fruit, chocolate, honey and molasses amongst others... and you though you were just drinking a plain old cup of coffee! For experienced tasters, coffees are like fine wines; Tim noted that some Honduran coffees are clean and sweet, comparable to drinking a cup of fine wine. The 20 something coffee taster offered the above insights in an interview with the La Prensa newspaper, rounding off the interview, Mr Wendelboe took a left turn from talking coffee and turned to the topic of Honduran women, stating that " In addition to good coffee, Honduras has very beautiful women. " ... for those of us who call Honduras home I would say this Norwegian speaks the truth with great clarity and wisdom ... yes ... Honduras does have great coffee and even greater women ... or is it ... great women and even greater coffee? Well I guess that depends on which side of the espresso bar you are sitting on ... right!

Associations of Bristol, TN; Georgia Institute of Technology of Atlanta, GA; Life Church of Stillwater, OK; Middle Tennessee State University of Murfreesboro, TN; Send Hope of Allen, TX; Sonora Baptist Church of Sonora, AK; and Southeastern Louisiana University of Baton Rouge, LA; Torch Missions of New Orleans, LA; Trinity Church of Grand Prairie, TX; United Methodist Church of Danville, VA; Vineyard Church of Orlando, FL; and Water Ministry of West Texas.

These churches, medical brigade organizations, and university accounted for approximately 200 social tourists which stayed an average of seven days in Honduras. If you assume spending of \$1,200 for each person (for airfare, lodging, food, ground transportation, souvenirs, fees), we estimate a total of \$240,000 in tourism revenue generated by these groups last month. The figure does not account for funds, supplies and materials donated to the communities served or the value of the services rendered.

For the month of June, we count at least 21 missions to Honduras planned, including medical, dental, and construction teams sponsored by Christian Medical & Dental Associations and Torch Missions, as well as Chester United Methodist Church of Chester, VA; First United Methodist Church of Van Alstyne, TX; Holy Spirit Episcopal Church of Baton Rouge, LA; Honduras Baptist Medical Dental Mission of Laurel, MS; Medical Ministry International of Allen, TX; MEDICO of Georgetown, TX; North Avenue Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, GA; St. Alysius Parish of Baton Rouge, LA; St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Seguin, TX; St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Jackson, TN; St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Brookline, MA; St. Paul's Episcopal Church of White River Junction, VT; Trinity Episcopal Church of Vero Beach, FL; and

Pizza Jims continues to move onward and upward in Copan's small world of dining and munching options. Shiny tiled counters, a new thatched roof and his recently inaugurated sacred toad jacuzzi/wishing fountain, Jims has become something of a local institution for expat locals and hungry gringo turistas looking for a hit of food just like dad cooked up at home. With his front and center gas fired Brazilian pizza oven and a well used good ole American BBQ grill Jim churns out good old stars and stripes food like pizza and subs complete with corn on the cob and cole slaw.

## All About Roatan

### Chat Topics

There are a multitude of chat groups that focus on Roatan and its happenings. The participants will start with a subject and everyone puts in their two cents worth and soon it blossoms into a knockdown, drag-out situation with lots of emotions going back and forth. The most recent one was all about Roatan and its many attorneys. The good, bad and the just O.K., were discussed openly with name-calling and everything.

I was reminded of the man who entered a bar one night and shouted for everyone to hear, 'lawyers are butt-heads'. Most people cheered and toasted their glasses but one man stood up tall and said, "I resent that remark." The man doing the shouting said ohh, are you a lawyer to which the man replied, "No, I am a butt-head.

I guess they take a lot of flack on the joke circuit but I have found several who do an exemplary job here on Roatan. They are sometimes made to appear super slow but it is usually always due to the legal process they must follow. Everything is done through records, postings and governmental agencies and they simply must wait their turn. All things considered, we are fortunate to have them on the island or nothing would ever get done. Without their services land transfers would take forever and acquiring your residency papers would be impossible.

Land matters are being expedited as of late because of the services offered by Stewart Title Company and First American Title Companies. They have been working in Belize and Honduras for some time now and a land buyer can now feel confident there will be no title issues down the road if they use their services. Rates are competitive and most attorneys can work with them.

### Freight Issues

Being on an island always complicates lives especially in the freight and transportation categories. Fortunately Roatan is serviced on a regular basis by two excellent freight companies. Hybur shipping and Jackson Shipping run between the United States and Roatan on a weekly basis, and their rates are very competitive. Moving product or building supplies from the Spanish Main to the island is also handled daily, by a company known as Island Shipping, a big freight boat called the Gibraltar and many

Trinity Mission Works of Gulfport, MS.

For information about the June missions, please see <http://www.projecthonduras.com/missions> or e-mail the author of this article at [hondopost@yahoo.com](mailto:hondopost@yahoo.com).



### Property For Sale

#### FOR SALE

#### **72.57 ha. 179 acs. at Pueblo Nuevo, Petoa, Santa Barbara.**

Hwy and River frontage. Deposits of Calcium Carbonate, Iron Oxide and a Gold mine. 2 bd. 1 ba. Block House, Corrals, etc.

\$25,000.00. Call 956-350-4405  
e-mail [douglatimer@att.net](mailto:douglatimer@att.net).  
Brokers welcome.

**Beach Front Poperty** - 10 minutes East of La Ceiba at Boca Viaja. Best & most desirable beach in area. Approx 1.6 acres, cleared with mature trees. Several upscale beach homes in area. Asking \$89,000. Info & photos email [FULL99MOON@AOL.COM](mailto:FULL99MOON@AOL.COM) or call 954 473 6927.

**La Casa de Cafe B&B, Copan Ruinas.** Copans first Bed & Breakfast Inn. Ten rooms, private hot water bath, full breakfasts included in rate. Excellent complimentary Copan mtn grown coffee served all day. Lovely garden with panoramic views of the Copan River Valley & distant mtns of Guatemala, hammocks. Colonial charm, excellent service, bilingual hosts. Four blocks to downtown, close to all restaurants, museums & shops. A charming and comfortable base from which to explore the Mayan ruins of

smaller craft coming out of La Ceiba or Porte Cortez. Coming from La Ceiba to Roatan you will find the Galaxy ferryboat that also carries certain freight items and is very inexpensive.

If time is a factor Sosa, Atlantic Air and Islana come in and out several times each day. You can have your item flown over within hours. This is of course a little expensive but sometimes the only way to go.

#### Professionalism

We mentioned the formation of a Board of Realtors on Roatan. They now boast many members and have put together a fine organization specializing in improving service to their clients. One focus of the group is business ethics and rumor has it that there are big improvements in that area.

#### Another New Convenience

There is a brand new Western Union office staffed with lovely ladies just waiting to handle your money transactions. Enter the main road to Coxen Hole and when you hit Main Street cross it and park. The three-story building to your right houses this modern facility. Friendly staff and air-conditioned.

Thinking of Visiting Copan Ruinas?  
 Don't make a move until you  
 check out CopanRuinas.com!  
 Hotels, Tours, Shopping,  
 Discounts, Restaurants,  
 Real Estate, classifieds, and more!  
**www.CopanRuinas.com**



Copan. Recommended by Lonely Planet Central America, Footprint Guide Central America & Mexico, Rough Guide Central America, Moon Handbook Honduras, Honduras Adventures In Nature, Open Road Honduras.

Information:

casacafe@hondutel.hn

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Charming & comfortable village residence. Quiet street, 5 blks from Central Park, all shops, restaurants, cafes, museums. Newly remodeled, 2 bdrm w/ 1 dbl bed in each bdrm, 1 bath w/ hot water, fully furnished, sleeper couch, full kitchen w/ all new appliances, all utensils, purified water, living room, dining room, maid service included, a/c, ceiling fans, color tv w/ cable, travel & Maya culture reference library, hammocks. Available for rental by the night, week, month.

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For rates & reservations

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