

# Venture News

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### TAREIG In the News

## NEW TOURS AT CAMINO DEL RIO

Belize tourism represents approximately 17% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and is the second largest revenue producer outside of its agriculture base. With all the great eco-adventure, history seeking, and water sport fun being promoted, Camino Del Rio in the Franks Eddy village is now joining the popular tourism industry.

Situated along the Caves Branch River in central Belize, the area is the prime location for river and cave tubing. Many visitors come to Belize to enjoy the natural surroundings. On the mainland, zip-lining, tubing, hiking, Mayan ruin visits and butterfly farms are amongst the popular tours that cruise vacationers are enjoying.

North Americans and European travelers contribute to this base with December through June as the popular times for visitors.

At Camino Del Rio, herb hikes, jungle walks, and bird



**A new tree based bird-watching tower under construction**

watching tours are now being offered and promoted. The tours are guided by Camino's onsite Manager, Mr. Hilario Mes, who is an experienced

and licensed tour guide. The Camino tours are unique with the open space and jungle walks that provide for an educational and recreational experience. The tallest bird-watching tower in the country is also being constructed onsite that will provide for great bird seeking and mountain views.

As an added value tour to current local operators that primarily focus on the popular cave tubing in the area, this will provide an additional revenue source and an ability to show-off more of the country's natural resources. A new website that highlights the herb and jungle tours is available online at [www.belizehiking.com](http://www.belizehiking.com).

### Local/Country News

## ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN BELIZE

The Belize Minister of Works, Anthony Martinez, has initiated many upgrades and improvements to the country's road infrastructure to enhance road safety during the past few months. New equipment purchases have provided for more capacity to effectively complete the work. The new project has created over 300 hundred jobs in the area. The roadwork includes repairs along the following

areas:

- Raising the Northern Highway from Belize City area to Ladyville to repair the damage from the recent flooding;
- Resurfacing the Western Highway from Belize City to Belmopan, especially near mile-marker 35-36, where there are a few slick areas;
- Installation of culverts and raising of the Placencia Road to prevent flooding dur-

ing the rainy season;

- Completing the last 15 miles of the Southern Highway;
- In the Belize City downtown area, new sidewalks, paved roads, new drains and modernization of the traffic and street lights.

Most of these new improvements are expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

## Project Spotlight MAHOGANY HARDWOOD ONSITE AND IN YOUR HOME

Mahogany wood –one of Belize’s jewels

Mahogany woods ranks amongst the finest cabinet woods with its exceptionally stable and clear properties. The pride of South America, this tree grows to over 150 feet with a trunk diameter over 72 inches. It is typically grown in Central and Tropical South America; including Bolivia, Brazil, Belize, and Nicaragua.



**Mahogany Tree in Belize**

The name mahogany is used when referring to numerous varieties of dark-colored hardwood, originally the wood of the species *Swietenia mahagoni*, known as West Indian or Cuban mahogany. Today, all species of *mahogany* are protected and are widely planted for their timber.

Mahogany is the national tree of Dominican Republic and Belize and appears on the national seal of Belize.

Mahogany has a generally straight grain and is usually free of voids and pockets. It has a reddish-brown color, which darkens over time, and displays a beautiful reddish sheen when polished. It has excellent workability, and is very durable. The size of the trees meant that wide boards were once available (and still are of the non-endangered varieties). These properties make it a favorable wood for crafting furniture.

Belize's economy was founded on the forestry products and logging. Settlers in Belize created many small timber works along rivers, creeks, and lagoons in order to conveniently export the cut logwood, which was the country's first exported product. Eventually exporting mahogany turned out to be more profitable.

Until the middle of the 20th century, mahogany commanded the political, social, and economic life of Belize. In the 18th century, mahogany wood was considered valuable by many workers in many different trades, including European cabinet makers, shipbuilders, and builders of railroad carriers. The forests of Belize were rich in mahogany, and the British settlers were anxious to begin cutting the precious wood. Because mahogany took more work, land, and money to log than logwood, settlements in Belize underwent some drastic changes.

In the middle of the 20th century, the foundation of Belize's economy shifted from the forestry industry to plantation-style agriculture with the cultivation of citrus and bananas in the south and sugarcane in the north. Today, the main segments of Belize's economy are agriculture, service, and tourism industry. These three areas generate the most in foreign exchange earnings. Belize's primary trading partners are the United States and the United Kingdom. Environmental resources like land, water, and forests are great strengths of the Belizean economy, creating great opportunities for eco-tourism.

Even today, mahogany's most popular uses include furniture, cabinets, guitars and other musical instruments, interiors, boat building, trim, entry doors, and stairs. Much of the first-quality furniture made in the American colonies from the mid 1700s, when the wood first became available to American furniture makers, was made of mahogany. Since mahogany resists wood rot, it suitable for boat construction.

Bring the warmth of Mahogany Wood into your house and make it a home you can be proud of.

### PHOTO GALLERY- *Mahogany wood onsite at a Camino Del Rio home*

**Closet and entrance doors**



**Stairways**

**Bathroom and kitchen cabinets**



Visit [www.caminodelriobelize.com](http://www.caminodelriobelize.com) for more information about the Camino Del Rio project and sustainable 'green' living. Own your piece of paradise in Belize.

## Adventure Activity Spotlight SNORKELING THE CARIBBEAN

Where's the best snorkeling in the Caribbean?

**Antigua** is considered a snorkeler's dream. Most of its lovely beaches open onto clear, calm waters populated by rainbow-hued tropical fish. The marine life offshore is particularly dense, including colorful sea anemones (jellyfish like sea creatures). The rich types of different elk and brain coral make snorkeling particularly rewarding.

The **Bonaire** Marine Park has all the attributes that make it a world-class snorkeling destination. Snorkelers can wade from the shores off their hotels to the reefs and view a large array of coral and colorful fish. In particular, the reefs just off Klein Bonaire and the Washington-Slagbaai National Park receive rave reviews.

The **Grand Cayman's** Stingray City is an easy diving site that can also be seen while snorkeling. It's an extraordinary experience to meet the dozens of tame, gentle stingrays that glide around you in the warm, crystal-clear waters.



**Snorkel to get a closer look amongst the fish**

In the **Curaçao** Underwater Marine Park, in contrast to Curaçao's arid terrain, the marine life that rings the island is rich and spectacular. The best-known snorkeling sites stretch for 20km (12 miles) along Curaçao's southern coastline, and there are many other highly desirable sites as well. Sunken ships, gardens of hard and soft coral, and millions of fish are a snorkeler's treat.

The best snorkeling on the **St. Martin** island lies on the French side, where the government religiously protects the calm waters, which are populated with schools of brilliantly colored fish. Find a tiny cove and explore the shallow reefs along its shores, especially in the northeastern underwater nature reserve.

Every island in the **Grenadines** offers great snorkeling possibilities right off magnificent white-sandy beaches. In most places you'll have the waters to yourself. A reef stretching for 1.5km (1 mile) along the island of

Canouan invites snorkelers, and the waters are filled with beautiful brain coral and rainbow-hued fish. The snorkeling is also good at Palm Island and Petit St. Vincent.

Enormous colonies of marine life inhabit the shallow, sun-dappled waters off the **Tobago** coastline facing Venezuela. Buccoo Reef is especially noteworthy, and many local entrepreneurs offer snorkeling cruises.

Although the island of **Turks and Caicos** is known primarily as one of the world's best dive sites, it also provides a number of snorkeling possibilities. Snorkel trails are available at Smith's Reef and Bight Reef, right off of Provo's spectacular Grace Bay Beach. These reefs provide easy access into the fragile but stunningly beautiful world of coral gardens, the most dramatic in the vast area immediately south of The Bahamas.

Coki Point Beach on the north shore of **St. Thomas**, offers excellent snorkeling, especially around the coral ledges near Coral World's underwater tower, a favorite with cruise ship passengers.

**St. Croix's Buck Island** is home to more than 250 species of fish, as well as a variety of sponges, corals, and crustaceans, have been found at this 340-hectare (840-acre) island and reef system, 3km (2 miles) off St. Croix's north shore. The reef is strictly protected by the National Park Service. **Cane Bay**, one of the best diving and snorkeling sites on St. Croix is off this breezy north-shore beach. On a clear day, you can swim out 140m (450 ft.) and see the Cane Bay Wall that drops off dramatically to deep waters below. Multicolored fish and elkhorn and brain coral abound.

St. John's **Trunk Bay** provides for self-guided trails with large underwater signs that identify species of coral and other items of interest. The beach has showers, changing rooms, equipment rentals, and a lifeguard. **Haulover Bay**, also in St. John, is a favorite with locals. This small bay is often deserted. The snorkeling is dramatic, with ledges, walls, nooks, and sandy areas set close together. At this spot, only about 180m (600 ft.) of land separates the Atlantic Ocean from the Caribbean Sea.

With the longest barrier reef on the western hemisphere, **Belize** provides an enormous living environment for many tropical sea creatures. Visit the coral reefs and swim with the sharks and stingrays at the Hol Chan marine reserve and Shark Ray Alley.

As you can see, there are so many great places for fun-filled water exploration. Get started soon to try them all.

*There are so many  
great places to snorkel  
in the Caribbean*





TAREIG, LLC, The Adventure Real Estate Investment Group, is a Maryland based real estate development and management company created to pursue domestic and foreign real estate investment opportunities. The target for real estate development activities is on small to medium sized projects in emerging destinations that are in the early stages of development for tourism and residential community living. Projects include the building of resorts, single family, and multi-unit residential and vacation home communities that incorporate ecological-based designs to maintain and/or enhance the natural features of the property.

#### OUR PROJECTS:

- Utilize environmentally sound preservation practices,
- Emphasize local community involvement and community service support,
- Provide for a network of other TAREIG corporate owned and commercial developed projects.

#### MISSION

The mission of TAREIG, LLC is to develop unique and high quality real estate projects that are situated near outdoor adventure and tourist attractions in emerging travel destination areas.

#### VISION

Our vision is to create a network of TAREIG properties through land development and reciprocal arrangements with other similar high quality residential and vacation development communities and resorts throughout the world.

#### CORPORATE PHILOSOPHY

Offer quality products and a satisfying customer experience.

Visit us online at  
[www.tareig.com](http://www.tareig.com)

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## MEET CAMINO'S ONSITE SECURITY

If you have visited Camino Del Rio community lately, you will have met one of the new full-time staff members, Mr. Jose Valasquez, the night-time security watchman. Jose, originally from Honduras, has recently moved to Belize and has settled into the Franks Eddy Village. In Honduras, Jose worked on the police force for ten years and kept the justice and peace as he worked in the cities and rural areas. He also served in the local military unit.

He chose Belize as his new home so that he may



**Jose Valasquez**

live in a more peaceful area and to be a part of a growing and emerging country. Jose works the evening shift

patrolling the entire community every two hours and sometimes assisting in some of the grounds duty. You will feel protected by his presence and warmed by his wonderful smile.

Although he is a native Spanish speaking resident, he has been working on improving upon his English so that he may better communicate with all the new residents as they move into the community. Jose is also a great fisherman, so on your next visit to Camino Del Rio, expect to get some great tips on how to catch the big one.