ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks to all the organizations and associations that have contributed to the development of this document.

Belize Tourism Board

Belize Cruise Ship Industry Association

Ministry of Tourism

Belize Tour Operators Association

Department of Environment

Belize Tourism Industry Association

Belize Water Taxi Association

Belize Hotels Association

Belize Chamber of Commerce

Belize Business Bureau

Fisheries Department

Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

Belize Port Authority

Belize Eco-Tourism Association

President of the National Federation of Tour Guide Association

Belize Audubon Society

Institute of Archaeology
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I. INTRODUCTION

Today, the cruise sector is one of the most dynamic and fastest growing components of the travel and tourism industry throughout the world. This trend is no different in Belize, as over the last three years there has been a significant increase in cruise arrivals with this growth expected to continue into the foreseeable future. In 2002, cruise lines made 200 calls to Belize’s port, with a capacity of approximately 319,000 passengers. This 564% increase over 2001 made Belize the fastest growing port in the region. It is projected that in 2003, cruise lines will make 330 calls with a capacity of approximately 560,000 passengers.

Belize’s magnificent array of cultural and natural attractions has made Belize a very attractive destination for both the cruise companies and Belizeans who have invested in the cruise sector. Major cruise lines such as Carnival, Norwegian and Royal Caribbean have now been sold on Belize’s unique product and the country has become one of the most attractive cruise destinations in the Caribbean. This boom in port calls is economically beneficial for Belize; however, the environmental as well as the social factors must be taken into consideration when developing guidelines that will facilitate the growth of the cruise sector. The ultimate goal is to maximize the benefits from the cruise industry while sustaining the natural resources of Belize.

II. BACKGROUND

Following a period of sharp decline in cruise ship calls in the middle 90’s, largely resulting from the level of the head tax at the time (US$10.00), limited infrastructure and services, cruise ship traffic began to revive in the late 90’s. During this time, the sector had been met with mixed feelings from some parties who believed that cruise tourism was intrusive and an incompatible sub-sector of Belize’s tourism industry. With those sentiments emanating at the time, little or no effort was made to provide the necessary conditions to aid in the sectors growth and development.

During the period 2000 - 2003, both government and private sector have invested significantly in preparation for the growth of cruise tourism. The biggest investment has been the construction of a modern cruise terminal that rivals the best in the Caribbean. This investment resulted from a contractual arrangement between the Government of Belize and the Belize Tourism Village, which is owned by a Belizean investor. There has also been extensive investment in the construction of tenders, purchase of additional buses, and the opening of new attractions. Additionally, under the IDB funded Tourism Development Project, the Government of Belize is investing significantly in improving our major archaeological sites and human resources.

To prepare for the growth in cruise tourism, the Belize Tourism Board after a lengthy period of consultations implemented the Cruise Ship Policy in early 2000. The Policy provides the
guidelines and a holistic view for the management of the sector. Since then, the Government and private sector have implemented several plans to better prepare for the increase in cruise arrivals.

Although there have been significant strides in accommodating this growth, the projected arrivals have exceeded the capacity of 3000 people per day, the maximum recommended total originally established in the Cruise Ship Policy.

To address this concern, the Belize Tourism Board with the support of the Minister of Tourism convened a Cruise Ship Task Force comprising of a cross-section of technical and industry representatives. The mandate of the Task Force was to analyze the cruise sector taking into consideration the guidelines and principles of sustainable development and make recommendations for the revision of the Cruise Ship Policy.

III. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Government considers cruise tourism to be a component of the country’s overall tourism industry, complementary to the stay-over tourism sector, with which it can share important synergies. As such, the management of its development and promotion will be guided by the overall national tourism policy. The goal of this policy is to ensure that the cruise tourism sector continues to be competitive with other destinations and contributes to the attainment of the general tourism development objectives of Belize; namely, the generation of foreign exchange, employment and other business opportunities as well as ensuring the continued growth and development of the lucrative overnight sector of the industry.

It is imperative that all relevant ministries and departments actively participate in the management of the cruise sector to ensure its proper management and growth. The Ministry of Tourism and the Belize Tourism Board, under the Hotels and Tourism Accommodation Act of 1997 and amended in 2001, are the official bodies responsible for the establishment, management and implementation of the Cruise Tourism Policy. However, agencies such as the Department of the Environment, Fisheries Department, National Institute for Culture and History, Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, the Police Department, the health Department, the Belize Port Authority, the Belize Tourism Industry Association, the Belize Cruise Ship Industry Association and members of the NGO community must also play an integral part in the development of the cruise sector.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

In formulating and implementing the Cruise Tourism Policy, the Government is cognizant of the environmental issues concerning cruise line operations in Belizean territorial waters. These include:
Anchorage of cruise vessels
Off-ship shore recreational activities of cruise passengers
Operation and maintenance activities on board vessels
Waste management and disposal
Cumulative impacts of all ships licensed to operate in Belize

Government will therefore specify the conditions to provide for the compliance monitoring of the cruise tourism industry, ensuring that the eco-cultural tourism product Belize is promoting is respected and its image as a multi-attraction destination enhanced.

V. THE POLICY

A. STATEMENT

The Cruise Tourism Policy of the Government of Belize provides the guidelines and principles for the management of the cruise sector's growth and development in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.

B. PURPOSE

The cruise tourism sub-sector is expected to assist in the development of tourism in Belize, by optimizing its contribution to the Belizean economy, while ensuring that the growth is environmentally and socio-culturally sustainable.

C. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Cruise Tourism Policy are:

- To manage the number of cruise ship calls and passenger arrivals in a sustainable manner based on properly researched acceptable visitation limits for the available tourism sites in Belize
- To optimize the revenues generated from cruise passengers
- To increase the overall benefits from cruise tourism by creating and strengthening inter-sectoral linkages, whereby cruise lines source needed supplies of goods and services from Belizean suppliers
- To expand the absorptive capacity of the country by developing existing and new visitor attractions
- To further develop present port facilities and to explore other ports as stipulated in the Governments manifesto e.g. Punta Gorda, Big Creek, Placencia, etc.

- To identify suitable anchorage sites on the coast of Belize

- To develop and implement appropriate promotional programs that effectively convert cruise passengers to overnight visitors.

D. GUIDING PRINCIPLE

The growth rate and daily distribution shall respect the integrity of Belize as being an eco-cultural tourism destination as well as ensuring the safety of visitors. In practice, this means that the visitation capacities established for all sites shall be respected and adhered to.

E. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

A Compliance and Monitoring Plan herein attached as Appendix 1, is an integral part of this Cruise Tourism Policy. It is a requirement of the licensing process that it be signed and adhered to by port agents applying for a license on behalf of cruise lines.

F. ANCHORING AND PILOTAGE

Anchoring of all cruise ships will be done in consultation with the designated authorities (Belize Port Authority, Fisheries Department, and Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute).

Qualified piloting services must be utilized by cruise lines traveling through the English Caye channel and other ports within Belize.

G. CRUISE TOURISM PASSENGER ACTIVITIES

As part of the licensing procedures implemented by the Belize Tourism Board, all cruise ships are required to offer passengers inland and island excursions operated and owned by Belizean tour operators and conducted by licensed Belizean tour guides. The port agents, tour operators and tender operators will be responsible for ensuring that all services for excursions, including but not limited to transportation, food and beverage, handicraft sales, guide services, etc are sourced within Belize, and that all laws are adhered to.

These requirements are non-negotiable and must be agreed to in writing by the port agent, tour operator and cruise lines prior to the issuance of any license.
H. VISITATION LIMIT

For the purpose of this policy and for the proper management of tours and Belize’s natural resources, a daily visitation limit of eight thousand cruise passengers is recommended for Belize City. Currently, there are days that licenses have been granted that would exceed this limit. Effective from the implementation date of this revised policy 2003, no additional licenses will be granted that would cause the daily passenger limit to be exceeded.

I. LIABILITY

The port agents are the in-country representatives of the cruise lines and are responsible for all matters relating to the cruise ship operations, which includes all licensing requirements. However, the cruise lines shall be liable for any damage or degradation to the environment resulting from the operation of cruise ships.

Tour operators and tour guides also have the responsibility to organize and lead tours in an environmentally conscious manner.

J. APPLICATION PROCESS

The Belize Tourism Board will process licenses on a first-come first-serve basis within a period of not more than two weeks of receipt. However, cruise lines requesting year-round visitation and that are committed to developing a long-term partnership with Belize through marketing programs, community and infrastructural development will be given priority over those requesting day or high season visits.

K. FORUM FOR DISCUSSION

Recognizing the need for ongoing consultation and co-ordination among the cruise lines, the local private sector and the Government of Belize, a Cruise Tourism Committee will be established. The Director of Product Development for the Belize Tourism Board will chair the committee with representation from a cross section of the cruise tourism industry and related Government Ministries and agencies. The mandate of this committee will be to monitor the development of the cruise industry within the framework of this policy and to advise the Ministry of Tourism and the Belize Tourism Board accordingly.

L. MONITORING

It is of great importance that the natural resources that attract so many visitors to our shores each year be properly managed and sustained for the future. With that in mind, it is critical that the
departments and agencies responsible for the monitoring of these resources receive the funding necessary to carry out their duties and responsibilities. Agencies such as the Department of Environment, the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, the Health Department, the Belize City Council, BAHA, the Fisheries Department, the Institute of Archaeology, the Belize Port Authority and the members of the NGO community responsible for the management of sites and attractions must take the lead on environmental monitoring of the cruise sector.

VI. CRUISESHP VISITATION IN BELIZE

1. OBJECTIVES OF GUIDELINES

The objective of this section is to provide a comprehensive set of guidelines for the management and development of cruise visitation in Belize with a view to provide maximum satisfaction in the experience of visitors. The expected results of such objectives are as follows:

- To raise the level of organization throughout the cruise tourism industry and make recommendations for the upgrade of the infrastructure needed to service the sector
- To improve the quality of visitor experiences to Belize
- To improve all levels of safety and security; (visitors and workers etc.)
- To protect and optimize site utilization by making recommendations on the visitation levels for sites being utilized by the cruise sector
- To increase the number of destinations visited by cruise lines
- To promote the equitable distribution of the economic benefits to all stakeholders
- To improve the level of service by training stakeholders in the industry

2. KEY CONSIDERATIONS

A. SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

The security and safety of everyone is of great importance and the necessary safeguards must be put in place to control and eliminate any negative influences that may interfere with the quality of the Belizean experience.

Measures need to be implemented to sustain the positive growth that has been evident in Belize’s cruise ship sector. Such measures should include:
• Deployment of police and traffic officers at strategic locations throughout Belize City and other key areas including but not limited to:

1. Fort Area
2. Albert Street
3. Regent Street
4. Queen Street
5. North Front Street
6. The Princess Area
7. Major sites and attractions

• Provide adequate number of personnel and equipment to the Tourism Police Unit, the lead department in securing the tourism industry

• Have a central location at the Belize Tourism Village for the Tourist Police where complaints can be made

• Establish a Tourism Security Committee with representation from the Belize Tourism Board, the Belize Tourism Industry Association, the Belize Port Authority, the Police Department, the Belize Defense Force, the Institute of Archaeology and the Belize Cruise Ship Industry Association

• Improve communications between the Tourism Police Unit and the mainstream Police Department

• Have Tourism Police Officers accompany tour buses leaving Belize City

• Provide safety tips for all visitors

• Create a central location for the collection of fees

• Institute harbor patrols at cruise ship anchorages and at the Belize Tourism Village
• To create more employment opportunities for Belizeans.

B. TOUR MANAGEMENT

Tour operators, port agents and all cruise tourism organizers shall ensure that the acceptable visitation limits herein described are adhered to. (See Annex 2)

For safety, enhanced visitor experience and sustainability of the resources, the following guidelines shall be maintained:
• Shared benefits
• Cultural expressions
• Physical Factors
• Land mass to be used
• Availability of facilities
• Level of development at the site
• Recreation facilities and beautification

D. SITES & ATTRACTIONS

Belize has one of the highest rates of sale for tours for cruise passengers in the region, and it estimated that more than 65% of passengers go on excursions. To minimize the negative effects that could occur from having too many people at a few sites, the Belize Tourism Board with the support of the private sector and NGO’s will identify and designate sites and attractions for cruise tourism.

To improve the quality of service and the management of these sites, the necessary resources must be generated from the entrance fees. With that in mind, a thorough review of all entrance fees will be conducted by the Belize Tourism Board, the National Institute of Culture and History, and other relevant tourism partners.

E. TOUR GUIDE REQUIREMENTS

Visitors to any destination usually rely on the experience and knowledge of local guides to help them interpret and process their experience. Tour guides must be trained to transfer their knowledge to visitors in a manner that is both entertaining and educational.

The number of visitors per tour guide also needs to be clearly articulated. This is crucial from a management perspective. The ratio of visitors to tour guides would generally depend on the following criteria:

• Number of visitors
• Type of tour being undertaken
• Mode of transportation used for tour
• Complexity of the tour being undertaken
• Experience and competence of the tour guide

Tours in Belize are conducted in both terrestrial and marine environments. Below are the accepted ratios for visits to both of these environments. As stipulated in the Governments manifesto, the Tourism Police Unit will be charged with the responsibility of enforcing these ratios.
H. TRANSPORTATION

All forms of transportation used by tour operators, water taxi operators and port agents must satisfy safety standards that have been established by the Department of Transport, the Belize City Council and the Belize Port’s Authority. Regular checks will be made by these Departments to ensure that all forms of transportation are well maintained and do not jeopardize the safety of the visitors.

More efficient management of the various transportation systems can be achieved by implementing the following measures:

- Designating special parking areas
- Issuing licenses to vehicle operators
- Establishing a fixed fare structure
- Vehicles should be clearly marked
- Vehicles should carry First Aid supplies in event of accidents
- Enforcing the carrying capacity of all forms of transport
- Establishing punitive measures for defaulting operators

I. ENTERTAINMENT

Visitors to the country generally expect a high level of entertainment. With the establishment of the National Institute of Culture and History, programs should be developed that will promote and showcase the various cultural, social and historical attributes of the country.

J. BELIZE CITY

Belize City serves as a major hub for all cruise activities, especially for the over 35% of cruise passengers who don’t go on tours but prefer a first hand experience of the Belizean lifestyle and people. The potential economic impact is tremendous and reaching a vast number of Belizeans.

Although strides have been made to improve the infrastructure within the City, there are a host of issues and problems that need to be addressed in order for Belize City to become a reputable destination. The tourist zones and the downtown area need a facelift, streets and drains have to be improved, vendors need to be relocated to a centralized location where they can have access to standardized stalls, and there need to be more attractions and entertainment. Currently, the reputation of Belize as being an eco-cultural tourism destination is being tarnished by those visitors that stay in the City. Since word-of-mouth advertising is important in building the awareness of a destination, it is critical that both the City Council and the private sector take the corrective measures that would address these concerns.
K. CRUISE SHIP OPERATIONS

To increase the opportunities for Belizean stakeholders and investors, the following are the responsibilities of the cruise lines, the port agents and the tour operators:

- Suspend all forms of entertainment activities on board while in port
- Encourage shore visitation by passengers
- Promote overnight stays and multiple destination visits to encourage and maximize visitor satisfaction
- Utilize the services of a wide cross section of individuals and businesses across the country to prevent the creation and growth of monopolies
- Prepare and maintain an emergency action plan that will adequately address any life threatening situations that may compromise the safety and security of passengers
- Encourage the creation of unique local activities that will enrich the visitor experience.

L. BEST PRACTICES

The tourism industry is very competitive and to establish Belize's advantage over other destinations, especially those in the region, the onus is on the private sector to ensure that there is a high level of service being offered throughout the industry. Associations such as the Belize Tourism Industry Association and the Belize Cruise Ship Industry Association are expected to take the lead in challenging their members to increase the level of standards and service offered to every client.
In accordance with Part 2, Section 11 of the Agreement for Operating a Live-aboard Passenger Vessel (Class 3) signed between the Belize Tourist and _________________ dated ________________

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PLAN
FOR
LIVEABOARD PASSENGER VESSELS
(CLASS III: Cruise Ships Visiting Belize Harbour)

Prepared by:
The Department of the Environment

In conjunction with:
Fisheries Department
Belize Tourism Board

Revised 2003
INTRODUCTION

It is the policy of the Government of Belize to pursue a course of sustainability in the various development sectors of the nation. The Government of Belize has placed high priority on tourism as a preferential development option. The Government believes that the industry can and should be rewarding for all Belizeans and recognizes that the survival of the industry can only be accomplished through the careful management and prudent utilization of the resource on which the industry relies. In pursuit of a sustainable tourism product, it is the Government’s policy that an eco-cultural product will be the main focus of its developmental and marketing efforts in the tourism industry of Belize.

The Government of Belize further recognizes that mitigatory measures must be clearly defined so that stakeholders in the industry can be assured that efforts are being made to ensure the sustainability of the industry as a whole.

The Cruise Ship sector of the Belize tourism industry has recently experienced significant growth and indications are that this will continue. The purposes of this document is to stipulate measures that would prevent, control and mitigate the environmental degradation that could arise from the growth and development of the cruise ship sector of the tourism industry.

The port agent on behalf of himself, the owner and master of the ship agree to adhere and abide by this Environmental Compliance Plan upon the entry of his vessel into Belizean territorial waters and at all times while the vessel is in Belizean waters. Violation of this Environmental Compliance Plan will result in the license to operate being revoked.

I. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

Recognizing that the proposed activities could have significant negative environmental impacts, the master, owner and agent agree to take the necessary measures described in the following actions, to mitigate these impacts.

II. ANCHORING OF CRUISE SHIPS

1. Cruise ships will only be allowed to anchor at sites or harbor's designated by the Port Authority of Belize. Other motor vessels associated with the operations of the cruise ship will not be allowed to drop anchor where harm to the Belize Barrier Reef or any part the reef could be done by the anchor chain, ship or anchor itself.

III. RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

2. An orientation program is to be prepared by the cruise ship company to inform their visitors to Belize about the natural resources and environment of Belize and of the legislation that exists to protect them. For its part, the Belize Tourism Board will make
tourist information available to the cruise ship in Belize in sufficient quantities for all passengers. Before any activity is undertaken cruise ship operators will remind passengers, tour operators and their agent’s of the rules and guidelines associated with each type of activity.

3. A schedule of the sites intended to be visited, and a list of intended activities will be submitted to the Belize Tourism Board at the time of licensing. Any change to this information will require prior approval by the Belize Tourism Board, the Fisheries and the Department of Environment. The exact number of persons that visit each site must be submitted to the Belize Tourism Board on the day of arrival.

4. A list of destinations, with there corresponding maximum number of visitors allowable, will be developed by the Belize Tourism Board, the Fisheries Department and the Department of the Environment; and it will be incorporated into this Environmental Compliance Plan. Sites visited may be rotated so as to reduce the pressure on any one site.

IV. DIVING AND SNORKELING ACTIVITIES

1. No diver, snorkeler, or person will be allowed to touch, stand on or damage any coral or reef formation. To assist in this endeavor divers will not be allowed to wear gloves, unless for very special reasons.

2. No person shall disturb, remove or collect from the sea any species of flora or fauna, including rocks, dead coral, shells or sand.

3. No snorkeling or any other recreational activity will be allowed in sandy, shallow areas near the reef where harm could be caused to corals due to the water column being loaded with sediment.

4. No more than twenty (20) divers or snorkeler's will be allowed to be present at the same time in an area of one hundred (100) square yards.

5. Only eight (8) divers or snorkelers shall accompany a guide. This is in order to guarantee proper supervision of the visitors, should any assistance be needed.

V. ACTIVITIES ON BOARD VESSELS

1. No out-of-season marine product will be served on board in respect of Belize’s closed season for marine products.

2. No hazardous chemicals will be used for cleaning decks. Phosphate free detergents will be used for this purpose.
VI. WASTE DISPOSAL

In an effort to reduce and prevent the environmental impacts associated with waste generation and its disposal, the cruise ship operator and the port agent agree to take the following measures:

1. No waste (sewage waste, solid waste, waste/contaminated water or used oil) will be released or dumped into the sea or on cayes during the cruise ship tour in Belizean waters.

2. Any boat or smaller vessel taking tourists to an island or caye destination in Belize will ensure that no litter or waste is thrown over-board or left littering the island or caye. All waste originating from the mother ship will be placed into a container and returned to the mother ship or deposited at mainland sites in respect of which prior written consent has been obtained from the Department of the Environment.

3. Where day excursions to mainland destinations are offered to cruise ship passengers, all associated services shall, where possible, be provided by Belizean companies. Services to be provided include food, beverage and transportation.

4. No oily or contaminated bilge water will be released in Belizean territorial waters except in emergency situations where the vessel is taking on water to the extent that the safety of the vessel or those aboard will be threatened.

5. The cruise ship operator and its port agent will comply with all requirements of MARPOL and its annexes.

VII. MONITORING OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

The implementation of this environmental compliance plan shall be the direct responsibility of the owner, master and port agent of the cruise ship. Monitoring will be carried out by the Department of the Environment, the Fisheries Department and other responsible agencies, to ensure this document is being adhered to.

As the cruise sector continues to grow, measures taken to mitigate any negative environmental impacts will be reviewed, assessed and revised if necessary to ensure its effectiveness in accomplishing the intentions of this plan.

Items to be attached to this Environmental Compliance Plan at the time of Signing:

1. Schedule of sites to be visited during the period of this license and list of intended passenger activities to be carried out during the period of this license.
2. Estimated number of passengers to be carried, per trip and in total, during the period of this license.
3. Names of all tour operators contracted during the period of this license.
4. A Copy of the plans of discharge outlets for the ship.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Site</th>
<th>Current Use of Site</th>
<th>Area Used by Tourist (acres)</th>
<th>Avg. Daily Visits</th>
<th>Avg. Duration of Visit</th>
<th>Daily Opening Hours</th>
<th>Suggested # of Visitors/Site/Day</th>
<th>Suggested # of Visitors/Tour</th>
<th>Special Requirements at Site</th>
<th>User Fees</th>
<th>Facilities and Infrastructure</th>
<th>Management Presence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lamanai</td>
<td>Arch, Research, tours</td>
<td>20 acres</td>
<td>50 persons</td>
<td>8 hrs.</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>150 persons</td>
<td>10-15 persons</td>
<td>Access by boat/Don't feed monkeys/Turkey about approaching boats</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>2 caretakers/guides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altun Ha</td>
<td>Arch, Research, tours</td>
<td>8 acres</td>
<td>300 persons</td>
<td>2 hrs.</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>100 persons</td>
<td>10-15 persons</td>
<td>Very rough access to/hd. Parking</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>1 caretakers/guides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nim Li Punt</td>
<td>Arch, tours</td>
<td>6 acres</td>
<td>5 persons</td>
<td>1 1/2 hrs.</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>150 persons</td>
<td>10-15 persons</td>
<td>Very rough access to/hd. Parking</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>1 caretakers/guides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lubantun</td>
<td>Arch, tours</td>
<td>4 acres</td>
<td>7 persons</td>
<td>1 1/2 hrs.</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>150 persons</td>
<td>10-15 persons</td>
<td>Very rough access to/hd. Parking</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>1 caretakers/guides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manatee Reserve</td>
<td>Tourism, Fishing</td>
<td>9095 acres</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>8 persons</td>
<td>Slow boat speeds</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hol Chan</td>
<td>Tourism/Recreation</td>
<td>30 acres</td>
<td>135 persons</td>
<td>4 hrs.</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>500 persons</td>
<td>10 persons</td>
<td>Slow boat speeds</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>Busys</td>
<td>2 rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark Ray Alley</td>
<td>Tourism purposes</td>
<td>1.5 acres</td>
<td>Seasonal</td>
<td>30-45 mins</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>6 persons</td>
<td>No Fishing</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>2 rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caracol</td>
<td>Arch, Research, tours</td>
<td>60 acres</td>
<td>30 persons</td>
<td>3 hrs.</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>150 persons</td>
<td>10-15 persons</td>
<td>Don't take trails leading away from center</td>
<td>$10-5/$5.5-L</td>
<td>Extremely Basic</td>
<td>2 caretakers/guides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cahal Pech</td>
<td>Arch, tours</td>
<td>4 acres</td>
<td>40 persons</td>
<td>1 1/2 hrs.</td>
<td>8am-6pm</td>
<td>100 persons</td>
<td>10-15 persons</td>
<td>Museum &amp; Site sold as one package</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 caretakers/guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Pine Ridge</td>
<td>Trails, Birding, Swim Camping</td>
<td>80persons</td>
<td>1 1/2 day - 1 day</td>
<td>7am-6pm</td>
<td>200 persons</td>
<td>10 persons</td>
<td>S5-5/$2-L</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Forest officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Blue Hole</td>
<td>Trails, Birding, Caving, Camping</td>
<td>19 acres</td>
<td>20 persons</td>
<td>3 hrs.</td>
<td>8am-4pm</td>
<td>150 persons</td>
<td>15 persons</td>
<td>Good walking shoes, outdoor clothing, drinks</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Trails, camping site, cente</td>
<td>Park Wardens/staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guanacaste Park</td>
<td>Trails, Birding, Caving, Camping</td>
<td>3 acres</td>
<td>8 persons</td>
<td>2 hrs.</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>50 persons</td>
<td>10 persons</td>
<td>Good walking shoes, outdoor clothing, drinks</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>Trails, swimming area</td>
<td>Park Director/staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crooked Tree</td>
<td>Birding, Nature Trails</td>
<td>41,000 acres</td>
<td>10 persons</td>
<td>8 hrs.</td>
<td>8am-4pm</td>
<td>150 persons</td>
<td>12 persons</td>
<td>Good walking shoes, outdoor clothing, drinks</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Trails, swimming area</td>
<td>Park Director/staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant's Cave</td>
<td>Tourism, snorkeling, arch. Site</td>
<td>1/4 acres</td>
<td>1/2 day</td>
<td>time varies</td>
<td>150 persons</td>
<td>50 persons</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat's Cave</td>
<td>Tourism, snorkeling, picnicking, arch. Site</td>
<td>1/4 acres</td>
<td>1/2 day - 1 day</td>
<td>time varies</td>
<td>150 persons</td>
<td>8 persons</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Cave</td>
<td>Light house, tourism, snorkeling</td>
<td>1 1/4 acres</td>
<td>1/2 day - 1 day</td>
<td>time varies</td>
<td>100 persons</td>
<td>8 persons</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haupover Creek</td>
<td>Recreation, tourism, trade</td>
<td>Site dependent</td>
<td>Site dependent</td>
<td>Site dependent</td>
<td>Site dependent</td>
<td>Site dependent</td>
<td>Regulated boat speeds</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xunantunich</td>
<td>Arch, Tours</td>
<td>12 acres</td>
<td>150 persons</td>
<td>2 1/2 hrs.</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>150 persons</td>
<td>10-15 persons</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>3 caretakers/guides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carros</td>
<td>Arch, tours</td>
<td>9 acres</td>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>1 hr.</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>50 persons</td>
<td>10-15 persons</td>
<td>Access by boat only</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>1 caretakers/guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Rita</td>
<td>Arch, tours</td>
<td>12 acres</td>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>1 hr.</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>50 persons</td>
<td>10-15 persons</td>
<td>Access by boat only</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 caretakers/guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Pilar</td>
<td>Arch, Research, tours</td>
<td>18 acres</td>
<td>10 persons</td>
<td>2 hrs.</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>100 persons</td>
<td>10-15 persons</td>
<td>Very small site</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 caretakers/guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Hole (Marine)</td>
<td>Tourism/Diving</td>
<td>50 persons</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>6 persons</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>48 persons</td>
<td>4-8 persons</td>
<td>Very rough access to/hd. Parking</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>2 caretakers/guides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaguar Paw Caves</td>
<td>Cave Tubing, Swimming, Hiking</td>
<td>300 persons</td>
<td>1/2 day - 1 day</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>500 persons</td>
<td>10 persons</td>
<td>Respect no take zones</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Busys/Headquarters</td>
<td>2 Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacalar Chico</td>
<td>Tourism/diving/snorkeling/ N T</td>
<td>30 acres</td>
<td>40 persons</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>500 persons</td>
<td>Respect no take zones</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Busys/Headquarters</td>
<td>1 Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glorves Reef</td>
<td>Tourism/diving/snorkeling</td>
<td>30 acres</td>
<td>25 persons</td>
<td>1-7 days</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>500 persons</td>
<td>Respect no take zones</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Busys/Headquarters</td>
<td>2 Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cave Caulker</td>
<td>Tourism/diving/snorkeling</td>
<td>10 acres</td>
<td>55 persons</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>300 persons</td>
<td>Respect no take zones</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Busys/Headquarters</td>
<td>2 Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Water Cave</td>
<td>Tourism/diving/snorkeling</td>
<td>20 acres</td>
<td>35 persons</td>
<td>1-7 days</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>500 persons</td>
<td>Slow boat speeds</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Busys/Headquarters</td>
<td>2 Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sapodilla Caves</td>
<td>Tourism/diving/snorkeling</td>
<td>10 acres</td>
<td>35 persons</td>
<td>1-5 days</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>300 persons</td>
<td>No fishing by non-Belizians</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Headquaters</td>
<td>2 Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gladden Split</td>
<td>Tourism/diving/snorkeling</td>
<td>10 acres</td>
<td>20 persons</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>100 persons</td>
<td>No touching of whale sharks</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>Installing signage</td>
<td>1 Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altun Tuerchil Mukul</td>
<td>Hiking, Caving, Rappelling</td>
<td>12 persons</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>8am-5pm</td>
<td>48 persons (Limit)</td>
<td>4-8 persons</td>
<td>Very rough access to/hd. Parking</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>2 caretakers/guides</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Haulover Creek tour Include Burdon Canal and Northern Lagoon
The Inland Blue Hole tour Includes St. Herman Cave
CRUISE TOURISM LICENSING COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE
(ANNEX 3)

INTRODUCTION

Over the last three years, there has been a significant increase in cruise arrivals for Belize and this trend is expected to continue in the foreseeable future. Cruise arrivals for 2002 was 319,000 and projections are that arrivals will surpass the half million mark, doubling our population.

Our magnificent array of cultural and natural attractions has made Belize a very profitable destination for both the lines and Belizeans who have invested in the cruise sector. Major cruise lines such as Carnival, Norwegian and Royal Caribbean have now been sold on Belize's unique cruise product and our country has now become one of the most attractive cruise destinations in the Caribbean.

BACKGROUND

During the course of the last three years, both government and private sector have invested significantly to prepare for the growth of cruise tourism. The biggest investment has been the construction of a modern cruise terminal that rivals the best in the Caribbean. There has also been some investment in the construction of tenders, additional buses, the opening of new attractions and the Government of Belize is currently investing 28 million dollars in improving our major archaeological sites. It must also be mentioned that the Belize City Council has launched their Metro Vision Program geared towards making Belize City a tourist destination.

In early 2000, the Belize Tourism Board implemented a Cruise Ship Policy that looks at the industry holistically, and since then has implemented several plans to prepare for an increase in cruise arrivals. Although we have made significant strides in accommodating this growth, the projected arrivals have superceded the capacity of three thousand people per day that was established in the Policy. This means that there is an immediate need for more investment in tenders, buses, and more importantly the management and development of our sites.
OBJECTIVES OF COMMITTEE

The main objective of the Cruise Tourism Licensing Committee is to advise the Belize Tourism Board and the Ministry of Tourism on the measures that need to be taken for Belize to prepare for the growth in cruise arrivals while taking into consideration its social, environmental and economic impacts. The Committee must also take into consideration the needs of the more lucrative overnight tourists when making its recommendations.

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE

It is envisaged that the Cruise Tourism Licensing Committee will be comprise of a member from the Belize City Council, Belize Tourism Industry Association, the Department of Archaeology, the Belize Hotels Association, the Cruise Ship Industry Association, the Department of Environment, the Belize Port Authority, the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute and the Belize Tourism Board. The Officer-In-Charge of the Tourism Police Unit will sit on the Committee as well as a representative of Beltraide as observers.

The functions of the Committee shall include:

(i) Reviewing applications for license that have been submitted to the Belize Tourism Board

(ii) Making recommendations on the number of people per day that should disembark in Belize City

(iii) Make recommendations on the acceptable visitation limits for sites being utilized by the cruise sector

(iv) Making recommendations on securing the industry

(v) Making recommendations on maintaining a balance between overnight tourist arrivals and cruise arrivals

(vi) Providing advice for stakeholders that are involved in the industry

(vii) Performing any other functions for the better carrying out of the provisions established under the Cruise Ship Regulations.