



Roatán

Photo: Elly Filho/unsplash



Harold Mendoza/unsplash



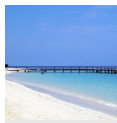
Cory Doctorow/cc by-sa 2.0/flickr



Adalberto Hernandez Vega/cc by 2.0/wikimedia

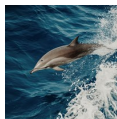
The island of Roatán attracts many visitors for its breathtaking natural beauty. It's part of a group of islands called the Bay Islands, which are known for their excellent diving and snorkelling locations, with clear waters and diverse sea life. Roatán is also famous for its lush tropical forests and rich culture, which is a mix of various influences including Afro-Caribbean, Spanish, and indigenous cultures. Overall, Roatán offers a unique blend of relaxation, adventure and culture.

Featured



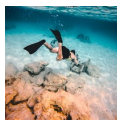
West Bay Beach

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Dolphin Encounters

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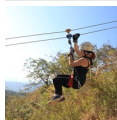
Blue Planet Divers

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Punta Gorda

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Top 5



Coxen Hole

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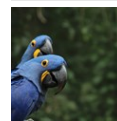
Gumbalimba Park

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Half Moon Bay

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Little French Key

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Manawakie Eco Nature Park

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THE ISLAND



prayitnophotography/cc by 2.0/wikimedia (image cropped)

Roatan is a tropical island paradise located off the coast of Honduras in the western Caribbean. The island's rich history dates back to pre-Columbian times, and it has been influenced by Spanish explorers, English-speaking islanders, and Afro-Caribbean people. Today, Roatan is a thriving community and a popular tourist destination known for its stunning beaches, crystal-clear waters, and diverse marine life, including the second-largest coral reef in the world. The island also offers a vibrant culture with a unique blend of Caribbean and Central American influences, featuring music, food, and colourful festivals such as the annual Carnival celebration.

Roatan's location makes it an ideal destination for cruise ships, with Coxen Hole serving as a popular port of call for many cruise lines. The island's warm and sunny weather, year-round, makes it perfect for outdoor activities such as snorkelling, diving, or relaxing on the beach. Whether you're looking to explore the island's natural wonders or immerse yourself in its vibrant culture, Roatan has something for everyone.

DO & SEE



Ty Downs/unsplash

Roatán is a tourist destination for those seeking to find new Caribbean experiences. It sits on the second largest coral reef barrier in the world which makes it ideal for water-sport enthusiasts like scuba divers, boaters, divers and snorkellers.

If water sports are not your cup of tea, Roatán also has tropical foliage with a wide variety of species, turquoise water beaches as well as cultural activities.

Coxen Hole



Coxen Hole is the largest city on the island of Roatán and the main hub for transportation, commerce and tourism. Visitors to Coxen Hole will find a variety of amenities and attractions, including tax-free shops for tourists, restaurants and bars.

Coxen Hole also has some of the best beaches and diving spots on the island at hand. These clear, turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea are home to an array of marine life, including colourful fish, sea turtles, and coral reefs. Whether you are looking to do some shopping or just relax on the beach, Coxen Hole is definitely

a must-see.

Photo: Alisa Matthews/unsplash

Gumbalimba Park



Gumbalimba Park, located on the island of Roatan, is an eco-adventure and historical park that offers a variety of activities and experiences for all visitors. The park has a museum, a pool, an animal interaction centre, numerous botanical gardens as well as different underwater activities.

The animal attractions, which are a major draw of Gumbalimba, include encounters with macaws, macaque monkeys and several species of iguanas. Regardless of the age of the visitor, Gumbalimba Park and its staff will definitely show you a great time.

Photo: James Lee/unsplash

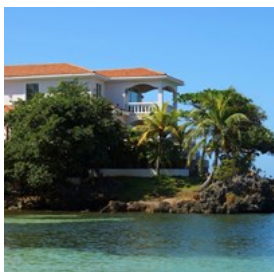
Address: West Bay, Honduras

Opening hours: Daily 8am-4pm

Phone: +504 99 149 196

Internet: www.gumbalimbapark.com

Half Moon Bay



Half Moon Bay is relatively small, picturesque beach located on the West End. The bay may not be big, however, it boasts

different activities such as boating and snorkelling, and is a pleasant spot for beach-lovers and water sports enthusiasts. The boating area is usually bustling with scuba divers and fishermen, but the swimming area on the other side is not used as frequently.

Photo: rh43/cc by 3.0/wikimedia(image cropped)

Little French Key



Little French Key is a highly sought-after destination among tourists and cruise passengers who are visiting Central America.

This tropical paradise with white-sand walkways, lush tropical plants and trees, and crystal-clear beaches is situated across the Roatan channel, and it only takes a two-minute boat ride to get there.

The island has a private resort where you can just lie in a hammock and enjoy your beach day. If exotic animals are what you are looking for, the island has a wild animal refuge to explore as well. Escape the hustle and bustle of the beach close to the cruise ship terminal at Little French Key.

Photo: Giovanna Gomes/unsplash

Manawakie Eco Nature Park



The Manawakie Eco Nature Park is one of the top animal parks in Roatan, offering a close look at exotic animals such as monkeys, sloths,

parrots and macaws. What really sets it apart from other animal parks is its tours, which include information about the island's culture, history and way of life. All the activities are available for both cruise ship and hotel guests.

Photo: Javier Mazzeo/unsplash

Address: Man O War, Hottest Sparrow, Roatán

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7am-4pm

Phone: +504 99 314 658

Internet: www.manawakieecopark.com
Email: manawakiepark@gmail.com

South Shore Zipline Adventures



South Shore Zipline Adventures offers unique experiences in a dense rainforest right next to the famous West Bay Beach. Its strategic

location makes it perfect for ziplining courses and hikes that include suspension bridges with panoramic views of the island. This is a perfect day adventure for cruise ship passengers, close to one of Roatán Island's most beautiful beaches.

Photo: Ty Downs/unsplash
Address: West Bay Road, Roatán
Opening hours: Daily 8am-3:30pm
Phone: +504 98 141 815
Internet: www.southshorezipline.com
Email: info@southshorezipline.com

Blue Planet Divers



Blue Planet Divers provide thrilling diving adventures for the young ones and adults alike. Most diving trips take place early in the

morning, however, it is also possible to go on evening dives a couple of times a week if you want to see what sea life is like at night.

Enjoy this unique experience alongside professional staff, who offer high-quality, professionally maintained equipment for rent for divers of any skill level.

Photo: Jakob Owens/unsplash
Address: 6 Emerald Beach Road, West Bay, Roatán
Opening hours: Daily 8am-4pm
Phone: +504 98 947 403

Internet: www.blueplanetroatan.com/dive
Email: info@blueplanetroatan.com

Punta Gorda



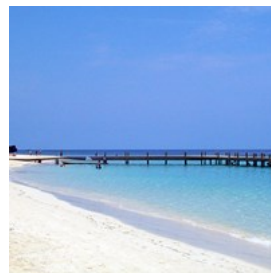
The town of Punta Gorda is famous for its relaxed atmosphere and for being a popular destination away from the crowds.

What makes Punta Gorda an interesting place to visit, is the Garifuna People — the oldest settlement on the island. They speak their own language and still keep the own traditions and culture alive.

The locals also have their own cuisine which combines seafood, coconut milk, plantains, bananas and other local ingredients. Sunday is considered to be the best day to visit the town as it is a festive day for the Garifuna People.

Photo: [maisa_nyc/cc by-sa 2.0/Flickr](#)

West Bay Beach



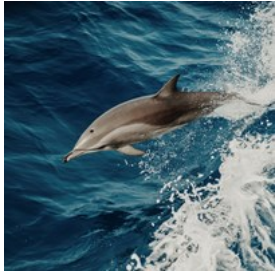
West Bay is one of the most popular beaches among cruise ship passengers due to its white sandy coastline and turquoise waters. It is

also quite a convenient area as you will easily find, bars, eateries and all kinds of gift shops. Furthermore, there are a variety of water activities such as scuba diving, fishing charters, snorkelling and parasailing.

Lastly, if you want to explore other neighbouring beaches by water, West bay also has water taxis available at an affordable price.

Photo: [Snowmanradio/cc by 2.0/wikimedia\(image cropped\)](#)

Dolphin Encounters



Dolphin Encounters give every visitor the opportunity to learn about the behaviours, anatomy, and the characteristics of these exceptional creatures in the picturesque setting of Anthony's Key Resort.

The excursion starts with a short introduction by their knowledgeable staff followed by a 30-minute encounter with bottlenose dolphins. The experience is ideal for families with small children and a great chance to take pictures with these friendly mammals.

Photo: Flavio Gasperini/unsplash
Address: Sandy Bay, Roatán
Phone: +504 24 072 244
Internet: www.anthonyskey.com

RESTAURANTS & CAFES



Harris Vo/unsplash

If there's something Latin American food is famous for, is its mix of flavours and spices. Roatán island is not an exception when it comes to delicious food and amazing seafood.

There are plenty of cafes and restaurants to choose from on the island, particularly in the West End. For the most part, the majority of places to eat and drink in Roatán are affordable,

however, you always have to watch out for tourist-traps.

Yahongreh



Located in the West End, Yahongreh claims to have the best Honduran food on the island. They are one of the most popular spots in Roatán due to their famous "baleadas" which are basically homemade flour tortillas folded into a pocket stuffed with refried red beans, as well as other toppings to choose from including chicken, avocado or beef.

If you are in Roatán looking for inexpensive local food, Yahongreh is definitely a must-try.

Photo: Alan Levine/cc by 2.0/pxhere
Address: West End Road, West End, Roatán
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 7am-2pm
Phone: +504 96 706 530
Email: chilliesrtb@yahoo.com

Crisp



Crisp is a cosy, little restaurant filled with colourful decoration and plant hangers that will make you feel right at home. Whether you are a vegan or a meat-eater, Crisp has got you covered. The menu is packed with delicious options with fresh flavours and healthy ingredients that cater to all dietary preferences.

If you are having a hard time coping with the heat of Roatán, stop by Crisp and get yourself a poke bowl salad and one of their refreshing smoothies or juices.

Photo: Marco Verch/cc by 2.0/flickr(image cropped)
Address: Coconut Tree Plaza, Carretera Principal, West End, Coxen Hole, Roatán
Opening hours: Daily 10:30am-7:30pm
Phone: +504 96 098 145
Internet: www.crisproatan.com
Email: crisp.roatan@gmail.com

Cafe de Palo



Despite being in the bustling West End, Cafe de Palo is the right place to escape the tourist crowds and have lunch in a quiet atmosphere. The menu is full of healthy ingredients to choose from, not to mention fresh juices, smoothies and probably the best coffee in the area.

Cafe de Palo leans more towards the expensive side. However, their mouth-watering food and their courteous staff make it worthwhile.

Photo: Nathan Dumlaio/unsplash
Address: Mangrove Bight, West End, Roatán
Opening hours: Wed-Mon 7am-6pm
Phone: +504 96 490 724
Email: reservations@cafedepaloroatan.com

SHOPPING



Marco Verch/cc by 2.0/flickr (image cropped)

Roatán Island offers abundant shopping opportunities to suit everyone's preferences. You can explore various options such as bustling

markets, charming souvenir stores along West Bay Beach or the Mega Plaza Mall located in French Harbor. Roatán is unique as it provides a variety of both locally-made and imported products.

West End



West End is famous for its large number of shops, mostly small ones that specialize in souvenirs and gifts. If you are looking for handicrafts and jewellery made by Honduran artists, this is definitely the place to visit.

Additionally, West End is home to Roatan's nightlife, restaurants, dive shops and even water taxis that connect West End to West Bay.

Photo: Roberto Sorin/unsplash

Waves of Art



Waves of Art is an eye-catching, colourful gallery located in West End Village. It is a popular destination for tourists, and cruise ship passengers that are looking for local artists showcasing their unique, handmade goods at an affordable price.

Waves of Art offers a comfortable, air-conditioned shopping environment and a different experience from the conventional gift shops.

Photo: Taylor Heery/unsplash
Address: West End Road, West End, Roatán
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-7pm
Phone: +504 99 674 832

Megaplaza Mall



Mega Plaza is the largest shopping centre on the island. The mall offers a wide variety of shops catering to every need, from clothing stores and

ladies' shops with accessories and purses to jewellery stores and barbershops. Mega Plaza is also home to four local banks, making it easy for travellers who need banking services.

For those in need of appliances like computers, TVs, or furniture, there's Lady Lee, a large department store that offers a vast selection of goods. Additionally, both Roatan cell phone companies, Claro and Tigo, have stores in the building where they sell SIM cards and offer various services.

Photo: Dollar Gill/unsplash
Address: Monte Placentero, Roatán
Opening hours: Daily 10am-8pm
Phone: +504 25 126 000
Internet: www.mallmegaplaza.com

Macaw Container Market



Macaw Container Market is a relatively new shopping destination in Roatan that offers a variety of options for travellers. Whether

you're looking for handmade products, crafts, convenience stores, bars, or restaurants, Macaw Market has it all. Visitors can also find a brewery, chocolate factory, coffee shop and liquor store here.

One thing that sets Macaw Market apart from other shopping destinations is the focus on locally-made goods by Hondurans, allowing

tourists to support the local economy.

Photo: Ross Sneddon/unsplash
Address: Coxen Hole, Main Road, Roatán
Opening hours: Daily 9am-10pm
Phone: +504 97 616 337
Internet: www.instagram.com/macawmarketroatan
Email: macawmarket@gmail.com

TOURIST INFORMATION



Stephen T King/unsplash

Mahogany Bay Cruise Port



The Mahogany Bay Port has had a considerable impact on the economy of Isla de Roatán.

Thousands of tourists visit the island each year via cruise ships sailing the Caribbean and stopping at the Mahogany Bay cruise terminal. The terminal is equipped with two berths and can accommodate several super-Panamax ships simultaneously. Cruise ships sailing to Roatan typically make pit stops in Belize and Cozumel as well.

Situated in Dixon Cove on the southern shore of Roatan, Mahogany Bay is a pristine area surrounded by protected waters. The welcome centre at Mahogany Bay covers 20 acres and offers tourists a range of onshore and water

activities to choose from. Tourists can enjoy dining and shopping at the many venues available within the welcome centre, though it is recommended to make reservations as these fill up quickly.

You can take advantage of duty-free stores, jewellery shops, restaurants, bars, a pharmacy, and various souvenir and tourist-related shops right at the port.

Carnival Corporation owns the terminal, so all of their vessels make use of the Mahogany Bay Port. Occasionally, when the winds and waters are rough, conditions may result in ships docking further west, at the Port of Roatan located in Coxen Hole.

Photo: Michel Curi/cc by 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)
Address: Coxen Hole, Roatán
Internet: mahoganybaycruiseterminal.com
Email: info@mahoganybaycruiseterminal.com

Port of Roatán



The Port of Roatán is one of two major ports in Roatán, the other one being Mahogany Bay Cruise Port. It covers an area of approximately 2.6 square kilometres and can accommodate up to three ships at one time. The port became operational in late 2008 and it is located in the Town Centre of Coxen Hole, the capital of Roatán, or what locals call “el pueblo” (the town).

Roatán has quickly become one of the favourite stops for cruisers in the last decade. Thousands of cruisers visit Roatán Island each year given its unspoiled tropical beaches and thriving coral reef. The port offers duty-free shopping, tours,

cultural exhibitions, gifts, and souvenirs.

There is an official passport stamp booth to get your passport courtesy stamped and make your trip official.

Photo: Daniel Foster/cc by-sa 2.0/wikimedia(image cropped)
Address: Main Street, Coxen Hole, Honduras
Phone: +504 24 453 799
Internet: www.portofroatan.com
Email: info@portofroatan.com

Juan Manuel Gálvez International Airport (RTB)



Juan Manuel Gálvez International Airport is an important gateway to the island of Roatán, situated in the Caribbean Sea approximately 50

kilometres north of the Honduran coast. The airport is the fourth busiest in Honduras, with a range of connections to major cities across Latin America and North America.

Juan Manuel Gálvez International Airport is a hub for several airlines, including American Airlines, Delta, United, Avianca and others. it accommodates both international and domestic flights.

Photo: John McArthur/unsplash
Address: Airport Road, Coxen Hole, Roatán
Phone: +504 24 451 705
Internet: ehisa.hn
More Info: Previously known as Roatán International Airport

Best Time to Visit



Roatán has two seasons: wet and dry. The months with the most rain are October, November and December. Rains usually come in the afternoon and last an hour or so. Clouds might hinder your sun tanning efforts, but the forests and countryside are lush during the rainy season. The least attractive month to visit Roatán is October, if we had to pick one.

The driest months are April and May. Travel is easier during the dry season, especially if you are planning to scuba dive and go on excursions.

As temperatures fall in the Northern hemisphere, tourists flock to Roatán. December and January are the busiest months, as travellers take their Christmas and New Year holidays. The island remains in heavy demand until the Easter holidays in August. If you plan to travel in these months, make sure to book far in advance.

February and March are good months to visit. The holiday rush is not as bad and the weather is fairly stable and mild across the region. Hiking trails and roads are fairly dry but the plants are still lush.

Everything taken into consideration, May and late August to September are ideal for visiting the island.

Photo: Anete Lūsiņa/unsplash

Taxi



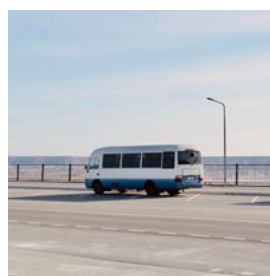
There are two kinds of taxis in Roatán, private or shared. If you opt for a private cab, you'll have to pay a bit extra. However, if you take a shared one, you might share the ride with other passengers picked up and dropped off along the way.

For those travelling to Roatan via cruise ships, you can easily get a taxi from the port, either Port of Roatan or Mahogany Bay, through the contracted company drivers. Alternatively, if you opt for an organized shore excursion, the tour will arrange for your transportation. There's no need for a rental car during a cruise ship visit to Roatan.

Last but not least, there are water taxis available based out of West End where most taxi owners park their taxis there overnight.

Photo: Peter Kasprzyk/unsplash

Public Transport



Getting around in Roatán could not be easier with the numerous buses available. You don't need to have your own vehicle to explore the island. The buses are small vans that operate regular routes between Coxen Hole and West End, and between Coxen Hole and French Harbour.

If you plan to stay on the East End of Roatán, it's likely you will need your own private vehicle or a taxi. It is recommended to check with the property manager when booking your accommodation to see if public transport is

accessible in your area.

Photo: Alina Nichepureenko/unsplash

Pharmacy



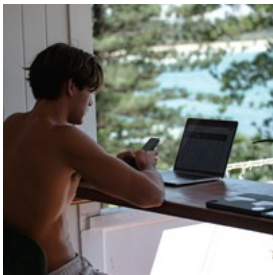
Pharmacies are not difficult to come by in Roatán. Most of the most popular ones are located in Coxen Hole. Eldon's Supermarket is a popular place to get medicines.

Photo: Diana Polekhina/unsplash

Address: Eldon's Supermarket, Coxen Hole

Opening hours: Daily 7am-8pm

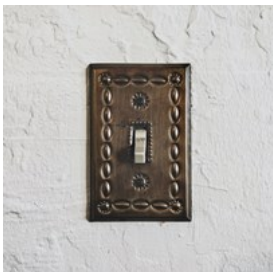
Internet



Roatan's high-speed network may not be the fastest, but it is reliable. If you are planning to visit the island and require a stable internet connection, you can be assured that the service is consistently reliable.

Photo: Mark Broadhead/unsplash

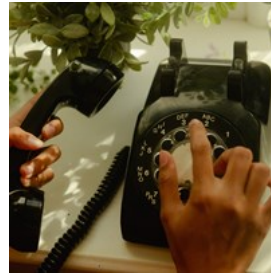
Electricity



The electric power supply in Roatán operates at a voltage of 110 volts and a frequency of 60 Hz. This is similar to the United States, and the plugs used are also the same. Make sure you pack an adaptor if you are visiting Roatán from The UK or other countries in Europe.

Photo: mk. s/unsplash

Telephone



Country code: +504

Photo: Wesley Hilario/unsplash

Population

110,000 (2020)

Currency

Honduran Lempira (L or HNL) = 100 centavos

U.S. dollar is widely accepted. It is customary to tip 10–20%, with 12.5% as the most common amount.

Internet

www.roatantourismbureau.com

Newspapers

Diario Roatán — www.diarioroatan.com

Emergency numbers

Dial 911