



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Summer 2006

New Facility Expands Resort's Unique Adventure Dolphin Program
First Public Dolphin Program in Honduras Announced

ROATAN, BAY ISLANDS OF HONDURAS—Sixteen years ago, Anthony's Key Resort pioneered Honduras' only research and educational dolphin program, the Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences (RIMS). Today, the resort is making another milestone, developing a second center for visitors to interact with dolphins and learn about Honduras' fragile ecosystem.

The new facility, which has been under construction just over a year, is slated to open in October, 2006. Four of the dolphins born in captivity at RIMS will relocate to Fins and Flippers, located on about three acres on the south side of Roatan near Coxen Hole Harbor. This will be the first public dolphin facility of its kind in Honduras, and the only one in Central America, allowing the public and cruise ship travelers to learn and mingle with dolphins and observe other native species such as reptiles.

Large pontoon boats will transport cruise travelers to the nearby center. Upon arrival, small groups (no more than six) will wade in waist-deep water with the dolphins while a trained handler shares educational information, and encourages physical contact and photographs. Guests will spend about 25 minutes with the animals.

Aside from learning about dolphins and other fascinating species, guests will have access to the extensive grounds featuring:

- Indigenous flora, such as the Noni Tree, which normally can only be seen in remote, specific areas of Central America.
- A cultural pavilion, featuring native artisans at work and wares available for purchase including handmade furniture, clothing, cigars, coffee and more.
- Two small, private beaches with access to snorkeling and other waterfront activities.
- A 70,000-gallon pool, complete with a bar.
- A large gift shop.
- A dining area where guests can sample authentic Honduran cuisine, or purchase snacks and beverages.
- Changing rooms with lockers and showers.

In addition to its coming public facility, Anthony's Key Resort offers a myriad of dolphin activities to its guests through the Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences including: the dolphin dive; snorkel/swim; 2-day Specialty Dolphin Course; Trainer-for-a-Day; dolphin beach encounter; Discovery Summer SCUBA Camp (kids 5-14 years); and Dolphin Trainer 101 (weekly package).

Serving as the precursor to Fins and Flippers, RIMS is a one-of-a-kind research and educational program dedicated to preserving Roatan's natural resources. Students and scientists visit year-round to use on-site laboratories to study coral reef ecosystems, while Anthony's Key Resort guests learn through a variety of recreational dolphin activities. The facility is unlike any other in that resident dolphins are integrated inside ocean-based enclosures with natural flow-through seawater and a link to the natural habitat.

Resort Information:

Anthony's Key Resort, Sandy Bay, Roatan, Bay Islands of Honduras

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Accommodations: 56 bungalows with and without air conditioning

Packages: Seven-night dive or snorkel packages range from \$1160- 1699 per person, based on double occupancy for 2006. Includes: 3 daily single tank boat dives, 2 weekly night dives, tanks, weights, and weightbelts, welcome cocktail, kayaking, canoes, horseback riding, entrance to the Roatan Museum, daily dolphin show presentation, island fiesta night, beach picnic, and airport transfers from Roatan Int'l airport to hotel, and hotel taxes and surcharges.

Young guests can enroll in Discovery SCUBA Summer Dolphin Camp, a weeklong program introducing kids 5-8 and 9-14 to marine biology, snorkeling and diving. Activities include dolphin feeding and training sessions, PADI SASY, Bubblemaker and junior certification courses. Accommodations and meals included. \$999/child, Sun.-Fri. during summer months only, based on 2006 pricing rates.

Dolphin activities: Dives (\$84 guest/\$112 non-guest), snorkel/swim (\$73/\$84), 2-day specialty course (\$160/202), Trainer-for-a-Day (\$160/202), beach encounter, daily dolphin sessions, demonstrations, Dolphin Trainer 101 during selected dates only; Bookings for all dolphin programs must be made on the island through the Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences. Guests of Anthony's Key Resort are given priority

scheduling. Participants must attend a short orientation. Rental equipment is available (rate subject to change).

Transportation: Taca, Continental, Delta Airlines, fly to Roatan International Airport. The flight is 2 ½ hours direct from Houston, 2 hours direct from Miami and 3 hours from New Orleans with a connection via San Pedro Sula. Shuttle transfers to/from airport included in package. Car rentals can be arranged through the Resort to tour the rest of the hilly, 30 mile-long island.

Description: Anthony's Key Resort is an all-inclusive, diving mecca. Located 35 mi (56km) off the coast of Honduras on Roatan, Bay Islands, it sits next to the second largest barrier reef system in the world, where 96 per cent of all species found anywhere in the Caribbean can be seen.

Divers can choose from 35 dive sites, 5-30 minutes away, all in waters averaging 80 degree or better with 80-100 feet visibility. Eleven custom dive boats are available to leave three times daily for reef, wall, wreck dives and two weekly night dives. Outer island excursion day trips are also available.

Anthony's Key Resort, a PADI 5-Star Gold Palm Resort, offers the least expensive diver training and PADI certification in the Caribbean and runs a PADI Instructor Development Center. The on-site medical facility, serving residents and visitors, includes a hyperbaric chamber.

Wooden cabanas are tastefully tucked into the lush, forested hillside overlooking a sparkling lagoon and garden view setting. A 60-second boat ride ferries guests to the small private island of Anthony, whose perimeter holds ocean front bungalows, some sitting over crystal blue waters on stilts. Bailey's Key is a two-minute boat ride west of Anthony's Key, where inquisitive visitors can wade waist-deep into the lagoon and interact with dolphins from the Roatan Institute of Marine Sciences.

The Resort has been family owned and operated for 30 years by Julio Galindo, Sr., who at one time served as mayor of Roatan. In 1989, he founded the Roatan Institute of Marine Sciences (RIMS), a unique research and educational facility with the only dolphin program on the island. Resident dolphins are integrated inside unique enclosures in the ocean, with natural flow-through seawater. Some dolphins are open-ocean trained and leave the facility to interact with divers and swimmers.

RIMS is also home to the Roatan Museum, displaying artifacts and exhibits of the culture and history of the Bay Islands (free for guests, \$4 non guest).

Beyond the world-class dive sites, Roatan has much to offer above the surface of the ocean. Canopy tours rush visitors through the treetops, swaying over the island peaks, and down the steep slopes to Tabyana Beach. If high altitude and high speed are too much of a rush, there are horses to

ride on the beaches, kayaks to paddle around its shores, fly fishing on the flats and dolphins to play with in the surf. Visitors can also arrange to visit Maya Ruin sites or hike in a cloud forest in the mainland of Honduras.

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