



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEW DOLPHIN FACILITY, WORLD CLASS DIVING IN ROATAN

A one-of-a-kind adventure dolphin program, a new dolphin facility and a weeklong Discovery SCUBA Camp for kids sets this locally-owned resort apart from the chains by getting guests into the water to feed, train, dive and swim with dolphins.

ROATAN, BAY ISLANDS OF HONDURAS – If travelers are looking for a different type of adventure and want to avoid the familiar hotel chains, consider Anthony's Key Resort.

In October 2006, the Resort and its Roatan Institute of Marine Science are opening a second facility to get more island visitors into the water to feed, train, dive and swim with dolphins.

Sixteen years ago, Anthony's Key Resort (AKR) pioneered Honduras's only research and educational dolphin program, the Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences (RIMS). Today, AKR and RIMS are making another milestone, developing a second facility for visitors to interact with dolphins and learn about Honduras' fragile ecosystem.

"We can no longer take it for granted that our reefs, lagoons, forests and the life they support can absorb without damage the development the island will inevitably experience," said Galindo, Sr., owner of Anthony's Key Resort and former mayor and senator of Roatan. "It is imperative that we preserve what we have."

Another example of Galindo, Sr. and his Resort's commitment to preservation is Discovery SCUBA Camp, a weeklong camp for kids, 5-14 years old, who want to split their time learning to dive and learning about dolphins while working with trainers to feed, train and swim with these intelligent, playful creatures.

Anthony's Key Resort offers guests myriad dolphin activities through its 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); daily dolphin demonstrations and Dolphin Trainer 101 (weekly package).

The new facility, Fins and Flippers, will offer non-guests and cruise ship passengers dolphin encounters, dolphin dives and (eventually) dolphin presentations.

For details on Anthony's Key Resort, the dolphin adventure program and packages available, call 1-800-227-3484. Travel agents receive 10% commission on the standard 7 nights, all-inclusive dive or snorkel packages. Familiarization trips, including an all-inclusive dive or snorkel, are offered to agents during the low season (September -December 22, 2006, excluding Thanksgiving week) at \$130/night per person, including hotel taxes with a maximum of 3 nights.

Family-owned and operated for over 30 years, Anthony's Key Resort is located 35 mi (56km) off the coast of Honduras on Roatan, Bay Islands, sitting next to the second largest barrier reef system in the world. There are hundreds of dive sites to choose from, with 35 sites 5-30 minutes away, in waters averaging 80-100 feet visibility.

The Roatan Institute of Marine Sciences (RIMS), owned and operated by Anthony's Key Resort, is a unique on-site research and educational facility with the only dolphin program in Honduras. Dolphins reside in a natural lagoon, complete with a living coral reef ecosystem, and leave the facility to be trained and to interact with snorkelers and divers in myriad dolphin activities.

There are 56 rooms with and without air conditioning. 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.

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

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Accommodations: (56 rooms, w/ or w/o air conditioning) 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.

Packages: Seven-night dive or snorkel packages range from \$1160 to \$1699 per person, plus 16% hotel tax 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.

Young guests can enroll in Discovery SCUBA 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 including hotel taxes, Sun.-Fri. during summer months, 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 weekly package; 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 (rates subject to change).

Transportation: Taca, Continental and 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 Atlanta. 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 hundreds of dive sites, with 35 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. 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).

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