

## Off the Beaten Track / Roatan, Honduras

*Lisa Yuriko Thomas*. **Wall Street Journal**. (Eastern edition). New York, N.Y.: Sep 19, 2006. pg. D.5

*(c) 2006 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. Reproduced with permission of copyright owner. Further reproduction or distribution is prohibited without permission.*

Lisa Yuriko Thomas on where to stay, dive and snare a good margarita on this Honduran island

What to do (underwater): Surrounded by the world's second-largest coral reef, the island of Roatan is known among expert divers and snorkelers for its colorful and varied aquatic life. To best explore this underwater world, check out **Anthony's Key Resort** in Sandy Bay which offers extensive packages of snorkeling or scuba diving. The resort, which has bungalows set on a mini-island, is also home to a sanctuary where you can arrange to swim alongside dolphins (7-night Dive/Snorkel all-inclusive packages start at \$1,160 per person, Tel. 954-929-0090, [www.anthonyskey.com](http://www.anthonyskey.com)). On the far west side of the island, West Bay has white sands and warm sky-blue waters. There you'll find the Octopus Dive School, which offers scuba-diving lessons and snorkel rental gear (Tel. 504-403-8071, [www.octopusdiveschool.com](http://www.octopusdiveschool.com)).

What to do (on shore): For an adventurous way to see the island, rent a four-wheeler or buggy at one of the kiosks found along West Bay beach. It is a good way to visit the West End village, which comes alive at night as the central hang-out spot for tourists. Check out Rick's Roatan on West End Street for margaritas and live music (Tel. 504-403-8237).

Where to stay: There are no luxury hotels on the island, but the beachfront Mayan Princess in West Bay has good service and spacious rooms with kitchens and verandas (High-season rates start at \$165 a night, Tel. 305-407-3028, [www.mayanprincess.com](http://www.mayanprincess.com)). Foster's West Bay has humbler digs. Its simple but clean cabanas are steps away from the ocean (High-season rooms start at \$120 a night, Tel. 877-245-5907, [www.fostersroatan.com](http://www.fostersroatan.com)).