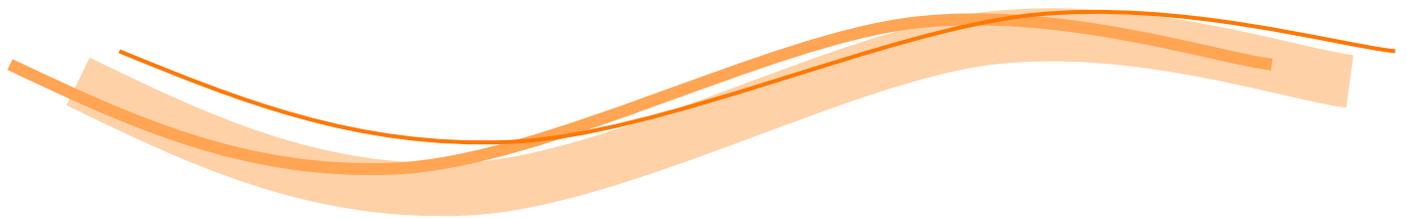




**ROATAN HONDURAS**  
**with**  
**AIR TRANSAT**





## ROATAN

Roatan is an idyllic island just off the north coast of Honduras and is the most populated of the three main islands that make up the Bay Islands - although there are over 70 islands and cays in total. Long known to divers as one of the top dive destinations in the Caribbean, Roatan is now being discovered by vacationers looking for somewhere a little different, a little off the beaten track, yet with all the convenience of direct flights and all-inclusive resorts.

Air Transat offer weekly non-stop flights to Roatan and feature six resorts which range from 3½ to 4 ½ star accommodation. As well as professional dive activities you will also find a variety of included features such as a kids' clubs, beach and water sports, and restaurant choices. And, as you would expect for one of the world's top diving destination, non-divers can also enjoy fabulous snorkeling.

At nearly 50 km long, less than 8 km wide at its widest point - and reaching elevations of 244 m (800 ft) - visitors to Roatan will experience everything from flat sandy beaches, rocky, volcanic rock shores, mangrove forests, lush valleys and steep rainforest-covered hilltops.

The beaches on Roatan are classic curves of white sand adjacent to turquoise warm waters, with the second largest barrier reef in the world just offshore. Roatan's barrier reef, sea grass beds and mangroves house the island's complex marine ecosystem. The Sandy Bay-West End Marine Reserve is a protected area where you will find many of Roatan's exceptional dive sites.

Divers may see dolphins and sharks, sea turtles and moray eels, and these waters are one of the best places in the world to see whale sharks especially between May and September. Caves, 1000-foot coral walls and spectacular sea sponges await those who venture under water.

Air Transat offer a full range of excursions to explore this unspoiled destination offering water-based fun, cultural experiences, nightlife and adventure. For example, there's a full day eco tour of Roatan island including visits to small local markets. You can zip line through the canopy of the tropical forest, take a catamaran trip with snorkeling to see the incomparable marine life or go swimming with Dolphins.

Air Transat offer weekly flights from both Toronto and Montreal. On this small island none of the resorts offered by Air Transat are more than 18kms from Roatan airport.

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<b>Location</b>	Roatan is an island in the Bay Islands, in the Western Caribbean, 56 kms off the northern coast of Honduras.
<b>Geography</b>	<p>For a small island, Roatan's geography is amazingly diverse. At nearly 50 km long, less than 8 km wide at its widest and reaching elevations of 244 m (800 ft), visitors will experience everything from flat sandy beaches, rocky, volcanic rock shores, mangrove forests, lush valleys and steep rainforest-covered hilltops. Sitting at the southern terminus of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, the island is surrounded by coral reefs, protecting it from the open ocean and is home to a complex underwater ecosystem.</p> <p>Roatan is the largest of the Bay Islands and has some of the greatest beaches in the Caribbean including West End Bay, with its magnificent turquoise waters, a favourite haunt of international divers. Although best developed, Roatan is still mostly wilderness. Its Northern reef is very massive and forms a barrier and an inner lagoon between the reef and the island. This reef is bisected by about half a dozen cuts that lead to bays scalloped along the coast. The bays and the few offshore islets form truly breathtaking scenery.</p>
<b>Name</b>	Roatan Island was named for the ancient Indian town of Roa that was located in the vicinity of what now is Port Royal on the island. Apparently, this is the pre-Columbian name of this town as well. The people of this primary village on the Island traded with the Maya as well as various Chibchan-speaking groups, some of which appear to have been the ancestors of the Bribri of Costa Rica who may have traded all the way to the Gulf Coast of Florida.
<b>Population</b>	Approximately 28,400 people live on Roatan and the largest community is Coxen Hole with a population of 5,100.
<b>Language</b>	<b>English</b> was for many years the first official language of the Bay Islands under British rule and is still the most dominant language spoke. Spanish is increasingly used as more people from the mainland move to the island. And if you venture to the village of Punta Gorda, you'll even hear the traditional Garifuna spoken.
<b>Currency</b>	The official currency is the <b>Honduran Lempira</b> . U.S. dollars are widely accepted and there are bank machines and currency exchange facilities in larger towns and popular tourist areas. Currently (as at May 2018) one Canadian dollar is worth 18 Lempira.
<b>Tipping</b>	There is not a culture of tipping in Honduras, but recognition of good service is always appreciated of course.
<b>Government</b>	Honduras is a democratic constitutional republic.
<b>Documentation</b>	Passports are required for Canadian citizens. Visitors are issued a Honduran visa (stamped in your passport) upon arrival and must have at least three months left on their passport before it expires to gain entry into Honduras. A departure tax of approximately US\$46 (or lempira

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	equivalent) is usually included in the price of your plane ticket for international flights.(as at May 2018)
<b>Time zone</b>	Honduras is in the Central Time zone and does not observe daylight saving time.
<b>Health</b>	No inoculations are required for Roatan. Don't forget your travel insurance.
<b>Safety tips</b>	This island destination is considered a safe place for visitors, but all normal travelling precautions should be observed.

<b>CLIMATE</b>	
<b>General climate</b>	<p>On Roatan the dry season starts in April and goes through mid to late July. This period is very dry and the weather consists of sunny day after sunny day with the temperature increasing from an average of 29°C, in April, to 30°C in July. This period is very warm and somewhat humid although the humidity on the Island is moderated by a steady easterly trade wind that blows throughout this period. For sun lovers this is as good as it gets.</p> <p>The shoulder season starting in March shows a steady decrease in rainfall (from the peak rainfall in February), which continues into the dry season starting in April. This is a very pleasant time of year with a few scattered showers to cool things off slightly and temperatures just slightly cooler.</p> <p>The first rainy season starts as early as mid to late June but more typically mid to late July and goes until early September followed by a short dry spell during later September and early October. The late fall is characterized by good stretches of weather with short periods, a day or two, of rain followed by a week or more of good weather. This can often be a great time since the occasional rain tends to offer some relief from the heat and is very refreshing, with this pattern continuing December through mid-January.</p>
<b>Today's weather</b>	Saturday, 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2018 is 25C and sunny on Roatan
<b>Best time to visit</b>	Roatan is a great winter destination for Canadians wanting relief from the cold winter conditions.

<b>GETTING AROUND</b>	
<b>Getting There</b>	Air Transat offers direct service to Roatan's international airport, Aeropuerto Juan Ramon Galvez, located in the town of Coxen Hole, from both Montreal and Toronto. Approximately 5 hours flight time. <a href="http://www.airtransat.ca">www.airtransat.ca</a>
<b>Cities</b>	There are no cities on Roatan – this is one of its delights! Coxen Hole, also called Roatan Town, is the largest settlement on the island, and the capital of the Bay Islands department of Honduras, with a population of about 5,000. It is also the location of the island's Juan Manuel Gálvez International Airport. The city was founded in 1835 when several

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	families moved to Roatán from the Cayman Islands.
<b>Distances</b>	The island is long and thin: 50km by 8km. It is 56km off the mainland coast of Honduras.
<b>Ferries</b>	Named the Galaxy Wave, the La Ceiba/Roatan Ferry is a 152 foot long catamaran yacht that provides security, comfort and luxury. With capacity for 460 passengers, there are 250 seats for regular ticket holders, available in the lower air-conditioned cabin. Outside, an additional 150 seats are available on the second level for those who enjoy the outdoors, and first-class passengers can enjoy excellent views from one of the 60 seats on the Galaxy Wave's second floor. Getting to Roatan or La Ceiba takes approximately one hour and ten minutes on the ferry. A concession on the ferry offers snacks and drinks, and entertainment is also available at the terminals and on-board. <a href="http://roatanferry.com/">http://roatanferry.com/</a>
<b>Taxis</b>	There are hundreds of taxis and they can be bargained with. But ask the price in advance and if it seems high, ask another. Prices from the airport are fixed during the day and negotiable at night. A cab from the airport to West Bay is \$10. Tipping is not expected by drivers.
<b>Car Rental</b>	Car rentals are available from many car agencies on the island. Avis and Budget are located near the airport. Local rental agencies are mostly along the road opposite the airport.
<b>Buses</b>	Buses run every 15 min between Coxan Hole and West End during the day. They depart from opposite the market in Coxan Hole. Buses run every hour to Oak Ridge, stopping at the new ferry terminal and passing through French Harbour, Polly Tilly Bight, and Punta Gorda on the way. These buses leave from opposite the HB Warren supermarket in Coxen Hole. Cost is about \$1.20

<b>ACCOMMODATION TYPES</b>	There are no mega-resorts on Roatan: that is one of its charms. However there are a number of smaller all-inclusive resorts – check out the <a href="http://www.Transat.com">www.Transat.com</a> website for some recommended hotels and also the section on Air Transat at the end of these notes.
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<b>LIFESTYLES</b>	
<b>Kids</b>	<b>Roatan Butterfly Garden</b> The pleasant walkways with shaded benches, are a perfect place to see and learn about Roatan's tropical trees, such as cashew, mango, hog plum, admiral plum, papaya, tamarind, bananas, key lime, sugar cane, bread fruit; and our lush tropical plants including more than 25 varieties of hibiscus flowers, crotons, helecionious, philadendrum, orchids, jasmine, ginger, ti plants, exora, pentas, lantanas, and parrot flowers. Roatan's Butterfly Garden is home to many hummingbirds, and a small collection of parrots, macaws, and toucans that have been acquired as

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	<p>rescue birds.          Open Sunday through Friday 9am - 5pm, closed Saturdays.          Website: <a href="http://www.roatanbutterfly.com/">http://www.roatanbutterfly.com/</a></p>
<b>Teens</b>	<p><b>Try zipping</b> above the treetops, overlooking Roatan beaches and coastline while your feet nearly touch the lush tropical jungle below. There are several canopy tours to choose from; some with as many as 20 platforms and 13 suspension cables. If zipping at heights of 262 m (860 ft) and traversing more than 3 km of cable sounds like fun, Roatan zip lining is a must.</p> <p>Platforms connecting zip lines are the perfect opportunity to observe wildlife in its natural habitat. Bring your camera and be on the lookout for some of the 120 bird species that make the island home including the Yellow-nape Parrot. Eco-friendly designs allow you maximize your zip lining experience with minimal impact on the surrounding environment. Professional guides provide you with helmets, gloves and high-tech harnesses for a safe and exciting zip lining adventure. Tours take approximately 3 hours.</p> <p>Teens will also enjoy exploring the <b>Caves of Helene</b>.</p>
<b>Romance</b>	<p>Caribbean sunsets, pristine beaches, picturesque fishing villages, restaurants built over the lagoon waters, snorkeling hand-in-hand over coral reefs...there's a long list of romance-inducing experiences on Roatan!</p>
<b>Honeymoons &amp; Weddings</b>	<p>Imagine it. Lush gardens, gold and white sand beaches, even your own private cay. <b>Roatan weddings</b> offer the exclusivity and privacy no longer found in many Caribbean destinations. Choose from a range of venues including modern four-star resorts to smaller, more intimate boutique-style hidden properties. Award-winning professional wedding and event planners ensure every detail of your special day is taken care of and that a wedding in paradise is truly a stress-free and momentous occasion for you and your wedding party.</p> <p><b>Roatan honeymoons.</b> Situated next to the world's second largest barrier reef, Roatan is a tropical paradise waiting to be explored. World famous scuba diving, lush jungle canopy tours and horseback riding on the beach are just a few of the ways newlyweds can spend their first few days together in paradise. Imagine escaping to one of dozens of secluded beaches or snorkelling together in the Caribbean Sea. Share quiet moments with luxurious spa treatments such as a couple's massage and chocolate body wraps. Sample irresistible island cuisine and choose from casual beachfront eateries to romantic candlelit hidden away bistros. And there's no shortage of live entertainment on Roatan with local talent playing various venues every night of the week.</p>

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<b>Zoomers</b>	Able-bodied Seniors will find much to love about this destination and many have purchased winter homes here. However, for those Seniors who have mobility challenges, this is not a recommended destination due to the hilly terrain and lack of suitable facilities.
<b>UNIQUES</b>	See the second largest barrier reef in the world from the air flying in a helicopter - the turquoise blue waters are something that has to be seen to be believed; contact <a href="mailto:info@aerocentro.aero">info@aerocentro.aero</a>
<b>Surprising</b>	<p><b>What's a Monkey Lala?</b> Well it isn't a monkey at all! It's a reptile. And it's also a drink...</p> <p>The first version of the Monkey Lala moves around quite a bit. Children – and grown-ups too - should keep an eye out for a scurrying motion on the ground, specifically near brush areas on Roatan. What you might catch a glimpse of is a small lizard – bigger than the geckos you'll see everywhere - but smaller than the iguanas you'll find sunbathing in the trees.</p> <p>These lizards are known as Basilisks and are often called Jesus Lizards because they sometimes actually walk on water. Their quick moving legs enable them to basically skim across the surface – not even breaking the surface tension because of their speed. On Roatan, these little lizards are called Monkey Lalas.</p> <p>Monkey Lalas are entertaining to watch, as they toss their heads back dramatically and run along the ground on their back two legs. They are really quick and it's tough to photograph them, but kids love to hunt for them for sure.</p> <p>The second type of Monkey Lala here in Roatan is in fact the drink of Roatan. Named after those little lizards that walk on water and dramatically scurry to and fro with their heads held high - the Monkey Lala drink makes you feel the same way!</p> <p>Each bartender has their own version of the drink with little changes that make it unique. Typically a Monkey Lala contains vodka, rum, Bailey's, Kahlua, and coconut cream blended together with ice into a frozen cocktail. Most bartenders will swirl in some chocolate sauce to add an extra zing, offering you a sugar rush in a cold glass as you enjoy another beautiful sunset....</p>
<b>History</b>	Long before Christopher Columbus landed on the Bay Islands in 1502, <b>Paya Indians</b> called Roatan their home. While not much is known about the very first inhabitants of the island, it is believed people roamed this paradise as early as 600 AD. Today, "Yaba-dind-dings" (Paya artifacts) are still found including pottery, shell ornaments, conch trumpets and clay figures.

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	<p>Roatan has a rich history of pirating on the island. The island became a hideout for <b>French, English and Dutch pirates</b> who would intercept and conquer Spanish cargo vessels en route to Europe loaded with gold and other treasures. It is estimated by the mid-17th century there were approximately 5,000 pirates living on Roatan and the Bay Islands. Some of the names you may recognize: <b>Henry Morgan, Blackbeard, John Coxen, and Van Horn</b> once ruled these shores and waters. By the late 1700s, the <b>Spanish</b> had either killed most of the pirates or sold them as slaves, taking control of the community of Port Royal, Roatan's oldest European settlement. Not too long after in 1797, approximately 2000 Black Caribs were left on the island by the British. The settlement of Punta Gorda was established and the <b>Garifuna</b> people as they became known, live there to this day. Each year in April, a festival celebrates the anniversary of the Garifuna people's arrival. British ruled the Bay Islands area from the late 1700s until 1862 at which time it was returned to the Spanish and became part of Honduras.</p>
<p><b>Books</b></p>	<p><b>"Red at Dawn"</b> by David K Evans is a novel about piracy on Roatan and the Bay Islands.  <b>Lonely Planet</b> have a guidebook on the diving sites on Roatan called "Honduras' Bay Islands".</p>
<p><b>1000 Places to See Before You Die</b></p>	<p><b>Roatan</b> is the only entry for Honduras in this book of travel miracles and it describes the destination as "The way the Caribbean used to be".</p>
<p><b>Must Sees</b></p>	<p><b>Stanleys Submarines</b>          Featured in National Geographic and on the Discovery Channel, Stanleys Submarines provide a rare opportunity to travel in a one-of-a-kind machine to another world and come face-to-face with life forms beyond imagination.          The vehicle is a one-of-a-kind deep diving submersible designed and custom-built for her exact location on Roatan, Honduras. The sub, which is the first in history constructed of three different sized spheres, is designed to safely transport three people to 3,000 feet (915 meters) below sea level.          Each expedition discovers something new and often times, you will encounter creatures which cannot be identified in any books. These deepsea expeditions are truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.</p> <p><b>Expeditions:</b></p> <p>1000 ft/305m dive: Explore down the second wall, around a huge field of boulders, often see over 200 feet (60 meters) horizontally using only natural light. Animals encountered include sea lillies, glass sponges, pom-pom anemones, and lace coral. 1.5 hours. More on this expedition</p>

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	<p>1500 ft/406m dive: Cat sharks and two types of unusual lobsters are commonly spotted. Evening dives increase the chance of seeing more bizarre creatures as they come up from deeper water to feed. 2.5 hours. More on this expedition</p> <p>2000 ft /610m dive: The animals here have never known daylight. Many of the creatures date back before the dinosaurs. Fish encountered include jelly-nosed eels, rough sharks, and chimera. 3.5 hours. More on this expedition</p> <p>Lophelia Reef Expedition 1500ft/460m: Few people have ever seen this splendid marine habitat as Lophelia coral is found deeper than even technical divers dare venture. Includes everything the 2000-foot dive does PLUS a mile of sub-sea travel, arriving at an oasis of deep (1200-1500ft/365-460m) sea coral. 4 hours. More on this expedition</p> <p>Six-Gill Shark Dive 1500ft/460m: The only way to guarantee citing of this massive pre-historic fish is to do an expedition specially tailored to encounter them. You will be departing at sunset and viewing sharks in total darkness. 5-9 hours. More on this expedition</p> <p>Stanleys Submarines is located on Half Moon Bay in West End Village. Website: <a href="http://www.stanleysubmarines.com/">http://www.stanleysubmarines.com/</a></p>
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<p><b>SPORTS ACTIVITIES</b></p>	<p>You can experience the wonders of Roatan’s reefs and marine life without getting wet. Boat tours include a <b>glass-bottomed boat</b> that glides over the reef, giving you a bird’s eye view of the amazing coral and fish below. Go deeper by taking a submarine tour where you descend as far as 460m (1500 ft) to search for elusive creatures such as the six-gill shark.</p> <p>Don’t have time to get certified but want to get underwater? <b>SNUBA</b> is a shallow water diving experience that combines snorkelling with diving. On a guided tour you’ll descend 6m below the surface. SNUBA is kid-friendly and entire families get can in on this kind of underwater experience.</p> <p>If speed is your thing, try <b>jet skiing and wake boarding</b>. Rental companies operate out of West Bay Beach and West End. Take advantage of the Caribbean trade winds and try <b>kite boarding</b> or attend a <b>windsurfing</b> school in Sandy Bay and set sail along Roatan’s calm, protected waters.</p>
<p><b>Golf</b></p>	<p>The newest addition to Roatan’s list of land activities, the <b>Black Pearl Golf Course</b> offers stunning tropical scenery combined with a challenging course, making it known in the golf world as one of the best new golf courses in the Caribbean.</p>

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	The Peter Dye–designed 18-hole, par-72, 7,179-yard course takes players from the Caribbean Sea through the island’s rolling foothills, offering breathtaking views of the barrier reef.
<b>Fishing</b>	<p>Roatan fishing charters offer an exhilarating experience for sport fishing enthusiasts of any level. A variety of charters with knowledgeable local guides take visitors to fishing hotspots using the latest equipment and safety gear. While trolling and deep-sea fishing tends to dominate, opportunities for guided fly fishing on the eastern part of the island are also readily available.</p> <p>Roatan deep sea fishing and trolling is just a few minutes from shore. Barely 1 km off the coast, boats drift over the reef into waters 305 metres (1000 feet) deep. Fish species include <b>tuna, barracuda, wahoo, dorado, jack’s, mahi mahi, marlin, grouper and king mackerel</b>. Sport fishers are in for more than just a catch. Guides create a truly memorable fishing experience. Some charters include a stop for lunch at a deserted beach and you may even have someone cook your catch at the end of the day!</p> <p>Charters generally include all fishing gear and equipment. Some companies offer pick-up and drop-off, along with refreshments onboard. This is island time so don’t be surprised if your trip includes a break and time to snorkel the reef.</p> <p><b>Travel tip: February and March are ideal times to spot a Whale Shark while you are on the water.</b></p>
<b>Horse riding</b>	<p>Whether you are a beginner or experienced rider, Roatan horseback riding adventures offer a superlative experience in stunning surroundings. Start your guided ride on a deserted beach, along scenic roads and through tropical foliage. Some rides take you to the hilltops where stunning panoramas of Roatan’s reefs and coastline come into view. Cool off at the end of the ride and wade your horse through the turquoise waters along one of dozens of secluded beaches.</p> <p>Watch for wildlife during your ride; you may see white-tailed deer, Roatan opossum or Agouti.</p> <p>Some companies offer pick up and drop off service. Try <b>Shirkie's Barrio Dorcas Ranch</b> for horseback riding on the beach at West End.</p>
<b>Hiking</b>	You can walk along the beach to West Bay from West End in about 45 minutes and then take a water taxi back.
<b>Cycling</b>	I don’t really recommend cycling here – too many hills and potholes!
<b>Diving</b>	<p>Some of the <b>best diving in the Caribbean</b> can be found in the waters surrounding Roatan and the Bay Islands. The world’s second largest barrier reef backs onto the island’s coastline making Roatan one of the world’s top diving destinations.</p> <p>Beginners are in luck too. <b>Útila</b>, the smallest of the islands, is one of the least expensive places in the world to get certified.</p> <p>Located at the southern terminus of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef</p>

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	<p>System and skirting the Cayman Trench, it's no wonder on a Roatan dive you'll see dolphins and sharks, sea turtles and moray eels, caves and 1000-foot coral walls along with spectacular sea sponges. These waters are one of the best places in the world to see whale sharks especially between May and September.</p> <p>If you are not certified, or it has been a while since you last dove there are a range of PADI dive courses and recreational dives to suit every taste and ability. Courses generally last three to four days with open water certification including two confined-water and two open-water dives. But don't let the laid-back Caribbean lifestyle fool you – this diving mecca offers trained multi lingual dive masters, instructors and 5 star PADI-certified diving companies with all the latest equipment. Without exception all diving is done in the presence of PADI trained professional dive masters and/or instructors.</p> <p>Many of the islands experienced dive masters and instructors were trained under the NAUI system and all worldwide certifications are recognized, including NAUI, YMCA etc. Make sure that you bring your certification card for verification.</p> <p>Choose from multi-dive packages, night dives, shark diving, wreck diving, deep dives and fun dives.</p> <p>Prices vary but generally are between \$250 to \$325 for ten packaged dives and single tank dives start at approximately \$25. Rental equipment is generally included although most avid divers bring their own gear.</p> <p>Many of the resorts are located in the Roatan Marine Park, which plays a vital role in protecting the reef surrounding the island. All divers are highly encouraged to pay the voluntary user fee of \$10 a year or \$3 a day which is available at their dive shop or at the marine park office. The money goes towards financing park moorings, patrols and public awareness.</p> <p>The outside of the reef is a continuous wall that typically begins in shallow water and descends to a 45-degree coral talus and sand slope at about 110 feet. Sometimes the wall plummets to unseen depths. Caves, crevices, overhangs, natural cathedrals, fissures, caverns and protrusions are constant features of the Northern reefs. Roatan's southern side harbours a fringing reef formation, generally closer to shore than the northern reefs and nearly as continuous. Shallow areas provide snorkelling and scuba sites featuring coral gardens knitted by huge stands of Elkhorn coral. Deep sites begin shallow and fall directly to a shelf or the abyss below. Large Pelagic fish are occasionally sighted both sides of Roatan.</p>
<p><b>Dive Sites</b></p>	<p>There are an estimated <b>176 dive sites</b> around the island with a dive site for every ability. There are roughly 82 easy sites to 'get your feet wet':</p>

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72 advanced sites for a little more excitement: 12 expert sites and 10 technical sites. Suffice to say, you can take a Roatan dive vacation and check out a different site everyday of your stay. Here is a list of some of the more popular dive sites and what one can expect to see.

### **Hole in the Wall**

This has something for everyone. Begin in 40ft. of water on a sand chute, home to the shy Yellowhead Jawfish, that takes you down through the "hole in the wall" opening out at 100ft. Novices can ascend a little and enjoy the spectacular wall on the right while the more advanced can descend down the sand slope, leveling out above "the abyss" that drops down 1000's of feet. Take a right, slowly making your ascent up and along the wall where shoals of Creole Wrasse, Blue Tang thrive.

Look out for eagle rays and turtles, and it's not over yet! After swimming for 10mins and upon reaching the top of the wall it's time to head towards the shallows where the 'swiss-cheese' rock formations provide another fabulous journey down, round, up and over swim-throughs, caverns, and canyons while "off-gassing" in 20ft of water.

Keep an eye out for marble-eyed Spotted Scorpion Fish lying amongst the rocks on the bottom and finish off with a visit in the last canyon where Glassy Sweepers and Silversides (seasonal) jostle for the spotlight as the sunbeams through the cracks. For the adrenalin seekers there is a dark and silty cavern at the end of this canyon, which has several passages that one could quite easily get lost in, so of course do not do this without an experienced guide. The view coming out of the canyon is an amazing gradient of greens and blues with silhouetted rock formations. A perfect dive and a perfect profile.

### **El Aguila Wreck (The Eagle)**

Another Roatan classic, this ship was an old beached cargo vessel, 287ft long, bought by Anthony's Key Resort to create an artificial reef. Originally sunk in 1993 only to be smashed into 3 pieces by the mighty Hurricane Mitch in 1998. The wreck was thoroughly cleaned before it was sunk so there was no environmental impact on the reef, and is perfect for penetration, as there are no obstacles to worry about.

Begin by dropping 110ft straight down to the stern and onto the sand where a field of Garden Eels sways back and forth from their little holes. Big Groupers sometimes come right up to your face while laid down watching the Eels. The propeller shaft and stern are raised out of the sand as you plunge head first through a window and into the

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wheelhouse, causing disorientation as the angle of the boat is twisted. Pockets of air trapped on the ceiling look like pools of liquid mercury as we exit through a beautiful rectangular opening out into the deep blue and toward the middle section.

The middle section is not really enclosed but offers a variety of swim-throughs while looking up at the mast piercing the water above. Then it's off towards the bow where you can swim through a doorway, then exit through a large hatch on the bow. Look over the edge and down to a coral patch at the base of the bow that is home to the famous Green Moray Eel that is not afraid of divers. He often comes right up to you looking for food. A pair of Translucent Blue Parrot fish feast on the algae growing on the bow. Groupers and Dog Snapper follow the divers around. Often an Eagle Ray comes gliding along the wall as you head to shallower water after about 20mins on the boat. The wall has nice canyon formations and a cavern in 15ft with a roof exit in 5ft that gives shelter to Bristle Worms and Glassy Sweepers. Drift along at 30ft towards Pillar Coral dive site where many fish like Sergeant Majors, Grunts, Blue Tang, Chub and Parrot Fish dance on the top of the wall.

### **Spooky Channel**

A very different dive. Dive through a deep channel that links the lagoon with the outer reef. The channel begins shallow but reaches a maximum depth of 90 feet and is about 50 feet across at the widest point, but if you look up you will discover what makes this dive so famous. The walls of the channel slowly converge above you, and when they are only a few feet from the surface, the walls are only six feet apart. You can make out a beautiful ribbon of light 80 feet above you. "Spooky" due to the low level of light entering, and the reason for an unusual prominence of low light corals normally found in the very deep. Fascinating rock structures, swim-throughs, lobster and starfish, a truly unforgettable dive.

### **Mary's Place**

This has got to be one of Roatan's most famous dives because of its amazing structure forming this crack inhabited by every type of coral, and sponge. Impressive overhangs teem with colour and life and lots of Seahorses. This site is on the south side of the island, an easy dive from any of the south side resorts.

### **Bear's Den**

Interested in caverns? Then this is the dive for you. At 50ft begin with a beautiful tunnel swim-through, opening out into the blue, and then down and along the wall. A big Plate and Sheet Coral outcrop provides home

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to many fish, sometimes a group of Squid. Make an ascent to the top of the wall and the entrance to the huge beautiful cavern, Bear's Den, in only 25feet.

Look closely at the rocks while approaching the entrance for the tiny Lettuce Leaf Sea Slugs and other Nudibranchs, even a Spotted Drum.

Swim over forty feet into "cathedral-like" Bear's Den, where sunbeams scatter shafts of light that dance around on the sandy bottom. Lie on the sand and relax while watching Glassy Sweepers swim back and forth amongst the light beams. Then it's time to head back for yet still more swim-throughs and canyons just past the mooring, keeping a close look at the Gorgonian Soft Corals as they provide shelter for rare Seahorses and Neck Crabs, usually only visible to the trained eye. The cavern is best seen in the mornings, as the sun's angle is perfect for the light beams in full effect.

### **Blue Channel**

Famous for its perfect profile for snorkelers and divers, it is in fact a channel that starts from the inner part of the reef and flows out towards the coral ridge, starting at 10ft and then to 45ft at the top of the wall. Start on the wall, barrel sponges, interesting tiny coral heads cover the deep sandy slope that look like an army of strange mushrooms.

Then head yet again toward the shallow water where a series of canyons in 20ft of water provide home to a large Porcupine Fish, Glassy Sweepers, Moray Eels and in mid-June to early August shoals of Silversides fill the canyons sometimes making it impossible to see which way one is going.

After exiting the last swim-through, dancing with, and scattering the tiny fish, it's time to follow the channel. Either side goes right up the surface guiding you to the outside of the reef and turtle grass in 10 ft where the boat can meet you, another perfect dive profile.

### **Mandy's Eel Garden**

Magical formations of corals and sponges and sloping white sand give this place a dream-like quality like no other site on Roatan. Like the name says there is a Garden of Eels down at about 65ft. Huge white shallow sand patches make it ideal for students on their first dive and it's perfect for snorkeling as the top of the wall is only 20ft.

### **West End Wall**

A shear wall, healthy coral, huge schools of fish and good chances of seeing Eagle Rays and other large pelagics. If you catch it just right with

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	<p>a nice current it can be a spectacular drift dive, flying in formation with your buddy just enjoying the ride. Off in the distance you may just catch a glimpse of the sunken 'Josie J'.</p> <p><b>Texas</b>          Why? Because " everything is so huge " said Mickey, an instructor at West End Divers and well the name just stuck. This is unspoilt beauty at its best. Huge Barrel Sponges, some big enough to hide inside are scattered everywhere across the plains of Texas and glorious corals housing every type of Caribbean reef fish like the Queen Triggerfish and Black Durgon. Rare fish like the Atlantic Spade Fish and the Sargassum Triggerfish can be found amongst these coral patches but be discreet because they are shy fish that dart back into their holes if they see you coming.</p> <p>Usually there is a wonderful current that runs east to west making it perfect to glide across the plains at ease at 50 ft. The actual wall top at Texas is quite deep at 100ft and beyond, and then it's sometimes difficult to work your way shallower against the current. Anyone can enjoy the plains of Texas but right out on the wall calls for a little more experience.</p> <p><b>Peter's Place</b>          The place for big Groupers, a beautiful wall, teeming with Creole Wrasse and always at least four big groupers and sometimes even bigger Dog Snapper. Perfect for close-up photography of these gentle giants. The reef offers interesting formations and sandy patches around about 45ft and on the wall there are canyons and over hangs. This site offers a unique feature, an ancient waterfall, giving a glimpse of what the island would have been like during the last ice age when the sea level was much lower than it is today. Free swimming Moray Eel and Eagle Rays may be seen.</p>
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<p><b>CULTURE</b></p>	<p>Diversity is perhaps the best way to describe the collection of culture that has created Roatan's unique culture over time including a mix of Carib, European and African heritage. In recent years many European and North Americans have made Roatan their home and an increasing number of ladinos (a mixture of European and Indian parentage) have moved here.</p>
<p><b>Museums</b></p>	<p><b>Roatan Museum</b>          In 1992, Cheryl Galindo, wife of resort owner Julio Galindo, created the Roatan Museum. The museum is housed in the RIMS facility and created with the guidance and expertise of the Honduran Institute of Anthropology. Through artifacts, murals, maps and documents, the</p>

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	<p>museum reflects the culture and history of the Bay Islands.</p> <p><b>The Bay Islands Underwater Museum</b>          The adventure begins in Sandy Bay on the North side of Roatan. Here guests receive a safety briefing and separate into groups according to swimming abilities. Guests of the Underwater Museum will be guided through crystal clear water, where they will receive a historical and cultural taste of the Bay Islands colourful past. Visitors will discover underwater statues &amp; artifacts from the Mayan, Paya and Garifuna era. The tour will culminate on a real 60-foot underwater galleon skeleton abundant with tropical fish, coral and surprises. The end of the tour is through the fantastic coral gardens teeming with sea creatures like turtles, rays and angelfish that call this beautiful reef their home.  <a href="http://underwatermuseumroatan.com">http://underwatermuseumroatan.com</a></p>
<p><b>Festivals</b></p>	<p>On January 1st Roatan Kicks the year off the evening before with a huge <b>New Years Eve</b> party that can last until several days later.</p> <p>In 2019 April 14th - 20th is Holy Week. This is a huge Latin American celebration known as <b>Semana Santa</b> and is a party that lasts the entire week before Easter. It is not to be missed on Roatan!</p> <p><b>Carnival</b> in April is a celebration of the arrival of the Garifuna in Punta Gorda. Carnival is celebrated all over the island with celebrations in all of the major centres including Punta Gorda, Coxen Hole, Oak Ridge, Flowers Bay, Sandy Bay, and French Harbour.</p> <p>In April Jonesville hosts the <b>Pirates Fair</b>. This is a great event and was originally started as a fund-raising event to pave the roads of Jonesville.</p> <p>June is the <b>Roatan International Shrimp Festival</b>, a two-day international event promoting the Bay Islands, Honduran music and its culture to thousands of visitors.</p> <p>September 15th is <b>Independence Day</b>. This is a public holiday commemorating the declaration of independence of Central America from Spain in 1821. There are many celebrations all across the island again in most of the major centres.</p> <p>In September boat owners and crew meet in West End for the <b>Roatan International Fishing Tournament</b>. Great food, drink and the spirit of friendly competition is the order of the day, not to mention some enormous fish!</p> <p>Oct 31st is <b>Halloween</b>: ghosts and goblins invade all parts of Roatan!</p>

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ATTRACTIONS	
<b>Beaches</b>	<p>Roatan beaches are some of the best in the Caribbean. Water temperatures average 27C.</p> <p>Roatan’s <b>West Bay Beach</b> is perhaps the most famous strip on the island which is likely why Lonely Planet describes its white sands as “pitch perfect”. West Bay Beach offers a variety of amenities including dive resorts, restaurants and pubs, water sports equipment, souvenir shops and even a strolling ice cream vendor that delivers cool treats right to your lounge chair! Excellent snorkelling is located just off the beach particularly at the western end.</p> <p><b>West End and Half Moon Bay</b> are also swimming and water playground hotspots. The Roatan Marine Park office is located in West End, one of several places where you can rent snorkelling equipment. Even more choices of restaurants, pubs and shops are located adjacent to West End Beach. Roatan water taxis connect West Bay Beach with Half Moon Bay and West End.</p> <p><b>Explore an unknown side of the Roatan island</b>  The beaches on the east side of the island, beyond the hotel district, are some of the most serene beaches in the world. To get there, you’ll need to leave the touristy western part of the island and head east. There are no facilities here – no washrooms or vendors selling food and drink, no maintenance men raking the beach – but there are also no touts, no hair-braiding requests and no crowds. Bring a blanket to sit on or a hammock to string up between two shady seagrape trees, some provisions and your sunscreen, and you’ll be set for the day.</p> <p><b>Camp Bay public beach</b>  The public beach at Camp Bay is one of the best places to enjoy a classic Caribbean beach and warm water. This long stretch of soft sand and azure water is just like the western beaches, but without the crowds. You’ll mainly find a few local families enjoying the day, with kids splashing in the water, dogs running around and adults setting up on a beach blanket with some snacks and drinks. On weekends (especially Sundays) you’ll be sharing the beach with friendly locals, but on weekdays you might find it all to yourself. You’re set to watch small fishing boats putter by as you soak up the sunshine or relax under almond and coconut trees. If you want to pack a beach picnic, you can stop at Eldon’s Supermarket in the main town of Coxen Hole or the French Harbor location (both are on the way if you’re coming from the western end of the island). You can also drive a bit further east from the</p>

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	<p>beach and end up at La Sirena de Camp Bay, one of Roatan's most iconic over-the-water restaurants with a laid-back reggae vibe, cool breezes, and the best coconut shrimp on the island.</p> <p><b>Paya Bay beach</b>          The road to the resort at Paya Bay leads to a deserted beach with some rugged eastern island views. Tall coconut trees line the back of the beach and the water here is sapphire and calm thanks to a protected location in the bay. You might notice a local driving a motorcycle down the beach to the next community, someone trotting by on a horse (still a method of transportation in these parts!) or you'll have the beach to yourself. This beach is a great place to watch locals fishing with line wrapped around an empty soda bottle, a sight to be seen! Just walk up with a smile and they'll be happy to show you how it's done. If you fancy some late lunch and a few cocktails at the tail end of your beach afternoon, head on over to the Resort at Paya Bay to relax in the plunge pool while you wait for your lobster platter and rum punch.</p> <p><b>Havana Beach Club</b>          The beach at Havana Beach Club is widely regarded as one of the most pristine beaches on Roatan. Head east on the road and start looking for the sign to turn into Havana Beach Club after you pass Parrot Tree Plantation and Media Luna Resort. You will definitely want to plan around the cruise ship schedule for this location, but on non-cruise ship days you'll find a few expats and locals out here – and that's it! The beach club has many options for activities and excellent facilities, making this beach a particularly good choice for families. Horseback riding, kayaking and snorkeling are just a few things you can fill your day with at Havana Beach. Or park your loungers under the shade of a palapa and enjoy the breeze. On-site restaurant Lionfish Louie's serves excellent beach fare including dishes made from the invasive lionfish, which local divers catch to help control the population. Luckily, they're delicious! Try the lionfish tacos or ceviche.</p>
<p><b>Wildlife</b></p>	<p><b>Honduras</b>          Honduras has 91 protected areas and national parks, representing over 23% of all the land in the country. There are 750 bird species, the second largest botanical garden in the world, the widest expanse of virgin rain forest north of the equator and the second largest barrier reef.</p> <p><b>Roatan</b></p> <p><b>Roatan Plants</b>          Plant enthusiasts will appreciate the native fruit trees including Strangler</p>

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Fig, Hog Plum and Nance. Island native plants such as ferns, bamboo, orchids, bromeliads and palms can be seen in the wild and at botanicals gardens and parks. Walking Roatan beaches, you can expect to see coconut palms, sea grapes, almond trees and coco plums along with a variety flowering plants and vines.

Integral to the Roatan's ecosystem is the mangrove forests found throughout the island. Not only do they protect the island from storms but also act as a breeding ground for many species.

### **Roatan Wildlife**

Roatan is home to a number of native birds, reptiles and mammals as well as some rescued exotic species from the mainland. Several species of bat live here, important in controlling the insect population. You'll likely see an **Agouti** or two during your stay – best described as a tiny-eared rabbit. Opossum and White-tailed Deer roam freely around the island.

Approximately 40 reptile species are found in Roatan including the endangered Hawksbill turtle. You also find six species of frogs, 15 lizard species and 13 snake species. The iguana farm is home to nearly 3000 of these reptiles.

Over **120 species of birds** live on Roatan, approximately only 40 species actually live and nest on Roatan, the rest are migratory birds. The Yellow-nape Parrot is found in Roatan and is an endangered species. Canopy tours are a great way to observe bird life on the island.

### **Arch's Iguana Farm & Marine Park**

On approximately 12 acres, over **4,000 iguanas** roam freely in a protected haven where some grow to four feet long! Get up close and personal with a numerous species included Green Iguanas and Hammo Negro Iguanas as well as Monkey Lalas, Jesus and Blue Head lizards. Visitors can pet and feed the friendly reptiles and feeding time (early afternoon) is one of the best times to handle the iguanas. Each year, iguanas are released into the wild, helping to maintain the native reptile's population on the island. Other creatures living onsite include monkeys, rescued sea turtles, and tarpon fish.

### **Dolphins at Anthony's Key Resort**

Guests and visitors can participate in programs that allows them to become a Trainer-for-a-Day, or for more in depth learning of the dolphins they can enroll in the two-day Dolphin Specialty Course. And for the kids in the family, AKR and RIMS offer the six-day Dolphin Scuba Camp during the summer months.

The dolphin activities at Anthony's Key Resort are unique by design, as many of the programs offer participants the unusual opportunity to

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	<p>interact with dolphins on the mammal's own initiative and natural curiosity.          Website: <a href="http://www.anthonyskey.com/en/dolphins/">http://www.anthonyskey.com/en/dolphins/</a></p>
<p><b>Parks</b></p>	<p><b>Tropical Treasure Bird Park</b>          The brilliant tropical colours and charming personalities of Honduras' parrots, macaws and toucans are on display at this beachside bird park in Sandy Bay. It's a relaxing afternoon activity, and informative guided tours are offered to acquaint visitors with these fascinating and endangered birds kept in spacious aviaries. Originally a private collection, the park now contains one of the most complete parrot inventories in Central America, including the Scarlet Macaws, Great Green Macaw, Blue and Gold Macaw, Hans Macaw, White-crowned Parrot, White-fronted Parrot, Mealy Parrot, Red-lored Parrot, Orange-chinned Parakeets, Green Conures, Keel-billed Toucans, and Collared Aracaris. A special attraction is sub-species of the Yellow-Crowned Parrot, an endangered species endemic to the Bay Islands.</p> <p><b>The Roatan Marine Park (RMP)</b> is a non-profit, community-based organization, established in 2005 by a group of dive operators and local businesses who wished to protect the reef in the Sandy Bay-West End Marine Reserve (SBWEMR). The Reserve was declared a marine protected area in 1988 by the Municipality of Roatán. It encompasses 13km of coastline and its boundaries extend from the high watermark down to 60m in depth. The RMP acquired official Honduran Non-Governmental Organization Status in 2008.</p>
<p><b>Gardens</b></p>	<p><b>Carambola Gardens</b>          The 100% natural 40 acres of the Carambola Botanical Gardens and their many jungle trails offer a perfect place for hiking, wildlife and scenic photography, eco tours, Professor/student tours, bird watching, nature studies, and of course, relaxation. So, "take a walk on the wild side" and watch the playful Monkey La La scurry along jungle trails as you enjoy flowering plants, orchids, medicinal plants, exotic spices, fruit and nut trees, including the very popular "Chocolate Tree" and the world famous Honduran mahogany tree.</p> <p>Plan to make your way to the summit of Carambola Mountain where along the way you will see an area where nature has provided a near sheer cliff, thus protecting natural Iguana species and parrot breeding grounds historically known as "Iguana Wall".          Up on top, sit and relax on the summit deck and enjoy Roatan's most magnificent views with all the colour and splendour the distant coral reef awards you...</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.carambolagardens.com/">http://www.carambolagardens.com/</a></p>

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<p><b>Historical Sites</b></p>	<p>The British built two forts: one at <b>Fort George</b> with 17 cannons and the other <b>Fort Frederick</b> with 6 cannons. In 1782, a Spanish armada composed of two Man-o-War and 10 other ships attacked Port Royal. At first the English put up a valiant defense. To prevent the Spaniards from entering the harbor, they sank their only ship, a brigantine, in the entrance channel and exchanged cannon fire from their two forts. On the 2nd day of the battle, the defenders abandoned Fort George and capitulated. For a week, the Spaniards tried to round up the English who had retreated into the forest. Ultimately, they captured 200 defenders whom they exchanged for Spaniards the English had captured in earlier battles. After removing all cannons and supplies, the Spaniards demolished the fortifications and burned all the buildings at Port Royal.</p> <p><b>Oak Ridge</b>, is a small village on the eastern end of the island. On arrival, you'll be offered water-taxi tours to the Hole-in-the-Wall restaurant, neighbouring communities, and around the harbour, but it's also pleasant to walk through the village, which has many brightly coloured wooden houses on stilts along the shore.</p>
<p><b>Utila Island</b></p>	<p>Utila, a neighbouring island to Roatan in the Bay Islands, is a natural paradise. It's a magnet for divers and an underwater scene for the largest coral reef in America. There's a reserve with mangroves, wetlands and tropical savannas; a whale shark meeting point; a research station and the home of the swamper, an iguana endemic to the island. It is one of the safest and cheapest places in the world to get PADI diving licenses of all levels. That's why thousands of people come from everywhere to train in the nirvana of diving schools: the Mesoamerican Reef.</p>

<p><b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b></p>	
<p><b>Shopping</b></p>	<p>Local handicrafts abound and can be had for very little money. Look for Central American arts and crafts, brightly-painted pottery, wood carvings, costume jewelry, tee-shirts, cigars and clothing. The asking price should only be considered a jumping-off point for some downward haggling. It's expected and if you have the stomach for it, you'll likely end up with a final price somewhere around 40-50% lower.</p> <p><b>Waves of Art Gallery &amp; Gifts</b></p> <p>Regularly scheduled art shows and art exhibitions offer the Roatan community and local residents an opportunity to see what island artists are creating. Unique and affordable gifts include a variety of folk art and hand-made items that support fair trade organizations and local artisan coops. Most of the beautiful items for sale are made in Honduras and Central America. Waves of Art Gallery and Gift Shop offers tourists and cruise shippers an opportunity to find that special gift, support a local</p>

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	<p>artist and shop in an air conditioned space.          Website: <a href="http://www.waves-of-art.com/">http://www.waves-of-art.com/</a></p>
<b>Markets</b>	<p>There are two grocery markets on Roatan. One is Warren's, in Coxen Hole. There is a smaller corner market in West End called Woody's.</p>
<b>Nightlife</b>	<p>The main strip of the island is the coastal beach town of West End which also doubles as the island's main tourism hub and its centre for diving. West End features a wide variety of bars and restaurants. Evenings in West End tend to move from North to South along the West End road with sunset drinks starting at Sundowners and The Landing, and late-night drinks at The Blue Marlin and Nova Bar.</p> <p>It's virtually mandatory to start at Sundowners and enjoy drinks whilst watching the sun go down over the beautiful bay in front. When Sundowners shuts at 10pm the whole bar shifts about 50 m down the street to kick on at the Purple Turtle where you can enjoy live music out the back. The Purple Turtle closes at midnight and from here most people continue on to the Nova Bar or the Twisted Toucan's will be the joint to party at and where you will meet most of the locals in the region this being a favorite haunt. Most people go home from here but if you really are feeling like an adventure grab a group of friends and head down the beach to FuBar.</p>
<b>Casinos</b>	<p>There are no casinos on the island.</p>

<b>CUISINE</b>	<p>Food brings people together, and discovering local food is the best way to immerse yourself in the local culture of the Roatan. You're not visiting the Roatan to eat pizza and burgers, are you? Exploring a new place through local cuisine is a great way to get to know a destination.</p> <p>Island food on Roatan generally consists of stewed or fried chicken, pork or seafood, rice and beans, cabbage salad or coleslaw, and fried plantains. There are also local specialties like a McCoy or tapado – stews made in large pots over an open fire, usually at a party in someone's yard, conch soup, whole fried fish or the Garifuna soup called machuca – a creamy coconut milk fish soup.</p> <p>One of the iconic local dishes is a baleada, a typical Honduran food brought over from mainlanders who moved to the island. Baleadas are fresh flour tortillas cooked and spread with refried beans and hard cheese with your choice of toppings (scrambled eggs, avocados and shredded chicken), a breakfast staple.</p>
<b>Food</b>	<p>The restaurants you will find along the West End beach are slightly more expensive than similar restaurants on the mainland, but the food is of a very high standard. Seafood abounds, and you can find top quality lobster for dinner for around \$10. Argentinian steaks are also popular.</p>
<b>Drink</b>	<p>There is a micro-brewery on Roatan – so try the local beer!</p>
<b>Restaurants</b>	<p>Here are a few favourite local places that are popular with local expats</p>

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and islanders alike, and are among the best restaurants in Roatan:

**Cal’s Temporary Cantina**

Located on the eastern part of the island, past French Harbor, Cal’s has an island-texmex fusion menu, quirky staff and some of the best views on the island. It’s located on the top of the ridge so diners can look out over three stunning bays.

**BJ’s Backyard**

BJ’s Backyard is a fixture in the community of Oak Ridge. It’s a popular meeting spot for east-end expats to grab some excellent and affordable eats and catch up. Don’t miss their shrimp burger and some of the best fries on the island.

**La Sirena de Camp Bay**

It’s a bit of a drive to reach La Sirena, but it is worth it. La Sirena is on a dock over the ocean in Camp Bay and serves up traditional island food with a million-dollar ocean view. Be sure to try the lionfish, rum punch and coconut shrimp.

**Garifuna Living Foods**

Garifuna Living Foods is one of many delicious Garifuna restaurants in Punta Gorda. This is the place to order machuca. Come here and you may even learn a Garifuna phrase or two if you’re friendly with the server.

**Anthony’s Chicken**

Anthony’s Chicken is a staple in the backpacker community of the West End. Recently renovated, it is a favourite place for a chicken baleada. Proprietor, Doña Rosie, is the friendliest restaurateur in town.

After the sun goes down, the street food carts are rolled out. This is truly where the best local cuisine lives. Don’t be afraid to say ‘lo que sea’ (“whatever”) if you’re not sure, and see what you end up with – chances are it will be delicious!

<b>MORE INFO</b>	
<b>Brochures</b>	<b>Air Transat Sun:</b> pick up a copy at your local travel agent or see the brochure online at their website.
<b>Websites</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.honduras.travel/en">www.honduras.travel/en</a>  Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/VisitHonduras/">https://www.facebook.com/VisitHonduras/</a>  Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/visithonduras">https://twitter.com/visithonduras</a>

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<b>TRANSAT &amp; HONDURAS</b>	<b>Air Transat offers direct flights to Roatan and a varied choice of all-inclusive accommodation on the island. They also offer excursions to see the best of this unique destination.</b>
<b>Transat Background</b>	<p>For over 25 years, Transat Holidays has been offering a large selection of vacation options in Europe, Florida and the south, as well as cruises sailing all seven seas. In addition to more than 200 south hotels available in the form of all-inclusive packages, Transat also offers a wide range of flights, packages, tours and à la carte products in some 30 European destinations. Their packages are flexible and tailored to stays of varying lengths.</p> <p>Transat Holidays is at the core of the vertical integration process adopted by its parent company, Transat A.T., the leader in Canada’s holiday travel industry. This integration enables Transat to offer vacationers the best possible service, from the airport all the way to their travel destination, where a team of more than 250 destination representatives offer onsite assistance on a 24/7 basis.</p> <p>Transat Holidays also works with Air Transat, a part of Transat A.T. Inc., offering a vast selection of flights to nearly 60 destinations in 25 countries aboard its fleet of Airbus wide-body jets. Families benefit from numerous privileges, such as a dedicated check-in counter and Kids Club advantages. Upgrade to Club Class for a touch of luxury or choose Option Plus and obtain an additional baggage allowance of 10 kg, among other perks.</p> <p><b>Today, Transat offers its Canadian customers 60 destinations in two major markets: transatlantic (Europe and the Middle East) and the South, out of 21 airports across the country, including in the Ontario cities of Toronto, Hamilton, London, Ottawa, Thunder Bay and Windsor. It also sells flights to Canada in 13 European countries as well as in Israel, the United States and its sun destinations countries.</b></p>
<b>Transat Winter 2018-2019</b>	In May 2018, Air Transat unveiled its flight program for winter 2018–2019, offering travellers a choice of 34 Sun destinations in the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America, as well as Florida and a selection of European cities.

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Transat also announced the return of flights from Toronto and Montreal to Saint-Martin/St-Maarten and San Juan, Puerto Rico, both of which are embarkation ports for its all-in-one cruise packages.

Air Transat is significantly boosting frequency on domestic routes, the vast majority of which will allow travellers to make connections to a larger number of South and Europe destinations. Winter 2018–2019 also marks the start of a transitional period in operations, namely fleet upgrades, which will see them introduce gradually this winter the shorter-range Airbus A321s, and then later, in May 2019, the newer A321neo LR. Once completed, these changes will mean an even better-performing Air Transat fleet, thanks notably to this aircraft's great versatility and the impressive flexibility that it offers in terms of flight frequency.

Air Transat has increased its direct flights and new travel opportunities via Toronto. Extra flights to Cancún, Mexico, will be added, departing from Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Toronto, Hamilton, Montreal and Quebec City. Vancouver residents will enjoy daily connections to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and more flights to the Pacific resort destination will be available to vacationers in and around Edmonton.

The Dominican Republic is also prominent in the program, with flights added out of Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and Halifax to Punta Cana. With the beaches of Florida enjoying a resurgence in popularity, Transat is boosting its direct flights to Fort Lauderdale from Toronto, Montreal, Quebec City and Halifax, as well as to Tampa out of Toronto. From major Canadian cities, a total of 29 weekly flights will be offered to Florida. Transat also offers several all-in-one cruise package itineraries sailing from Fort Lauderdale, Tampa and Miami.

In recent years, Costa Rica has emerged as an increasingly popular tourism destination. Air Transat has responded by adding more direct flights from Toronto to San José and Liberia.

The carrier also announced that it is boosting its number of direct flights from Montreal to Cartageña, Colombia, and Fort-de-France, Martinique.

For a growing number of Canadians, a winter escape is now synonymous with Portugal or Spain. Accordingly, Air Transat is increasing capacity on its Lisbon and Porto routes out of both Toronto and Montreal, as well as to Málaga, Spain out of Montreal — and, thanks to Faro connection, also puts the Algarve region of Portugal within easy reach.

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	<p>Air Transat also remains dedicated to offering Canadians year-round travel to Europe, with its popular daily direct flights from Montreal to Paris, France, and from Toronto to London in the UK, as well as frequent flights to Manchester and Glasgow.</p>
<p><b>Early Booking Bonus 2018/2019</b></p>	<p>It's never too early to start planning fall and winter vacations, and Air Transat has just announced (May 2018) its new Early Booking Promotion.</p> <p>Applicable to South, Florida, Spain, Portugal, Duo and cruise packages, as well as guided tours, the promotion must be booked by June 30, 2018 for all departures between Nov. 1, 2018 and April 30, 2019.</p> <p>Travellers who book any South package with Air Transat will pay a deposit of only \$100 and benefit from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transat's Price Drop Guarantee, which refunds passengers the difference (up to \$400 per adult and \$200 per child) should the package become available at a lower price than the one paid</li> <li>- The option to modify their travel dates up to 21 days before departure</li> <li>- An upgrade to Option Plus, valued at \$109, for Luxury or Distinction Collection packages</li> <li>- \$50 future travel voucher</li> </ul> <p>In addition, with only a \$100 deposit, cruisers and clients who book a Florida, Spain, Portugal or Duo package or guided tour will receive a \$50 future travel voucher.</p>
<p><b>Transat Collections</b></p>	<p>Choosing the right resort for your vacation needs is all important and to help you select the right hotel Transat have created 6 different Collections: <b>Luxury, Distinction, Family, Solo and Sun Savvy.</b></p> <p>What defines a Collection?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The vacation packages in a Collection match the type of experience you are looking for. Everything from the details of the Air Transat flights to the resort and its facilities suit the needs of a specific type of traveller.</li> </ul> <p><b>Luxury Collection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Designed to cater to your every whim, our prestigious Luxury Collection is the gold standard in upscale travel... with VIP inclusions for a dream vacation:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Free access to VIP Lounge at airports</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Free upgrade to OPTION PLUS on board Air Transat</li> <li>o Private roundtrip transfers</li> <li>o Unlimited À La Carte gourmet dining</li> <li>o Free WIFI in room and public area</li> </ul> <p><b>Solo Collection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With this new collection Transat put together a group of resorts that people who like to travel alone will enjoy thanks to advantages such as a communal table for sharing meals and no single supplement. And the big news is – no Single Supplement!</li> <li>- Solo Collection Advantages include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o No Single Supplement</li> <li>o Communal table for sharing meals</li> <li>o Weekly Happy Hour welcoming all Transat clients</li> <li>o Free room service and free WI-FI</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Sun Savvy Collection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transat thinks everyone should be able to enjoy the sun, and they pride themselves on providing you with the quality you want at the prices you love. Hence their new Sun Savvy Collection.</li> </ul> <p><b>Family Collection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Their Family Collection delivers a safe, exciting time for kids - and a relaxing holiday for parents. There are a variety of activities, facilities and promotions that suit the needs of different types of family. These range from resorts perfect for families with very young children to resorts perfect for teens and big families. And then there are also Transat's new Multigenerational and Single Parent categories.</li> </ul> <p>And lastly – there is the <b>Distinction Collection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distinction Collection offers exclusive perks that range from direct transfers, additional à la carte dinner reservations and complimentary WiFi access</li> <li>- Distinction inclusions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Direct roundtrip transfers between the airport and the resort</li> <li>o Additional guaranteed à la carte restaurant reservations</li> <li>o Free WIFI in the lobby</li> <li>o Mini-bar restocked daily</li> <li>o Unlimited select international drinks</li> <li>o Free in-room safe</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>You will also enjoy, for example, bottle of wine or local specialty in the room upon arrival, turn-down service plus lots more.</p>
<b>Awards</b>	<b>Transat almost routinely picks up numbers of rewards each year. Here are some of the awards they received in 2017:</b>

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	<p>Voted Best North American Leisure Airline six years running - 2017 Skytrax Annual Airline Awards</p> <p>First place in three categories of the Agent's Choice Awards:          best Tour Operator          best Leisure/Charter airline for Air Transat          best Overall Supplier for Service and Value</p>
<b>Current Brochures</b>	Transat Sun 2018/19 brochure is available at your local travel agent and covers vacations through to October 2019.
<b>Newsletter</b>	Stay up to date on the latest news, travel offers, discount prices, contests and more by signing up to Transat's e-newsletter here: <a href="http://www.airtransat.com/en-CA/Newsletter">http://www.airtransat.com/en-CA/Newsletter</a>
<b>Air Transat Kids Club</b>	<p>To ensure that your family vacations are fun and unforgettable from beginning to end, Air Transat has created <b>Kids Club</b> so that young passengers can really enjoy themselves whilst onboard an Air Transat flight. It is designed to make air travel a fun experience for young travellers (and for their parents!). Even before the doors of the plane are closed following boarding, every child receives a small bag containing all sorts of surprises and games. The more fun they have, the easier the flight. Furthermore, children who are members of Air Transat Kids Club enjoy certain exclusive privileges.</p> <p>Members of the Air Transat Kids Club will enjoy several benefits that the whole family can share. You can check in at a special "Air Transat Kids Club Members" counter. Thanks to these special counters located in major Canadian airports where Air Transat flies, checking-in is quicker than before. At check-in, special tags will be placed on your baggage; as a result, <u>your baggage gets priority treatment.</u></p>
<b>Transat Club Class</b>	<p>Enjoy exclusive privileges such as complimentary seat selection, wider, more comfortable leather seats, a choice of gourmet meals and fine wines, priority check-in, baggage service and boarding.</p> <p><b>Club Service</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicated Club attendants</li> <li>• Attentive, personalized service</li> <li>• Exclusive, spacious Club cabin</li> </ul> <p><b>Drinks &amp; Snacks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome cocktails</li> <li>• Complimentary non-alcoholic drinks, snacks and bar service</li> </ul> <p><b>Club Privileges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased baggage allowance</li> <li>• 40 kg checked/15 kg carry-on</li> <li>• Exclusive, rapid check-in counter in most airports</li> <li>• Priority boarding</li> <li>• Practical travel items (on Europe flights)</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free headsets</li> <li>• Canadian newspapers</li> </ul> <p><b>Comfort &amp; Refinement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wider, more comfortable leather seats</li> <li>• More legroom</li> <li>• Complimentary Seat Selection: call 1-877-872-6728</li> <li>• Choice of gourmet meals</li> <li>• Choice of wine and more</li> </ul>
<b>Option Plus</b>	<p>This Economy class option includes many priority privileges and services including priority check-in, priority baggage handling, an extra 10kg baggage allowance and even champagne. Here's what you get:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance seat selection on roundtrip flights</li> <li>• Priority check-in at a dedicated counter</li> <li>• Priority baggage handling</li> <li>• Priority boarding</li> <li>• Complete Air Transat travel kit on flights to European destinations</li> <li>• Snacks from the On Board Bistro selection</li> <li>• Alcoholic beverages during drinks service 200ml bottle of champagne (Sun and Europe)</li> <li>• Supplementary baggage allowance up to 10 kg per flight segment</li> <li>• Wine or beer with the meal</li> <li>• Headsets</li> </ul> <p>The cost is \$110-\$159 for southbound destinations and \$139-\$239 for European destinations as at May 2018</p>
<b>Option Flex</b>	<p>Life doesn't always go exactly according to plan. When you book your dream vacation, you want to make sure you enjoy the ultimate level of flexibility should something unexpected happen. Option Flex with Transat gives you just that. Option Flex lets you:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- change your departure date, destination or hotel, up to 3 hours before departure</li> <li>- transfer your vacation package to a friend or family member, up to 7 days before departure</li> <li>- cancel your trip and get a full refund</li> <li>- and you won't be charged any additional fuel or currency surcharges once you've booked.</li> </ul> <p>The cost of Option Flex is \$59 + taxes at time of booking for southbound flights and \$99 for European flights (as at May 2018).</p>
<b>Transat and Sustainable Tourism</b>	<p>Transat recognizes the prime importance of the environment, host communities, cultural diversity, and their relationships with their employees, customers and partners. Tourism has become one of the world's leading industries. Society and communities reap the benefits, and, each year, hundreds of millions of travellers discover new countries and cultures. Transat is firmly committed to the responsible</p>

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	<p>development of the tourism industry, and has adopted the following definition of sustainable tourism:  <i>“Sustainable tourism entails respect for nature, as well as for host communities and their values; it combines positive socio-economic benefits for local populations with an enriching experience for travellers.”</i></p> <p>The issue of the environment, as far as Transat’s own facilities are concerned, is a clear and basic target. Their environment committees have implemented concrete initiatives with regard to recycling, conservation of resources, the disposal of obsolete electronic equipment, and raising employee awareness.</p> <p>Air Transat has begun developing an environmental management system that could lead to an ISO 14001 certification in the future. To find out more, consult the Transat and the Environment sections at their website:  <a href="http://www.airtransat.ca/en/Info/the-environment-its-everyones-business.aspx?ExitID=69&amp;ContentType=voyageur">http://www.airtransat.ca/en/Info/the-environment-its-everyones-business.aspx?ExitID=69&amp;ContentType=voyageur</a></p> <p><b>Eco-responsible certified hotels</b></p> <p>Transat urges its hotelier partners to excel in social and environmental responsibility, and formally recognizes the efforts of accommodations that commit to certification in this area. Certified establishments must maintain performance levels to continue using such labels. The indicators used vary depending on the certification scheme, but many certification organizations have begun aligning their benchmarks with the Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria.</p> <p>To help you make an informed choice when you take your next vacation, Transat list six certifications for hotels and beaches. You can also find certified hotels by searching by destination.</p> <p>Certifications for hotels          Biosphere Responsible Tourism          Green Globe          Green Key          ISO 14001          Travelife</p> <p>Certification for beaches          Blue Flag</p>
<p><b>Gift Certificates</b></p>	<p>Here’s your chance to make a loved one’s dream come true. With Transat gift certificates you can offer the beauty, excitement, and wonders of the world: the South with its heavenly beaches and endless sunshine, or just a rental car. Transat gift certificates are valid on all Transat products in their brochures. They can be redeemed at a travel agent’s office at the time of reservation. To order your gift certificates call 1-800-322-6649.</p>

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<b>Groups</b>	Group rates are available – as few as 10 adults make up a group. Talk to your travel agent to check the current details of Transat’s group deals.
<b>Hurricane Policy</b>	<p>Transat provide you with true peace of mind. Vacationers can travel secure in the knowledge that you will be protected should a hurricane affect your destination city in Florida, Mexico, the Caribbean or Central America. This Transat policy covers reservations for departures between June 1 and November 30 each year and is likely to be renewed in 2018 – check the website. If the conditions stipulated in the policy are met, you may choose one of these four options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Travel at a later date</li> <li>2. Travel to another destination city</li> <li>3. Travel to the booked destination city</li> <li>4. Cancel with a full refund</li> </ol>
<b>Air Transat Resorts in Roatan 2018/2019</b>	<p>Air Transat offers direct flights to Roatan and a wide choice of all-inclusive accommodation on the island. Here are just three of the excellent resort choices available with Air Transat. One is a quiet, typically Caribbean resort on a private island. One is a family friendly resort with great facilities. And one is a more luxurious property with a spa that is more adults oriented.</p> <p><b>The Henry Morgan Hotel &amp; Beach Resort</b>  The Henry Morgan Hotel &amp; Beach Resort is a lively 3½ star resort located beachfront on West Bay Beach and approximately 15 km from the Roatan airport. It offers 140 rooms and villas with a balcony or terrace with hammock.  This hotel is a <b>Solo Collection</b> property, which means no single supplement (restrictions may apply) and a communal table for sharing meals  Your Air Transat all-inclusive package includes daily buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner including 1 à la carte dinner per week. It also includes unlimited domestic drinks, a daily activities program and nightly entertainment. The hotel offers 3 restaurants a bar and a disco. The hotel provides babysitting at an additional cost and younger travellers can enjoy the kid’s mini disco.  There is a PADI dive centre on site offering diving courses for all levels from beginners to PADI Advanced divers and Air Transat guests can opt for a great value dive package with 2 dives and 2 tanks per day over 5 days.</p> <p><b>The Media Luna Resort &amp; Spa</b>  The Media Luna Resort &amp; Spa in Roatan is a luxurious resort located beachfront, on the eastern part of the island and approximately 15 km from the Roatan airport. This 4-star property features 126 comfortable</p>

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	<p>rooms with full bathrooms and a balcony or terrace. The hotel also has a spa offering massage treatments.</p> <p>Your Air Transat all-inclusive package includes daily buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner including 1 à la carte dinner per week - and what could be more romantic than to pay a little extra for a lobster dinner on the beach? It also includes unlimited domestic drinks, a daily activities program and nightly entertainment. The hotel offers 2 restaurants, two bars and a disco.</p> <p>The hotel also features a PADI dive centre. Air Transat guests can opt for a great value dive package with 2 dives and 2 tanks per day over 5 days, including 1 night dive, plus unlimited shore dives.</p> <p><b>Anthony's Key Resort</b></p> <p>This resort is a unique resort located on Sandy Bay, in the Marine Park and approximately 12 km from the Roatan airport. There are 56 bungalows with a restaurant and two bars.</p> <p>Services include: a pool, live music, a Convenience Store, Spa, an on-site Doctor, WiFi available in the entire complex, Shuttle service throughout the resort, Scuba diving (\$), Babysitting (\$), and a beach with lounge chairs and palapas.</p> <p>Scuba diving package includes:</p> <p>Excursions: Maya Key and Island fiesta night on the key</p> <p>Equipment (air tank, weight belts and weights)</p> <p>Dives (3 single tank boat dives per day and 2 single tank boat night dives per week)</p> <p>Workshop of buoyancy control</p> <p>Snorkel package also available (\$)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 snorkels daily by boat with guide</li> <li>- 1 night snorkel by boat with guide</li> <li>- Fish identification underwater</li> <li>- Reef ecology lecture / Slideshow fish</li> <li>- 1 dolphin beach encounter</li> </ul>
<p><b>Air Transat Duo</b></p>	<p>Air Transat feature a twin centre vacation option on Roatan called a DUO. This allows you to get the best of both worlds on Roatan by spending a week on the East Coast beaches staying at the Media Luna Resort &amp; Spa, followed by a week on lively West Bay Beach staying at the Henry Morgan Hotel &amp; Beach Resort.</p> <p><a href="https://www.transat.com/en-CA/South/Honduras/Roatan/Duo/Discover-Roatan?opentab=itinerary&amp;gateway=YYZ&amp;day=mon&amp;tiles=2017_2018!2018_2019">https://www.transat.com/en-CA/South/Honduras/Roatan/Duo/Discover-Roatan?opentab=itinerary&amp;gateway=YYZ&amp;day=mon&amp;tiles=2017_2018!2018_2019</a></p>
<p><b>Air Transat Excursions in Roatan in 2018</b></p>	<p>Air Transat offer excursions to explore the island, including eco-tourism, ziplining, sport fishing, glass-bottom boat tours, the Carambola botanical gardens, and the iguana farm.</p>

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	<p><b>Barbareta &amp; Pigeon's Cay</b> A full day's tour, cruising by the island's southern coast, which is accessible only by boat. It includes snorkeling time off the desert island of Pigeon's Cay, a lobster BBQ lunch and an open bar.</p> <p><b>Dolphins Swim</b> Learn all about these beautiful creatures and then interact with them, including snorkeling with a dolphin.</p> <p><b>Gumbalimba Park</b> A half day tour to explore Roatan's flora and fauna. Hold monkeys and parrots in your arms and discover a cave where pirates used to hide. You can also zipline through the tropical forest via 12 platforms.</p> <p><b>Island Tour</b> This is the tour to discover Roatan's culture and customs. Includes visits to Maya Eden Park, an iguana farm, the Rum Company and a chocolate factory. A typical local lunch is also part of the tour.</p> <p><b>Snorkeling and Jonesville Bay (only from Media Luna)</b> Cruise the mangroves on a dory and snorkel the tropical reef. Lunch at the famous 'hole in the Wall' restaurant and visit a local fishing village.</p> <p><b>Sunset Cruise (only from Henry Morgan)</b> On this half day tour, discover the local marine life in all its glory while snorkeling, visit mangroves and the dolphin lagoon. End with a spectacular sunset over the waters of the Caribbean.</p>
<p><b>Special Deal with Air Transat</b></p>	<p>Air Transat has an Early Booking Promotion which applies to Roatan: the promotion must be booked by June 30, 2018 for all departures between Nov. 1, 2018 and April 30, 2019.</p> <p>Travellers who book any South package with Air Transat will pay a deposit of only \$100 and benefit from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transat's Price Drop Guarantee, which refunds passengers the difference (up to \$400 per adult and \$200 per child) should the package become available at a lower price than the one paid</li> <li>- The option to modify their travel dates up to 21 days before departure</li> <li>- An upgrade to Option Plus, valued at \$109, for Luxury or Distinction Collection packages</li> </ul>

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	<p>- \$50 future travel voucher</p> <p>Check out <a href="http://www.Transat.com">www.Transat.com</a> for latest deals.</p>
<p><b>Air Transat Dive Deal</b></p>	<p>Air Transat make it easy for divers in Roatan by offering great value scuba diving packages which include:</p> <p>Dive packages start at \$395, including 10 dives</p> <p>2 dives a day over 5 days</p> <p>Includes one-night dive</p> <p>Unlimited shore dives and diving equipment included</p> <p>For travel until August 27, 2018</p>
<p><b>Websites &amp; Social Media</b></p>	<p>Website: <a href="http://www.Transat.com">www.Transat.com</a></p> <p>Sun e-brochures:  <a href="http://www.transatholidays.com/en/South/Electronic-Sun-brochures?ID=1656&amp;type=gamme&amp;tmpl=GEN">http://www.transatholidays.com/en/South/Electronic-Sun-brochures?ID=1656&amp;type=gamme&amp;tmpl=GEN</a></p> <p>Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/AirTransatCanada">https://www.facebook.com/AirTransatCanada</a></p> <p>Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/AirTransat">https://twitter.com/AirTransat</a></p> <p>YouTube: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/AirTransatEng">https://www.youtube.com/user/AirTransatEng</a></p>

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