

Blu Breezen @BluZen - Caye Caulker, Belize

If you are looking for a unique, relaxing holiday off the beaten path, be sure to consider Blu BreeZen! Our luxury condo is located on North Caye Caulker in Belize on a property called [Blu Zen](#), which operates as a Residence & Resort. The original Blu Zen development consists of 75 units, mostly 2 bedrooms (they are currently building a hotel and two more phases). Each unit is individually owned, and many are in the rental pool which is managed by a wonderful on-site team. We invite you to read more about the property and the incredible country of Belize, and consider visiting on your next holiday. You will not regret it!

About Belize

Belize is sandwiched between Guatemala to the west and south, Mexico to the north, and the Caribbean Sea to the east. Formerly known as British Honduras, Belize became an independent nation in 1981. The population is just about 420,000 so it is a relatively small country. Everyone speaks English, as it is the official language. You'll also hear some native islanders speaking English-based Belizean Creole.



Sporting an incredible barrier reef (the second largest in the world), beautiful Mayan temples, stunning natural attractions, as well as an abundance of sunshine and tropical breezes, Belize is a superb destination for someone looking to experience something different. For travelers, there are a range of options for accommodations, but since there are few large all-inclusive resorts, the islands (cayes, pronounced "KEYS") provide a unique opportunity to become part of island life.

In Belize, US currency is widely accepted everywhere, although you will typically receive your change in Belize dollars. The exchange rate is simple; \$1US = \$2BZ. If you access an ATM you will receive Belize dollars. Most prices you see when visiting are in Belize dollars unless otherwise stated. Credit cards are usually accepted, although some businesses and restaurants prefer payment in cash only, particularly the street vendors. There is an Atlantic Bank with an ATM in the Caye Caulker village.



Atlantic Bank - ATM

About Caye Caulker



Caye Caulker Welcomes You

Caye Caulker is a small island north and east of Belize City. The island is about 5 miles long and less than a mile wide, although most activity occurs in a much smaller area and in most places, it's a short two-minute walk from windward to leeward sides. It is divided into the North and South Island, separated by what is known as The Split, a channel dividing the island in two. It is believed that the island was "split" during the infamous Hurricane Hattie in 1961, while others believe it was dug out by settlers living there in the 19th century. The town is called Caye Caulker Village and is on the South Island. There you will find a range of restaurants, gift shops, bars, dive/snorkel shops and more, including multiple grocery stores.



The Split



Caye Caulker Village

In Caye Caulker, life moves at a snail's pace. No one is in a rush. There aren't any real roads (you drive around in golf carts). You visit Caye Caulker to relax on the beach, get a tan, eat lobster, enjoy the local beer and wonderful tropical drinks, and spend the evenings dancing at one of the reggae bars. The island is easy to navigate by foot, bike or golf cart. Golf Cart rentals are available, but golf cart taxis can take you anywhere for around \$5US. The north island is growing quickly, with homes and small hotels going up, and as a result, there are now a handful of restaurants

to visit. Blu Zen guests can access the village by either the Blu Zen boat service or using the walk-on/ride-on Split-to-Split Ferry.

Getting There

Travel to Belize is quite easy with many airlines making it a destination. The airport designation for Belize City (Philip Goldson International) is BZE. We live in the central U.S. and have used Southwest, American, and United to get to Belize over the years. Several major U.S. cities have direct flights, although folks like us in the Midwest require a short layover in Miami, Dallas, or Houston. When booking flights, take special note of any stops and how long those are. Don't get stuck with an overnight layover.



Philip Goldson International Airport

www.expedia.com is a good tool to find flight options as it compares the flight times, number of stops and costs (except for Southwest, which you have to visit directly). From there you may want to compare prices with the airlines directly before booking. *We recommend mid-week travel, as weekends can be extremely busy at BZE.*

Once you land at BZE and have cleared customs and immigrations, you'll have two options to get to Caye Caulker, flight or ferry. We know it is starting to sound involved but you're almost there. We promise it is worth it!!

FERRY: If you book to stay at our unit and have shared your contact information, the Blu Zen staff can help arrange a ground taxi to the Belize City Water Terminal. If you take this option, a driver will meet you at the airport and get you to the Water Terminal in the city. They will also help you purchase your ferry tickets and make sure your bags (**save your bag tags, as you cannot get your bags without them**) are checked in before leaving you to wait for the next ferry to Caye Caulker. The ferry pier is not very big and is easily laid out. While waiting, it offers places to get snacks, souvenirs and also has a couple restaurants if you have time for a meal. We recommend The Last Drop bar. They have free Wi-Fi and AC!! Note that there may be a charge to use the restrooms outside the Last Drop. The taxi to the Water Terminal is approximately \$30US for two people, an additional \$10US per person, and takes about 30 minutes.



Belize City Water Terminal

The Ferry to Caye Caulker is operated by www.belizewatertaxi.com and offers a number of departures every day. Tourists, students, residents and businesses use the ferry to access the islands. The ferry to Caye Caulker goes on to San Pedro after its stop in Caye Caulker. The

ferry is approximately USD\$43 with taxes per person for a round trip (\$24 one-way) and takes about 45 minutes.

FLIGHT: Alternatively (and our personal preference), you can take a quick ten-minute flight to Caye Caulker via www.mayaislandair.com or www.tropicair.com. If you choose to fly, you will simply check in with Tropic or Maya at the domestic terminal after clearing customs and immigrations to get your tickets and re-check any checked bags.



BZE Domestic Terminal



Caye Caulker Air Terminal

Be sure to keep the Blu Zen Staff updated (via WhatsApp) on your arrival time to the Caye Caulker airport so that they can arrange to have a golf cart taxi driver there to meet you and take you on the 5-minute ride to the ferry pier for the short boat trip to Blu Zen. You will need to pay the taxi driver his fee. Once you've arrived at the pier, the Blu Zen boat staff will help gather your bags and help you onto the Blu Zen boat for a 5-15 minute ride to North Caye. The

boats to and from Blu Zen and the village are complimentary. It is appreciated (but not necessary) if you tip the boat staff when they help you with getting your bags to our unit. You can also use this same shuttle boat to go back and forth to the village during your stay. There is a board at the Blu Zen boat dock with the schedule, and the front desk can also provide you with the most up to date schedule as well. Be sure to coordinate the shuttle times with your departure from Caye Caulker to give yourself plenty of time to board the ferry or take a golf cart taxi to the Caye Caulker airport.

| Departing Blu Zen | Departing Village |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 6:15AM | 7:00AM |
| 7:15AM | 7:30AM |
| 8:00AM | 9:15AM |
| 9:30AM | 10:15AM |
| 11:30AM | 12:30PM |
| 2:30PM | 3:15PM |
| 3:50PM | 4:15PM |
| 4:40PM | 5:45PM |
| 6:30PM | 7:00PM |
| 7:30PM | 9:00PM |
| 9:30PM | 10:00PM SUN-THUR |
| | 11:00PM FRI & SAT |

Blu Zen Boat Schedule

About Blu Zen



Blu Zen Resort

Blu Zen is operated as a residence and resort and is being built in 5 phases. Construction is currently underway for Phase IV. This construction cannot be heard inside our unit. The property boasts three pools (1 more on the way), a spa, a gym, 2 bars, 2 restaurants (another on the way), and a small grocery store and café. Bikes and kayaks are available to borrow, and volleyball and corn hole are also offered. Visitors also have access to the on-site gym, and can sign up for a variety of treatments at the on-site spa. Details are available at the front desk which is adjacent to the saltwater lap pool in the center of the resort, and just a few short steps from our condo.

Our Unit – J1

We are in Building J, on the first floor unit (no steps!) with 2 bedrooms; the primary includes a king bed and an en-suite bath, and the second (guest) bedroom includes a queen size bed. There is a 2nd bathroom in the hallway, a fully equipped kitchen, washer/dryer, dining and living room, and spacious covered patio. The patio has Adirondack chairs, including 2 oversized chairs, hand made exclusively for us by one of the craftsmen on the island, for enjoying the relaxing views. Each bedroom and the living room have TV's that offer a range of channels via NexGen app, as well as Netflix and other streaming capabilities.



Cheers from Paradise

Our unit is fully equipped to meet your needs, and you will find towels to use at the pool that boast the BluZen logo. Be sure not to take the white bathroom towels out of the unit. Just a note, if you ask the front desk to replenish any items in the unit, including clean towels, you will be charged a cleaning fee for that day.

The Weather



Caye Caulker enjoys beautiful tropical weather year round, and temperatures range between 82–89 degrees for daytime highs, and 75-80 in the evenings. The rainy season is between June and October, although in our experience there is still plenty of sunshine. The easterly breezes are very welcome on the island. We have experienced stronger winds, but honestly find it very pleasant and helpful at keeping pesky bugs away! Speaking of bugs, it is a good idea to bring spray with you although it can be purchased in the village if you find you need it.

Restaurants

The food on Caye Caulker is incredible, and this is another one of the things that sets a trip to the island apart from all-inclusive vacations! Eat what you want, whenever you want, and you will be spoiled with all the choices of amazing cuisines to experience.

Seafood is in abundance and is almost always fresh caught. Note, however that in order to ensure abundant supply, there are specific seasons for lobster and conch. Caribbean Spiny Lobster season usually runs from the first of July to the end of the following February. If you're headed to Caye Caulker the first week in July, you'll get to experience Lobsterfest (check online for exact dates). Conch (pronounced CONK in BZ) season is usually the first of October to the end of the following June. No matter whether you want to eat breakfast, lunch or dinner you will have many options to consider. While our list of suggestions barely scratches the surface, we hope they give you a great starting point.



Grilled Spiny Lobster

On North Caye Caulker we now have four restaurants, Lotus and La Fogata here at BluZen, Happy Lobster (fabulous lobster omelets) on the road behind BluZen (just a 5 min walk), and T&T at El Ben Cabanas just south of us (ask the front desk to call them and they will pick you up by golf cart).

In the village, you'll find many more restaurants with all types of cuisine, as well as street vendors grilling lobster, fish, and jerk chicken meals on outdoor grills. You owe it to yourself to give the street vendors a try at least once while you're there. They operate mainly for lunch, are amazingly friendly folk, and the food is delicious. Be sure to carry cash for them though.

Smoothies, breakfast & donuts

Make sure to stop in at [Ice and Beans](#) to enjoy one of their refreshing smoothies, bagels, yogurt parfaits or a bag of the delicious mini donuts! They are always giving away free samples of delicious tropical fruit concoctions. For many visitors (and locals as well), a stop at Ice and Beans is a daily routine.

Italian

[Pasta Per Caso](#) – wow, wow, wow, the food here will transport you to an amazing restaurant in Italy! Owned and operated by two amazing Italians, Anna & Armando the pasta is made fresh every day. Each day the menu changes as Anna creates one meat and one vegetarian sauce option, We have no idea what will be on offer when you go but we can guarantee it will be outstanding! The fresh salads, prosciutto apps also will not disappoint. Reservations are required; you can contact them via [Facebook Messenger](#).

Tacos

There are so many choices for yummy tacos of course but we love Taco Tuesday at [Food Republic](#)! Tasty, so many choices and affordable! Often live music is happening on Tuesdays too so check it out.

Thai Inspired

[Lotus](#) at Blu Zen – serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner, there are many fabulous dishes available at Lotus. A favorite of ours is the Grilled Beef Tenderloin. The Guac & Chips are another must have...be sure to enjoy some of your meals in our lovely little restaurant, you will not be disappointed!

Seafood, Burgers & More

[The Lazy Lizard](#) down at The Split puts out incredible food...most people think it is all about the music and drinks down there but we have enjoyed some great food. Try the Hawaiian grilled chicken burger and some Lobster Ceviche.

Wings & Pizza

Freshly opened right on the Blu Zen property and directly next to our unit you will find [La Fogata](#), offering wings, salads, wood fired pizza, craft beer on tap, sports on TV and a general great vibe. They always run specials during any major sporting event. They are closed on Tuesdays, but make up for it with Wings Wednesday! We're convinced you'll go back more than once as they are also now offering breakfast and lunch options, and have expanded their menu.

Nightlife

In terms of nightlife, Caye Caulker is all about the chill island vibes! So many bars and restaurants offer live music, just check which nights they have it on offer. Lotus & BluZen typically brings in fabulous musicians on Saturday nights, so be sure to stay on the property for this. It's a beautiful night, especially around a full moon!

Excursions

Belize offers so many amazing opportunities for both land and sea excursions. Boasting the second largest barrier reef you will love the chance to snorkel or dive and see an amazing range of sea life. There are many fabulous businesses offering snorkeling trips, and you can't go wrong with any of them.

For something a bit different, try booking a day on the mainland for Zipline & Cave Tubing. On our first trip to Belize, we took an excursion to one of the Mayan ruin sites followed by a cave tubing adventure. These are distinctive experiences unique to Belize. There are many different adventures to offer, and the Blu Zen front desk can tell you about them all as well as help you get them booked. Be sure to check in with them!

Secret Beach – We have visited this spot several times and can highly recommend as a fun day out! Secret Beach (it is not a secret btw) is north of San Pedro town on the leeward side of the island of Ambergris Caye. Secret Beach isn't really so much a beach (although you can sit on the beach) as it is an amazing lagoon with the clearest shallow water that you can walk out for 100s of yards. The fun bit is hanging out on floats, eating & drinking at the tables in the water, and soaking up the chilled atmosphere. You can also try a little snorkeling under one of the several piers where various species of fish can be observed. The Secret Beach area has a number of restaurant options to choose from, and there is even an obstacle water park to play on if you are keen.



Secret Beach

There are two options to get there from Caye Caulker. The first is taking the ferry from Caye Caulker to San Pedro (approx. 30 mins). Once in San Pedro find a shop to rent a golf cart for a few hours (there are plenty around) and ask for directions to get to Secret Beach. The "road" to secret beach is bumpy, but once you arrive, you know the 30-minute drive was well worth it!

The second option (and the one we'd suggest) is to book a Secret Beach speedboat trip with [Wanderlust](#). They'll take you up around the south end of Ambergris Caye and drop you off at any of the piers for a day of fun. You can also inquire at the front desk to see if there is a trip going, but note that a minimum 6 people are needed to run the trip so you may need to join another group.

Bliss Beach – Bliss Beach Lounge and Beach Bar, owned by a French family from Paris, is located a ways north of Blu Zen on the leeward side of the island, and is a wonderful spot to take an afternoon of relaxation. The service and attention to detail are excellent and you're sure to find a hammock or chair in or out of the water to relax. The drinks at the bar are cold and delicious, and they also offer charcuterie. Their hours are usually 11am-7pm, but note that it is a good mile hike to get there from Blu Zen, and we recommend biking or renting a golf cart (available at Blu Zen) for the trip. It's worth it.



Bliss Beach

What else do you need to know?

SAFETY

Caye Caulker is a very safe place to visit. Violent crime is rare. We have walked the island in the early morning hours and at night and have never felt unsafe. Travelers should just follow standard precautions (never leave your drink unattended at the bar, never walk home alone intoxicated, etc.). Make sure you have your valuables stored safely. Our unit provides a safe for your use. Scams here are rare and not something we worry about. There is a police station on the island and officers patrol the streets, but they generally remain in the background.

Caye Caulker Village has many street vendors selling food, fruit, arts and crafts, etc., and some of the best food on the island is sold out of resident's homes. This is how many of the locals make their living. While they would love for you to buy their offerings, we've never run across any that get upset if you simply smile and say no thank you. Be sure to wish them well.

We strongly recommend that you purchase good travel insurance to protect you against illness, injury, theft, and cancellations, which provides comprehensive protection in case anything goes

wrong. There is a health center and a couple pharmacies on the island (that one of us had to use during Covid), but severe illness or injury will require transportation to the mainland which can be costly. Just be sure you're covered.

BOOKING

Once you have secured your reservation, we will ask you to provide your email address and a cell number for the Front Desk team (frontdesk@bluzenbelize.com). All communication about your booking will be done with them moving forward. As your stay approaches, the Front Desk will communicate with you to confirm your itinerary and arrange any transfers necessary. They communicate via WhatsApp (as does most of the island). Their number in Belize is +501-615-2799. If you have any questions, you are also welcome to reach out to us.

COMMUNICATION

A very common question we get from guests is how their cell phones will work in Belize, and what options they have when they are here for wifi, calling/texting back home, and staying connected via their data. The most obvious and easy way to stay connected is to simply connect to the wifi available at almost every hotel, restaurant, bar, and the airport. If it is your first time out of the country, it seems scary to have your phone looking like its roaming, or getting messages that your data is on, and hearing stories about outrageous fees people have paid because the settings on their phone were not right. You just have to make sure that your data is turned off when you arrive.

Most US carriers offer service in Belize if you sign up for it, but check with your provider on availability and cost. It's not necessary for most people, but it will enable you to make and receive calls the same as you would in the US. It's a good idea that at least one person in your party download the WhatsApp app to their cellphone, as that is the best way to communicate with the Blu Zen Front Desk. Their WhatsApp number is +501-615-2799.

CLEANING FEES

The owners are charged a cleaning fee from the resort during your stay, which is reflected in your booking fee. Please note that this does not include requests you make while you are there. You will be charged a \$30 fee for **any day** you make a request, and these charges will need to be paid when you check out. We suggest that if you need to ask the Front Desk for anything that you can't get elsewhere, go ahead and get the condo cleaned as well. If you're going to get charged \$30 for towels, soap, shampoo or K-Cups, you might as well get everything cleaned. However, we've never found it necessary to request a cleaning during our stays, particularly since we have a washer and dryer, and the markets usually carry anything we may need.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

The resort has a gym and a spa that you are welcome to use. Unfortunately, the gym is an extra cost, and the Front Desk can give you information on the pricing for the services the spa provides.

Our unit has a washer and dryer, so if you want to wash the pool towels or your clothing you can either bring a couple of pods with you or purchase them individually from the Mercado grocery store next to our unit. Other consumables such as dryer sheets, toilet paper, paper towels, soap, shampoo, etc. may also be available at Mercado, or in the village at one of the many stores. Asking the front desk for these will incur a fee. **We do have two black lockboxes that have extra TP and some other supplies, located in the guest closet! The combination to both of those is 1357.**

If you need help with any of the TV or A/C remotes, the front desk will be happy to assist. There is also a remote that controls the living room floor lamp. Extra batteries for that can be found in one of the lock boxes. The after-hours number for BluZen is noted in each unit for any emergencies.

As hard as you'll try, it's impossible to keep sand off the floor in our unit. Please use the broom and dustpan (or vacuum should the broom and dustpan disappear) as needed, unless you like to sleep with sand in your bed. ☺

Please try to use toilet paper sparingly, and put nothing else in the toilets. While BluZen's waste management system is superior to most places on the island, it's not as robust as back home.

If you are a coffee drinker, we suggest that you bring down your own K-cups. The front desk will charge for a refill of these. Mercado may have these from time to time, and some of the markets in the village carry them as well. You can purchase creamer at one of the stores, or bring your own, just be aware of TSA guidelines. We suggest unplugging the Keurig coffee maker when not in use, as it seems to need "rebooted?" after a period of time.

Generally, anything left in the fridge or freezer is fair game for the next occupant to use at their discretion. Just be sure whatever you use hasn't reached its expiration date. We generally purchase items like beer, soda, bread, eggs, cheese, and sandwich meat from Mercado or the village on our first day, and get butter, mustard, mayo, ketchup, etc. if those things weren't left in the fridge. We do our best to keep the salt and pepper filled, but you may need to get some of that if we're out. Just let us know and we can reimburse you.

The water from the fridge and the tap is filtered and safe to drink at Blu Zen.

Mercado has many books, puzzles, and games that can be borrowed while you are there. Just be sure to return them before you leave.

If you would like to use one of the resort's bicycles, be sure to check with the front desk to ensure availability. Same for the kayaks.

The Split is about a 10-minute bike ride or a 30-minute walk from Blu Zen. The road is also well lit.

Please, no smoking inside the unit.

Be sure to sign our Guest Book!!!!

Remember, Go Slow and have a great time!!