



Activities

Roatan Island Brewing Co.

Roatan Island Brewing Co. is located in the lush Palmetto Valley of Roatan, only a five minute walk from Laru Beya. Brewing a variety of easy drinking ales and lagers, many with a tropical twist. Our property includes nature trails, foosball, ping pong tables, horseshoes, fire pit, and even a TV for those who need to catch up on some football. Each week we have a specialty food, beer launch, or special event. It's best to check our [Facebook page](#) for what's going on this week at the brewery. Now open Fri, Sat and Sun from 11am to 5pm. www.roatanislandbrewing.com

Roatan diving

Roatan is famous for its amazing offshore reefs and perfectly suited for both new and advanced divers. It's a well-known destination for coral gardens, shipwrecks such as the Odyssey and Aguila, sharks and all sorts of fish, but it's also famous for encountering the largest fish in the sea: [the majestic whale sharks](#). You'll see them from February – April and from August – October, although they can appear anytime.

Try snorkeling

If you'd like to explore the tropical underwater in the Caribbean Sea but aren't a fan of scuba diving, you can try snorkeling. It doesn't take any practice and you'll be closer to the surface.

The snorkeling is really great at West Bay in front of the Grand Roatan and West End's Half Moon Bay Beach. You can snorkel right offshore and see lots of fish, shellfish and maybe even an octopus. If you have a car, the best way to snorkel West Bay without getting a day pass at either Infiity Bay or Grand Roatan is to park by the West Bay Mall. Turn right just after the mall, taking the street toward Bananarama and the lot is just past the pharmacy. The attendant will give you a ticket to note your arrival time and charges \$1.00 per hour. Walk toward the beach/Bananarama and turn left and just past the Infinity Bay resort is an area to rent beach chairs for \$5/day and the attendant will watch your belongings while you snorkel, swim, shop, eat, etc. The beach chair area is unavailable on the days cruise ships are at the island as it is reserved for cruise passengers only. Check <https://roatantourismbureau.com/cruise-schedule> for days cruise ships arrive. The reef is right in front of the chair area and even better the further down, to the left, toward Grand Roatan. There is plenty of street parking by Half Moon Bay in the West End and the beach is easily accessible.

You can also join a snorkeling tour, where they'll take you to the best snorkeling places for a few hours of underwater exploration where snorkeling gear is included.



Glass-bottom boat tours

If you'd like to watch the coral reef and marine life, but without getting wet, you can take a glass-bottom boat tour. It's kind of like a submarine where you sit 2 metres below the surface with windows on each side. You'll be able to see the coral reef, sharks, eels, and a whole lot of different fish.

A tour usually takes 40-50 mins, and the boat is air-conditioned.

Swim with dolphins at Anthony's Key

One of my favourite things to do in Roatan island was visiting Anthony's Key. Here, you can snorkel, dive or swim with Bottlenose dolphins on their own terms, with no trained behavior. You can also dive with them in the open sea.

Zip lining

Another fun Roatan activity is zip lining. You can ride on a high cable through a tropical forest and see monkeys up close. One of the good places to try zip lining is at Monkey Trail Canopy in Gumbalimba Par or [you can take a tour](#).

The price varies from US \$45-65 and it's great fun for the whole family.

Paddle boarding

The great bays and clear, calm water makes Roatan great for paddle boarding! There's a wrecked sailboat with a giant rope swing that you can play on at Half Moon Bay (at West End). There's also a steel skeleton shipwreck in Mahogany Bay, which is insane to explore as the hull towers over you while you paddle.

Hiking

Thanks to its tropical jungle which is surrounded by hills, Roatan is an ideal destination for long hikes. Hiking on the island is a relaxing activity and there is not much climbing involved. The most popular hiking route can be found at the Blue Harbor Tropical Arboretum which is located close to Coxen Hole and offers extensive jungle trails. There is also the Carambola Reserve in Sandy Bay and its tropical garden where you will find a nice trail that offers spectacular views of Anthony's Key Resort.

The East End of Roatan is still largely undeveloped, resulting in most of this half of the island still being in pristine and natural condition. Roatan is a rather rugged island, making for great vistas and views from its many hilltops. The East End is home to the Port Royal Wildlife Refuge, over 2,000 acres of land set aside for the protection of island's animals and birds. The highest peak on the island, Picacho, is located in this reserve. While the main island road runs through the East End, it has very little traffic, making it a great path to follow for some hikes. The local communities



of Diamond Rock and Camp Bay Town are good examples of contemporary Afro-Caribbean communities.

We recently hiked thru the park up Picacho Peak. The trails were quite good - a bit steep in just a few spots 1/4 mile from the summit. There were a handful of stunning vistas which were good for photos. If you go from nearby [Paya Bay](#), it will be a nice ~5 mile round trip up/down in ~2 hrs. Or drive past Paya Bay and take the Port Royal dirt road on the right up to the Wood shack and park on the side of the road. The trails start behind the shack. Wear bug spray! A great excursion, with excellent long views of the island and nearby reefs.

Visit the indigenous Garifuna on Cayos Cochinos

The Cayos Cochinos are a group of two large island, Cayo Menor and Cayo Grande, and thirteen tiny coral cays between Roatan and the Honduran mainland. Tourists can visit Cayo Grande whereas Caya Menor is only permitted for scientists and people who work for the Honduras Coral Reef Fund.

Approximately one hundred people reside on these islands, and nearly all of the residents are members of the indigenous Garifuna community.

What to bring:

- [Swim suit](#) (wear it under your shorts)
- [Hat](#)
- [Sunglasses](#)
- [Beach towel](#)
- [Reef friendly sunscreen](#)
- [Reusable water bottle](#)
- [Snorkel gear](#). You can bring your own, but many of the companies can provide them for you as well.
- [Camera](#)

Utila

Utila is one of the other Bay islands and another popular visit in Honduras. And – it's super close to Roatan. You can do a day trip there, although I recommend spending a night or two because it's more convenient.

There are a few ways for you to get there from Roatan. Make sure to book in advance:

- By air (quickest and most expensive). It takes 15 mins, and you can contact [Morgan's Travel](#) or [World Wide Travel](#) in Utila for details of latest schedules and prices.
- By charter boat (most flexible but can be expensive). Try [this one](#) for \$75, one way or reach out to Capt. Vern. He does daily trips between Roatan and Utila (leaving at 1 p.m.). Try him at his phone: 9910-8040/3346-2600 or email: vfine@hotmail.com.



- By ferry (least expensive, but slowest). It takes 3.5 hours. Take the Galaxy Wave from Roatan to La Ceiba, then the Utila Dream Ferry to Utila.

Little French Key

- One of the other great things to do in Roatan island is visiting Little French Key.
- Little French Key is a private island paradise off the shore of Roatan. At this little piece of heaven, you can relax or do activities, such as paddle boarding, kayaking, zip lining, snorkeling or seeing wildlife.
- The basic [Little French Key](#) day package costs \$59 (in 2020) and includes transportation to the island, a beach chair and visit to the island's tropical animal rescue center. I would suggest upgrading to the \$88 package, which also includes a meal, two drinks, and access to snorkeling gear, kayaks and paddle boards.

Daniel Johnson's Monkey and Sloth Hangout

- *Entrance fee: \$12* (they also offer transportation, check out their website)
- There's lots of [wildlife](#) running around the island, but at the animal and botanical parks, you'll be sure to get up close with them.
- Daniel Johnson's Monkey and Sloth Hangout is one of the most popular wildlife parks on Roatan. The animal park sanctuary is located in French Cay and houses rescued wildlife like sloths, capuchin monkeys, scarlet macaws, and parrots. You can also see the indigenous Agouti, also known as the Roatan Island rabbit and spider monkeys.

Gumbalimba Park

Entrance fee: \$30 / plus canopy: \$45 / plus zip lining: \$55

Gumbalimba Park is located right outside West Bay Beach, and to us it was one of the best things to do in Roatan, Honduras.

Here, you can mingle with friendly capuchin monkeys, the largest population of black iguanas, and free-flying exotic birds like macaws, hummingbirds and peacocks. It's also home to a few sloths although we didn't see any there. Aside from the animals, the park includes a museum, pool, a suspension bridge, several waterfalls and more than 200 colourful plant and tree species.

Things to do at Gumbalimba:

- Nature Trails and botanical gardens
- Watch and pet the animals
- Zip lining



- Kayaking
- Relax at pool or beach

Carambola Gardens

- If you're interested in nature and botanical gardens, you should head to Carambola Gardens in Sandy Bay. The park's many jungle trails are the perfect place for hiking, scenic photography, bird watching and nature studies.
- While you can also spot wildlife here, you're more likely to see the very vibrant plants, and fruits, including a chocolate tree and the world-famous Honduran mahogany tree.

Roatan Reef Tours - Fishing and more! Check out their website for a lot more amazing tours. <https://roatanreeftours.com/>

Get ready to discover the exotic waters of Honduras with Roatan Reef Tours! Your captain for the day, Enry Padilla, is a local angler who's been fishing these waters since the day he could hold a rod in his hand. Along with him and his first mate (and occasional captain) Christian Watler, you'll explore some of the most secluded parts of the Caribbean in search of big game species.

You'll spend the day aboard a 27' Sea Devil walkaround boat, equipped with state-of-the-art electronics, tackle, and safety gear. She comes with a private head and ample room for you and 4 other guests to fish at the same time. The crew welcomes kids of all ages aboard and loves keeping them entertained throughout the ride.

The waters between the Honduran coast and the island of Roatan are filled with amazing fishing opportunities. You'll be able to choose between bottom fishing, drifting, trolling, and spinning while targeting a wide variety of species. You'll encounter big game fish, such as Yellowfin and Bluefin Tuna, Mahi Mahi, Blue Marlin, Sailfish, Amberjack, Wahoo, and Barracuda. Closer to shore, you'll have the opportunity to reel in the likes of Permit, Bonefish, and Cobia. No matter what you plan on targeting, Capt. Enry and Capt. Chris will work hard to put you on fish and get you hooked up.

You'll be provided with top-quality rods and reels made by Penn and Shimano. Your fishing license is also included, so you can come straight to the dock, ready to fish. Capt. Enry also keeps his cooler stocked with fresh fruit, water, soda, and beer for the adults.

Feel free to bring along some nibbles for the ride, and be sure to pack sunscreen, a hat, and sunglasses. Everything else will be taken care of so you and your family can enjoy a fun outing together.

Join Roatan Reef Tours for a fun adventure and get ready to create lasting memories. Your Caribbean getaway is only one click away, so start planning your adventure and book your trip today!