

Grand Baymen Belize January 2012 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Grand Baymen:

As lovely as the holiday season has been, it's time to shift gears and take on 2012 with a clean slate. Here in Belize, we expect it will be a fantastic year for tourism. After all, Belize has been getting non-stop, worldwide exposure related to the Mayan calendar and culture. No one really knows why the Mayan Calendar ends on December 21st, 2012. This mystery has sparked enthusiastic interest in Belize - "Nature's Best Kept Secret"...

The Belize Tourism Board is making the best of the free advertising... They've put together a special calendar of events to celebrate the Mayan culture. Grand Baymen's first post of 2012 provides the links, and a more detailed description, for this year's special events.

It's amusing to listen to the pundits and self proclaimed Mayan experts... Some of them rampantly spew stories of doom and gloom. Apparently, there is a segment of people who are preparing for the end of the world, on or before December 21st, 2012. Others are making the most of the situation - raking in the profits from selling products to prepare for the worst.

How Belizeans View the End of the Mayan Calendar

The residents of Belize, the center of the Mundo Maya, tend to be practical, and down to earth. At a recent conference a participant asked Bob Stevens, a British expat and speaker, what the Belizeans believe will happen. I was tickled by Bob's answer:

"I expect that here in Belize there will be parties to prepare for the end of the world, parties for the day the calendar ends, and "I survived the end of the world" parties!"

Bob's response was perfect. Do you remember the flurry of scary predictions before Y2K? It was amazing how many survivalists prepared for the world to shut down.

I remember the Y2K fiasco vividly. At that time the company I worked for was engaged by major government and companies to update their computer software to avoid shutdowns and problems related to Y2K. They made millions helping clients prepare for the transition.

So I wasn't too worried about Y2K. But we spent the week before and after Y2K in Belize, just in case. What better place to be stuck when the world goes haywire, and the jets go down? We had a great time... And life went on as usual...

The Mayan Experts Interpretation of 2012

I've reviewed a good number of experts' interpretations of what the end of the Mayan Calendar signifies. Mayan historians and cultural experts tend to look at this from an astronomical and philosophical point of view. They are not predicting that life as we know it will end. Mayan expert Carlos Barrios has captured a common view held by Mayan elders:

"It (the earth and life) will be transformed ... Change is accelerating now, and it will continue to accelerate."

Carlos studied with traditional Mayan elders for 25 years. He also became a Mayan ceremonial priest.

Most experts state that the Mayans viewed 2012 as a period of personal and human cooperation and renewal. They believe that this cooperation is critical to assure man's long-term survival on the earth. Many suggest it's time for the human race to change how we inhabit this planet. They suggest that the earth cannot sustain the increasing level of damage being inflicted by man.

Sustainable lifestyles and survival topics are common themes discussed in on-line newsletters. And it certainly doesn't hurt to be prepared...

Better Yet - Come to Belize and Join the 2012 Party!

My suggestion is – don't get too bent out of shape worrying... Get your food and energy backup system in order. And learn more about living sustainably... Each day live life to the fullest... The best insurance is to live every year as if will be our best, but could be our last...

So come visit Belize in 2012. Help us celebrate this momentous year of the Mayan calendar and culture. Spend December 21st in the heart of the Mundo Maya. Whatever happens, Belizeans know how to throw a good party! And if it is going to be the end, we might as well enjoy life right up to the very last day!

The December Review

You'll find a quick review of December's activities and blog topics below. December was, as usual, a festive month.

We hope that you will join us for a Chill Weekend in 2012. Click here for more info... Or come visit at anytime. Just let us know when you will visit. Someone is always here, ready to offer a Grand Baymen tour.

Best wishes to all for a healthy and prosperous 2012!

Ann Kuffner Brunette
Grand Baymen Belize

Baymen Garden - Building A Progress

Building A is now well beyond the halfway completion point. We've been updating the progress in a blog post whenever we reach a construction milestone. The roof was completed in late November. So now the progress is shifting. It isn't that easy to show progress inside of the building. So I'm repeating the blog entry from late November, for those who missed the last key milestone update...

- [Baymen Garden Building A Roof Completed](#)

Ambergris Caye Lifestyle

December is always a wonderful time for family, festivities and fun in Belize. Most Belizeans are religious, attending church regularly. They view the holidays differently than North Americans. Events are non-stop in December. But a large proportion of their time is spent with family and friends. Many of them can't afford to exchange gifts, but they are committed to sharing their time...

- [Ambergris Caye's 2011 Holiday Boat Parade](#)
- [Christmas Giving on Ambergris Caye](#)
- [A Caribbean Christmas on Ambergris Caye](#)

2012 in Belize – Special Events and Business

This section includes blog post links for upcoming events in Belize. It starts with information on the Mayan calendar of events in 2012. But there is also a blog about Belize's recent ranking as an outstanding place to open and conduct business. And last, but not least, Prince Harry is coming to Belize. We're all looking forward to that!

- [Belize and the 2012 Mayan Calendar Mystery](#)
- [Belize Rated the #2 Most Business Friendly Country in the Americas](#)
- [Prince Harry to Visit in 2012](#)