



# Lucky Dreamer Lodge

## Welcome!

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## Lucky Dreamer Lodge

*We hope you have an amazing stay!*

*Welcome to beautiful Belize! We've provided some information here to help you maximize your stay with us. However, if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to ask.*

*Let us introduce ourselves:*

*We, (Jeff & Cheryl) moved to the 'wilds' of Belize from the 'wilds' of Minnesota in 2014. Since moving to Belize we purchased this property on the Macal River, built our own home, and eventually built our guest casita. At least one more casita is planned for the future, maybe more?*

*We have extensive experience in the hospitality industry with over 33 years of combined experience at Walt Disney World and another 10+ years of joint experience in owning our own restaurant, herb farm, and Bed & Breakfast in the states. We definitely know what it means to exceed our guests' expectations!*

*Born & raised in Michigan, Jeff ventured to Florida where he met & eventually married Cheryl (born & raised in Florida). We both grew up camping and love nature with all it has to offer. However, as we grew older we realized that camping was maybe a 'bit' too rustic. There's a lot to be said for electricity, running water and a comfy bed!*

*So, here we are in Cristo Rey, Belize with our 2 dogs from the States, Duncan & Fiona, and our Belizean dog adoptee, Milo - in an AMAZING location full of wonder & delight on a daily basis ~ that we can't wait to share with you.*



## *Where exactly are we?*

*We are located in the heart of Cristo Rey Village which is uniquely located between San Ignacio and the Mountain Pine Ridge area of the Cayo District. Cristo Rey was settled initially by the Mayans and much of that cultural influence still exists. In fact, there is a genuine Mayan Mound on our property. We find Mayan pottery every time we look! And you will find some too (but it can't go with you).*

*There is a map of Belize on the wall next to the casita door. There you can locate Cristo Rey, nestled in the foothills of the jungle directly on the Macal River. And while we are in the jungle, we are still in a village - so there are quite a few amenities available within walking distance, including local cuisine, food shops, gift shop, and bus/shuttle service. (More on that later). There is no other lodging on the Macal River that is as conveniently located as we are!*

*We strive for a calm, serene & relaxing environment; and most of the time it is just that. However, there are lots of jungle sounds, including Howler Monkeys, chakalakas (type of bird), parrots, parakeets, toucans and any other number of local inhabitants, including the occasional village barking dog, and of course there are roosters!*

*Belize is where the birds croak, butterflies click, monkeys roar and geckos chirp!*

*This is our nice way of explaining that the sounds of nature are alive and well in our little slice of the jungle!*

## *Remember, you are in the jungle!*

*Cristo Rey Village is in the jungle region of Belize. While this provides incredible beauty and natural wonders, it also means that heat, humidity, sudden storms, power and water outages are not uncommon.*

*Living in the jungle also means an abundance of geckos, iguanas, ants, and other 'bugs'. That said, we do everything we can to ensure your stay is comfortable and pleasant.*



# *The Essentials*

*Check-in time is after 2:00pm // Check-out time is 11:00am  
If you need a different check-in or check-out time, please let us know.*

*Maximum Room Rate: \$190.00 BZE per night (+ 9% tax)*

## **Contact Information:**

*Jeff's cell phone: 671-8899 // Cheryl's cell phone: 671-1515*

*We are usually around most of the day unless we are running errands. If you need anything, don't hesitate to ask.*

## **Room Cleaning Service**

*To conserve natural resources, we change sheets & towels after three nights. If you need your sheets and/or towels changed more often, please let us know and we'll be happy to accommodate you for a small additional fee.*

*We typically provide room cleaning service between guests. If you need waste baskets emptied, or minimal cleaning of that nature let us know and we will gladly do that whenever needed. Other cleaning requested, like sweeping, mopping, toilet cleaning, etc, would be offered for a small additional fee.*

*If you are on an extended stay, your room will be thoroughly cleaned weekly at no additional charge.*

**Water:** *Cristo Rey Village water comes from a well. Jeff & I don't drink the water, but we cook with it (if the water is boiled prior to putting any food into it). We obviously bathe in it, and we do brush our teeth with it. However, we might recommend that you use bottled water to brush your teeth. We don't make coffee with it, preferring the taste coffee made with bottled water.*



## **Security**

*Our property and this village are very safe places. Just use the same practices that you would use at home regarding securing your valuables. There is a small security safe in your room. If you forget the code (or we forgot to give it to you, just ask).*

*Please be sure to lock all valuables (passports, money, jewelry) in this safe when you are not on the property. If you have anything large that won't fit in your room safe, we have a larger safe, please just ask. Remember, we are not liable for lost or stolen items. That said, please note that we have NEVER had anything stolen from our property. The villagers all watch out for each other, so whether we are personally here or not, our property is never without security. And don't forget the dogs! When away from the property, be a bit more vigilant than you normally might be at home.*

*We also provide you with a cell phone that has a limited amount of credits on it for calling & texting. The phone number is: 669-5155. You can add more credits to the phone anywhere you see the SMART refill/top-up signage. Most grocery stores can do this for you.*

*The riverside is considered public property. There is no lifeguard on duty. Swimming, Canoeing, Tubing, Kayaking, etc. are done at your own risk. Don't leave anything of value on the riverbank if you are going to be out of eyesight.*

## **If you Lock yourself out**

*Hopefully, this won't happen, but if it does we have put a spare key in a coded lockbox. The location of the box and the code will be given to you upon arrival. If you forget the code or can't find the lockbox, just give us a call.*





## *In Case of Emergency:*

*For minor illnesses & injuries, there is a first aid kit in the outdoor kitchen area.*

*Dial 911 if there is a serious emergency. You can also directly call the San Ignacio Police Department at 804-2022.*



*San Ignacio Hospital 804-2066 (public/free hospital)*

*La Loma Luz Hospital  
824-2087 (private &  
closer to Cristo Rey).*

*They require payment  
before providing any*

*services. They accept Credit Cards.*



*There is limited ambulance service in Belize, so going directly to one of the two local hospitals and calling them ahead of time, would produce quicker results.*

*We have used both hospitals for emergency services. Once for a badly sprained ankle (FREE), and once for kidney stones (\$500 U.S. including overnight stay). Both hospitals have competent & professional employees.*



## **Staff**

*We have one maintenance employee, Alvan. Be sure to say 'hi' if you see him. He's a little shy, though.*

*And we'd be remiss if we didn't mention Duncan, Fiona & Milo!*



**Duncan** is our smallest & oldest dog at 12 years old. He is also the most vocal when we leave. We strive not to leave while guests are here, but if you find yourselves here and we are gone, and Duncan is serenading you - just open the back porch door and call out to him. He may or may not come out - but as soon as he knows someone is home, he quiets right down.

**Fiona** is our rescue dog from Joplin, MO (she survived the EF-5 Tornado in May 2011). She is the 'middle sized' dog, and the shyest of bunch, but loves to have her tummy rubbed... by anyone she can find!



**Milo** adopted us! He started visiting when we were building our home here - when he was smaller than Duncan. Now he lives here full time.

*All three dogs will alert (i.e., bark) when someone new comes around - but quickly become friends with our guests. They seem to know the difference between friends, guests and non-guests.*



## ***Room Amenities include:***

***THE BASICS:*** Electricity, Hot Water, Solar table lamps, floor lamp, ceiling fans, towels & linens, full length mirror, blow dryer, shampoo/crème rinse/soap, flashlight, security safe, hammock, a private deck, and free, unlimited WIFI. (Password: luckydreamer15).

*If you've forgotten a toiletry, run out of something, or lose something during an adventure, you may find it across the road at our local convenience grocery store. They have toothbrushes, deodorant, etc. If they are closed, or they don't have what you are looking for, let us know and we'll do what we can.*

***FOR THE RAINY DAY:*** We have rain ponchos, an umbrella and a collection of Belizean books, maps & flyers on the local food, flora & fauna. We also have a collection of fiction books. Any book not marked with our name, can be taken with you - we just ask for an even exchange, so future guests will have reading material available. We also have cards, board games and yard darts if the mood should hit you! And don't forget the binoculars! Feel free to use them while on the property.

***EXTRAS:*** If you need an iron, floor fan, extra pillow, or any other amenity that is not currently in your room, please ask. We'll try our best to get it.

## ***Property Amenities include:***

*Help yourself to any ripe fruit, veggies or herbs. In addition, there are outdoor kitchen facilities, a private courtyard, BBQ grill, kayak, inner tubes, bicycle, Mayan mound, rope hammock & secure parking. Please note that using the river is at your own risk. It is Public Property.*

***LAUNDRY*** - We do have a washer & dryer on property. We can throw your clothes in with ours at no charge, assuming we're doing laundry that day. If you need a special load, a nominal donation would be welcomed.





## **Transportation**

**Shuttle Service** - Otto's Green Van (The one with the word "JASMIN" across the windshield) will pick you up right outside our front gate, take you to San Ignacio and bring you back. He runs roughly every ½ hour (no set schedule). He charges \$2.00 BZ each way.

**Bus Routes** - The San Antonio buses also will pick you up right outside our front gate and take you to/from San Ignacio for \$1.50 BZ each way.

From San Ignacio there are buses to every other part of the country. The bus stop is in front of the Belize Welcome Center - so be sure to stop in there to ask for help if needed.

Also in San Ignacio you'll find dozens of cab drivers ready to take you just about anywhere you want to go. Just be sure to negotiate a price before you head out. You should not pay more than \$5-\$10 BZ to go just about anywhere within (developed) Cayo. Don't take a taxi to Caracol! Hire a tour guide, and your transportation will be included in the price.

**Car Rentals** - If you didn't rent a car at the airport and would like to rent one, there are a few places in San Ignacio that rent cars. A 4-wheel drive will cost a bit more, but it's what you'll need to get to some of the sites you'll want to see, especially in Mountain Pine Ridge. Rental cars usually start at \$50.00 per day.



## *Gratuities*

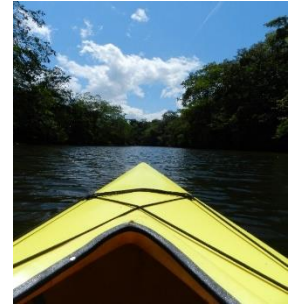
*Many guests ask about tipping. So here are some guidelines.*

- Some of the higher end tourist restaurants will include an automatic gratuity – so double check for that before leaving a tip.*
- Normally if you are waited on, a 10% gratuity is expected. If you received great service, feel free to leave more.*
- You can tip in U.S. \$ or Belize \$. (Just remember the exchange rate is 2 to 1. So, if your meal is \$20.00 U.S., you would leave a \$2.00 U.S. or \$4.00 BZE tip. If your meal is \$20.00 BZE, you would leave a \$1.00 U.S. or \$2.00 BZE tip) – based on a 10% tip.*
- Tipping your tour guides is expected. Usually 10% more than the cost of the tour is the norm.*
- Only tip taxi drivers and bus drivers if they assist you in loading/unloading luggage, etc. At the airport the expectation is \$2.00 BZE per bag. We don't recommend that for local transportation – maybe 50 cents to a dollar total for helping out.*
- Tips are not included in Lucky Dreamer Lodge prices, and while tips are not required, they are certainly appreciated.*



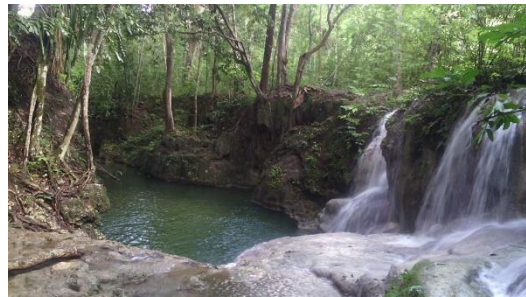
## *Activities, Restaurants - within walking distance*

- *Swimming, Kayaking, Tubing & Bike (available on the property)*



- *Coconut Jeff (not our Jeff) - makes coconut oil from scratch, and loves to provide free demonstrations. Let us know if you'd like to schedule one. He's just up the road!*

- *'The Showers' - an off-the-beaten-track, pristine waterfall in Cristo Rey, about a mile down the road.*



- *"Sak B'eh" (The White Road) Souvenir Shop, featuring handmade items by mostly Cristo Rey residents - just up the hill on the left.*
- *Faldy's bar & restaurant, open Thurs-Sun for lunch & dinner - a stone's throw away.*
- *There are several churches in the village. They are of varying denominations and have varying service schedules.*





- *The Cristo Rey primary school is a short walk down the road. If you'd like to visit, we can arrange that for you.*

**Other Adventures:** *There are so many things to do in the Cayo District, it's hard to know where to begin. Here are some of the adventures we recommend:*



**Actun Tunichil Muknal Cave (ATM Cave)** - *Quite possibly the most spectacular Mayan archaeological site in Belize! You need socks for this trip, if you didn't bring any - let us know. A guide is required for this journey.*

**Mountain Pine Ridge** - *includes Rio On Pools, Rio Frio Cave, 1,000 foot falls, and other spectacular natural beauties. (Guests combine a visit to Rio On Pools or Rio Frio Cave with the trip to Caracol).*

**Caracol** - *located deep within the Chiquibul Forest Reserve, is the largest known Maya site in Belize and one of the biggest in the Maya world. You can pack a lunch & hire a guide there, if you have a vehicle.*



**Cahal Pech** - *A smaller, more personal Maya site, in the heart of San Ignacio. Take the bus or shuttle to San Ignacio and a taxi to Cahal Pech. Hire a guide there, or stroll the ruins on your own. There is a nominal fee for park entrance.*

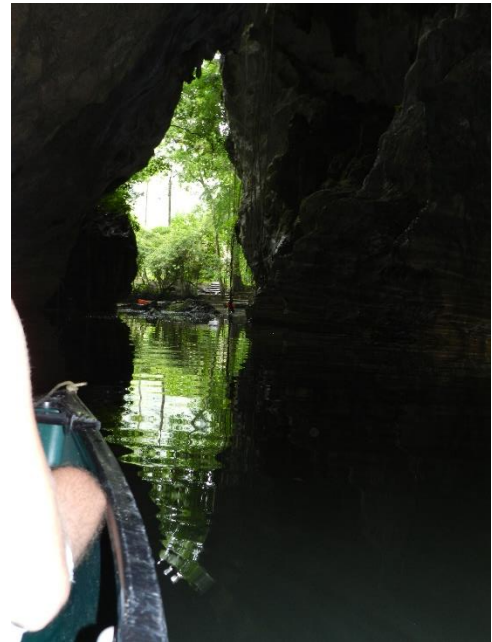


*Xunantunich - Another Maya site that is easy to get to via bus/taxi. Featuring a large temple, El Castillo that rises 130 feet above the main level, making it the tallest structure in Belize. Also featured on the Belikin Beer bottles! If you do visit Xunantunich, we recommend lunch at Benny's in San Jose Succotz - a short walk from the entrance. This is another location where you can hire a guide on-site (before taking the ferry to the site).*



*San Antonio Women's Co-op. For \$25.00 U.S. you get a cooking demonstration with tastings, plus a pottery demonstration and a full formal, sit-down, authentic Mayan meal! Takes about 4 hours. The San Antonio public bus can take you there and back for a total of \$2.00 U.S. per person! Call them at: 651-6948 or 651-3740 to set up a personal demonstration!*

*Barton Creek Cave - Paddle a canoe into an ancient Mayan cave! This one needs a tour guide, and there's no easy way to get there without one. They also have a zip line on the property.*







*San Ignacio Resort Iguana Project - A highly interpretive and educational exhibit to create a closer look at this amazing reptile, and to learn how vital they could be to the ecological balance of the river habitat.*

*There are so many other things to do - we've put the most popular and the most 'secret' ones here. If you are looking for something else, just let us know.*

## *Restaurant Recommendations:*

*Most of our guests spend their days on adventures, so lunches are usually part of the tour price. Other than those already noted (Faldy's and Benny's), we have a few favorites:*

*For breakfast, **Pop's** in San Ignacio can't be beat! Located just off Bullet Tree Road down from the Post Office... Prices are about \$5-\$10 U.S.*

***Trey's Barn & Grill** - Near the ATM Cave turn-off, but only open on Saturdays & Sundays! Their smoked ribs and smoked chicken are to die for! Expect to pay about \$15-\$20 U.S. per meal*

***Guava Limb** - in San Ignacio. Owned & operated by the owners of Chaa Creek, a wonderful place for a meal. They have their own organic farm, so the veggies are always fresh! Expect to pay @ \$10-\$15 U.S. per meal*

***Bel-Mex** - across from Sacred Heart School on Bullet Tree road, headed out of San Ignacio. For those budget minded - this is literally a 'hole-in-the-wall', but with super food. Expect to pay about \$3.00 U.S. per meal.*



*Erva's - Just off Bullet Tree Road in San Ignacio. Great food & great service - with reasonable prices.*

*Maxim's - Craving Chinese? Craving the best fried chicken in Belize? Maxim's your place. Our favorites are the fried chicken and the Roast Pork Chow Mein (which is really Lo Mein). Expect to pay about \$10 U.S. per meal (possibly less).*

*There are a few places we don't recommend - but would rather not put it in writing - so feel free to ask. Many restaurants in San Ignacio cater to tourists and are very expensive for what they offer.*

## *Outdoor Kitchen*

*We provide one sealed, free bottled water per guest, per stay - located in the outdoor kitchen refrigerator. Water bottles can then be refilled from the 5-gallon water cooler at your leisure - also available in the outdoor kitchen area.*

***Cleanliness:*** *The outdoor kitchen is for the express use of our guests. We ask that if you use any of the facilities to please clean up afterwards. Please do not leave dirty dishes, as they attract bugs. Please put away everything used; dishes, food, etc. Keep counters wiped down. Thank you in advance for keeping the facility clean!*

***Facilities:*** *Currently there is a refrigerator/freezer and a non-working frig to store dry goods. You can also use the BBQ grill to cook with (charcoal is available across the street in the grocery store - if you don't see it - just ask). We are working on installing a sink and a cooktop stove. And someday we plan to have a clay oven to bake in!*

*We have an electric coffee maker, please only use it in the kitchen area, do not move it to the room. We do not have a microwave anywhere on the property. Feel free to use the kitchenware; plates, cups, flatware, cutlery, etc. If there's something you need that is not in the kitchen, please ask, and we'll see what we can find.*



*Please use the condiments, etc., that are in the refrigerator. They are for you!*

**Trash:** *We separate our trash into three categories; compost; burnable; and all other. If you could help us keep the trash separated we'd appreciate it*

- *Compost is anything that we can turn back into earth... egg shells, veggies, fruits, leftover meat, bones, etc.*
- *Burnable includes anything that can burn; paper, plastic, cardboard, etc. (Yes, plastic. We've found burning it is a better alternative than putting it in a garbage dump.)*
- *All Other, includes glass, bottles, cans, aluminum, tin foil, etc.*

## *Property Policies & Procedures*

**Property Access:** *Enter and exit the property via the roadside double gate. We ask that you be extra careful to not allow the dogs to 'escape.' Also be sure to secure the gate top & bottom whenever you enter or leave. Milo likes to 'push' the gate to try to squeeze out to visit his Belizean buddies!*

*You can also access the river by the gate at the riverside portion of the property. Again, just be careful of the dogs and securing the gate behind you.*



**House Rules:** *The property is totally non-smoking. If you need to smoke, please do so off the property. And please dispose of your cig-butts appropriately.*

*Quiet hours are 10pm to 6am. If you could respect our quiet hours we would greatly appreciate it.*

*Try to avoid eating & drinking in the bedroom. Even the smallest crumb or sugary drip from a beverage, can attract visitors that aren't welcome. If you want to prepare any food or beverage - please use the outdoor kitchen area.*

*Please do not invite anyone to the property without our knowledge. We don't mind extra people; we just want to be aware of them. And we would ask that they are not here when we are not present, after we retire for the evening or before we are up and about in the morning.*



### **Release of Liability Form:**



*We ask all of our guests to sign an Accident Waiver and Release of Liability form for one main reason. Belize is a non-litigious country and by default, holds the position that individuals are responsible for their own actions. However, because most other countries ARE 'litigious' in nature, we present the release*

*form as a way of educating our guests about this different cultural viewpoint, so they are fully aware of the position of Belize.*



*It is important for all guests to be aware that they are responsible for their own actions while in the country of Belize. This is especially true when using the river facilities, swimming, fishing, tubing, kayaking, etc.*

*Please Note: When accessing the river - you do so at your own risk. It is not considered dangerous to traverse up or down the river, but the river and the adjacent land are public property, so just use caution. You may see villagers swimming, fishing, washing clothes, and even bathing in the river. Be aware of other boat traffic as well.*

### ***Cancellation Policy:***

*We do not provide refunds or credits for specific reasons/events such as; illness cancellations, weather delays, missed flights, missing amenities (i.e., water or electrical outages), early departures, etc. For this reason, we highly recommend purchasing travel cancellation insurance provided by most carriers.*





# Community Service

*We are proud members of Pack for a Purpose, an initiative that allows travelers like you to make a lasting impact in the community at your travel destination. If you save just a little bit of extra space in your suitcase and bring supplies for area schools or medical clinics in need, you'll make a priceless impact in the lives of our local children and families.*

*We support two different groups; CAWS and Cristo Rey RC School*

***The Mission of C.A.W.S** is to provide for a better life for all the domestic animals of Cayo, through education, health, and maintenance.*

*The activities of the Society are as follows:*

- Conduct public awareness and education programs designed to create an informed and knowledgeable public.*
- Facilitate low cost spay and neuter clinics by working with local veterinarians and volunteer organizations.*
- Facilitate the sharing of information with other animal welfare groups throughout Belize.*
- Cooperate with local Government to develop a plan to trap, fix and release stray dogs and cats as a means of population control.*
- Apply for and administer grants supportive of the CAWS mission.*

*The Cristo Rey R.C. Village school serves 350 children. Always in short supply are basic student & teacher supplies, sports equipment, and tech supplies. We volunteer at the school on projects from power-washing the building to setting up a computer lab, to providing a free home-made from scratch pizzas to one lucky birthday-boy or girl each month!*

*If you didn't know about our community projects and would like to donate supplies or money during your stay, please let us know and we will accept it on your behalf, or put you in contact with the head of CAWS or the school principal directly.*

