

# Venture News

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### TAREIG/Local Country News

## FRANKS EDDY VILLAGE—THE MECCA OF BELIZE TOURISM

Frank's Eddy Village off of mile 37 of the Western Highway in central Belize, and the hometown of Camino Del Rio, is now growing as the number of new tour operators expand to bring in more visitors to the area. The area has traditionally been known as an established and viable village with many farmers producing citrus, corn and various vegetables. The pristine river systems and natural beauty of the area has attracted the attention of investors and local residents who have established businesses offering the adventure of rafting on inner tubes of truck wheels along the Caves Branch River as it passes underground into a beautiful cave system.

What began as a sport by local kids using old motor vehicle inner tubes to float down the smaller rivers in Belize has become a national activity and tourist attraction of cave tubing. Over the past decades, the spectacular cave system at Caves Branch, in the Cayo District, has become a major tourism activity that is available only in Belize. The easiest access point to the river and caves is within the Frank's Eddy Village area, where the Caves Branch Stream of the main caves branch river flows in its blue and pristine beauty through the entire system which is one of Belize's more attractive national parks.

Cave tubing is the experience of floating through the caves, sitting in a professionally designed air filled tube, life vest on, with a forehead fitted cave light. Within these vast caverns are incredible vistas of stalactites and stalagmites, some shaped like human and wildlife figures. Most famous are what appear to be the legendary Celestial Bird and Vision Serpent, formed over the millennia by dripping water percolating through rock. Near the water-

falls, you can walk into a world within a world to the crystal caverns which go well into the deep hilly area beyond the Caves Branch River with yet another stream for cave tubing. Visitors can actually spot shards of pottery left behind by the Maya.



**Tubing the Caves Branch River Starts in Franks Eddy**

Archaeological evidence indicates that the cave system was used for over 2000 years as a ceremonial center by the ancient Maya. Now at least six tour companies are headquartered in Franks Eddy Village providing adventure and informational tours along with employment opportunities for local and other nearby residents. The local business operators include:

- Cavetubing.bz\*
- Kinich Ahau Cave Tubing Tours\*
- Cavetubing.com
- Cave Branch Outpost
- Dark Night Cave Tubing Adventure
- Chukka Caribbean

\*business owned by a Franks Eddy resident

In keeping with the desire of the Belizean people to preserve the natural integrity of its natural resources, the Government affords protection of the caves and general area under the National Parks Acts. The activities offered include nature walks, cave tubing, zip line, and cultural presentations. It is expected that at least 500,000 visitors during the prime tourist season from January through May will pass through the area to reach the adventure resources that are available.

**Project Spotlight**

**EATING YOUR WAY THROUGH BELIZE—A FIRST FAMILY VIEW**

*The Haggmann's enjoy their travel and eating adventures in Belize*

When visiting Belize, Eric and Cheryl Haggmann enjoy sitting on the front porch of their home at Camino Del Rio watching and listening to the parrots and other beautiful birds, as the closeness to nature provides for many relaxing moments. But they always plan some time for adventures, and from their February 2014 visit, they share some of their favorite stops, travel enjoyments, and places for good eating.

In a visit to San Ignacio, they had an enjoyable lunch at a new restaurant “Fuego”, which is known for its Belizean sophistication and flavor that has been added to every day dishes. The backside patio offers a nice walkway to the pedestrian area of the town, where they also visited a bakery, gelato store, and Belizean wood crafts tour. Along the Western Highway and near the Riverwalk Nursery, a visit to Hot Mama’s store to get some of their famous Hot Sauce provides an opportunity to bring back some of the country home and to share with friends.

Belmopan is always a destination for fresh fruits and vegetables as the open markets are where some of the best bargains can be found. Other favorite Belmopan stops include the Orchid Nursery, Bakery, and Builder’s Supply Hardware Store, where many of their household needs can be found. At the Banana Bank Lodge, they went on a horseback riding adventure, with lunch and a tour of the gardens and grounds, along with a swim in the beautiful pool at the lodge. Going south along the Hummingbird Highway, a short stop at Knopf’s Bakery, a small Mennonite shop, they found the best cinnamon rolls in the

country. At the Marie Sharp's Factory Tour and Tasting, they were amazed that such a small factory sends their Belizean Hot Sauce around the world. In Hopkins, the Driftwood Café drumming concert and dinner along the water were a favorite. There was a Drum Center visit and purchase of a handmade drum made by Mr. Coleman, a local resident. The evening included a beachside stay to enjoy the Caribbean Sea.



**Fuego in San Ignacio**

The Haggmann’s love to travel throughout the countryside of Belize enjoying their moments of being a foodie along the way, and to eventually get back to the place they will someday call home.

Do you have a story to tell about your visit to Belize or why you chose Camino Del Rio? Send us your stories and/or photos of your visits on any of the topics below:

- Visits to Belize
- Visits to Camino Del Rio
- Your input on visions for the Community
- Your Family and Interests

A copy of the story will be sent to you for review and approval prior to any publication or release.

**CAMINO RECIPE**

Mashed Cassava and Cheese  
(4 servings)

**Ingredients:**

- 4 medium Cassava\*
- 1 TBSP of butter
- 1/2 cup cheddar cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste



**Directions:**

- Peel cassava and cut in half to remove the middle spine.
- Boil cassava until soft.
- Mash cassava and mix in the cheese.
- Sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste.

\*grown onsite at Camino Del Rio

**History/Activity Spotlight****THE HISTORY OF BELIZE: WHERE ARE THE MAYA?—PART 3 OF A MULTI-SERIES**

*Various complex factors are contributed to the decline in the Maya civilization*

In the late classic period of the 9th century, at least 400,000 people inhabited the Belize area. People settled in almost every part of the country worth cultivating, as well as the caye and coastal swamp regions. But in the 10th century, Maya society suffered a severe breakdown. Construction of public buildings ceased, the administrative centers lost power, and the population declined as social and economic systems lost their coherence. Some people continued to occupy, or perhaps reoccupy, sites such as Altún Ha, Xunantunich, and Lamanai. Still, these sites ceased being splendid ceremonial and civic centers. The decline of Maya civilization is still not fully explained. Rather than identifying the collapse as the result of a single factor, many archaeologists now believe that the decline of the Maya was a result of many complex factors and that the decline occurred at different times in different regions.

The Maya centers of the southern lowlands went into decline during the 8th and 9th centuries and were abandoned shortly thereafter. This decline was coupled with a cessation of monumental inscriptions and large-scale architectural construction. No universally accepted theory explains this collapse.



**Presentation of a captive to the Maya Ruler**

Non-ecological theories of Maya decline are divided into several subcategories, such as overpopulation, foreign invasion, peasant revolt, and the collapse of key trade routes. Ecological hypotheses include environmental disaster, epidemic disease, and climate change. There is evidence that the Maya population exceeded the carrying capacity of the environment including exhaustion of agricultural potential and overhunting. Some scholars have recently theorized that an intense 200-year drought led to the collapse of Maya civilization.

The drought theory originated from research performed by physical scientists studying lake beds, ancient pollen, and other data, not from the archaeological community. Newer research from 2011, with use of high-resolution climate models and new reconstructions of past landscapes, suggests that converting much of their forest land into cropland may have led to reduced evapotranspiration and thus rainfall, magnifying natural drought. A study published in 2012 found that modest rainfall reductions, amounting to only 25 to 40% in annual rainfall, may have been the tipping point to the Maya collapse. Based on samples of lake and cave sediments in the areas surrounding major Maya cities, the researchers were able to determine the amount of annual rainfall in the region. The mild droughts that took place between AD 800 and 950 were enough to rapidly reduce open water availability. A further paper in the same journal supports and extends this conclusion based on isotope analysis of minerals in a stalagmite. It argues that high rainfall between 440 and 660 allowed the Maya to flourish in the first instance, and that while mild droughts in the following years led to extensive warfare and the decline of Mayan civilization, it was a prolonged period of drought between 1020 and 1100 that was ultimately fatal.

During the succeeding Post-classic period (from the 10th to the early 16th century), development in the northern centers persisted, characterized by an increasing diversity of external influences. After the decline of the ruling dynasties of Chichen and Uxmal, Mayapan ruled all of Yucatán until a revolt in 1450. (This city's name may be the source of the word "Maya", which had a more geographically restricted meaning in Yucatec and colonial Spanish and only grew to its current meaning in the 19th and 20th centuries). The area then degenerated into competing city-states until Yucatán was conquered by the Spanish.

The Mayan people survived the arrival of the Spanish conquistadores and sixteenth-century Spanish colonization of the Americas. Today, the Maya and their descendants form sizable populations throughout the country; they maintain a distinctive set of traditions and beliefs resulting from the merger of pre-Columbian and post-Conquest ideas and cultures. Millions of people speak Mayan languages today.



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TAREIG, LLC, The Adventure Real Estate Investment Group, is a Maryland based real estate development and management company created to pursue domestic and foreign real estate investment opportunities. The target for real estate development activities is on small to medium sized projects in emerging destinations that are in the early stages of development for tourism and residential community living. Projects include the building of resorts, single family, and multi-unit residential and vacation home communities that incorporate ecological-based designs to maintain and/or enhance the natural features of the property.

**OUR PROJECTS:**

- Utilize environmentally sound preservation practices,
- Emphasize local community involvement and community service support,
- Provide for a network of other TAREIG corporate owned and commercial developed projects.

**MISSION**

The mission of TAREIG, LLC is to develop unique and high quality real estate projects that are situated near outdoor adventure and tourist attractions in emerging travel destination areas.

**VISION**

Our vision is to create a network of TAREIG properties through land development and reciprocal arrangements with other similar high quality residential and vacation development communities and resorts throughout the world.

**CORPORATE PHILOSOPHY**

Offer quality products and a satisfying customer experience.

*Closing Note*

**CAMINO DEL RIO REFERRAL PROGRAM**

Share the excitement of owning property in Belize and Earn **\$200.00** for each referral that purchases a home site in Camino Del Rio.

5. When your referral completes their closing transaction, your payment of \$200.00 will be mailed to you.

**Camino Del Rio**

**Where a walk in the park is your home**

*Here's how the Referral Program Works:*

1. Share the information about Camino Del Rio with friends and family that may be interested in owning their piece of paradise in Belize.
2. Submit the names with an mail or mailing address via email to [info@tareig.com](mailto:info@tareig.com).
3. A Camino Del Rio homebuyer package will be sent.
4. When your referral completes their reservation and submits the sales agreement you will be notified of the sale with a 'thank you' letter.



**Tell Others About Camino Del Rio  
A Sustainable Living Community**