

The Coppola **HIDEAWAYS**



SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES

Francis and Eleanor Coppola see their role as that of a conservator, preserving the pristine natural environment. They strongly support Belize's commitment to ecotourism and continue to explore new technologies and practices that benefit the environment.

DESIGN + CONSTRUCTION

The design selected by the Coppola's was in keeping with the goal of creating buildings that blend into the natural environment. We use low profile, environmentally sound designs, thatch, hardwoods, pine, bamboo, and regionally produced tiles. We also use local and regional plants for landscaping that do not rely on intensive irrigation.

Flow control showerheads are used in all our bathrooms.

NO AIR CONDITIONING

Blancaneaux's vaulted roofs promote natural airflow, keeping spaces cool, fresh, and filled with the sounds of nature like birds and the sea. Windows, screened doors, and high, thatched ceilings allow air circulation to enable hot air to escape.

SALINE POOLS

All our pools are set up with saline systems vs. harsher to the environment chemicals

HYDRO SYSTEM

The Privassion Creek plays a huge role in Blancaneaux's day to day operations - it currently supplies 26kW (a soon to be functional second system will provide an additional 14kW) of power harness via a hydro system for the entire property and staff housings. This is an equivalent of 85% of the energy use on property while the other 15% is supplied via butane for water heating and drying of clothes and cooking. At inception, we sourced technical assistance abroad, however for the past 10 plus years, all the servicing has been carried out in-house by our

facility manager. The creek also supplies water for our shower and laundry; we treat all water before it goes to the guest rooms.

We offer complimentary eco-tours at Blancaneaux to educate guests on the hydro system and more.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY APPLIANCES

All our appliances are energy efficient; we measure all our electricity consumption and monthly.

Haiku fans are in all our guest dwellings and communal areas. These efficient fans burn 1/3 the power of a regular fan and the wind is more powerful and cooling.

LED LIGHTS

We converted about 95% of all our bulbs into LED's.

NO SINGLE USE PLASTIC

We eliminated all single use plastics including plastic water bottles which were replaced with stainless steel bottles, provided to guests on tours and transfers. Guests also have the choice of purchasing these bottles and USD 1 is contributed to Friends for Conservation (NGO) and eco filter stations are located throughout each hideaway for easy clean water refill.

BIO-DEGRADABLE PRODUCTS

All our take outs containers are plant base products, bags, clam shells, spoons and forks.

AEROBIC SYSTEMS

Our aerobic system separates the solids from the grey water (from all guest dwellings and buildings on-site at each hideaway), allowing us to be able to irrigate the landscaping. The compacted solids are used for composting.

EARTH DAY

We observe Earth Day by turning off the power during evening dining, encouraging guests to dine outdoors with candlelight and frequently live local music.

SUPPORT LOCAL MARKET

Although we produce much of our produce on site at each location, there is still some need for additional produce that we cannot grow. We encourage the local farmers from San Antonio and El Progreso to supply us these commodities.

TOILETRIES

We use locally produced organic soaps and amenities.

LOCAL ARTISTS

As part of our responsibility to support culture and art, we host weekly guest artists such as musicians and artisans. Painting, guitar, Spanish and other local arts classes are offered frequently at both Blancaneaux Lodge and Turtle Inn.

LOCAL CERTIFIED WOOD SUPPLIER

All our wood is purchased from a local company that replants at the time of harvest and consciously reduces their carbon footprint.

IN HOUSE FURNITURE

We build all our furniture in house- with wood supplier that also support NGO's that protect the forest.

SUPPORT FOR THE BELIZE WILDLIFE CLINIC

We have partnered with [Belize Wildlife Clinic](#) which provides free medical care to wildlife centers and in the field without a clinical facility and only basic medical equipment. We make annual donations to their clinic from Turtle Inn and Blancaneaux Lodge, and we educate our guests and offer them an opportunity to personally donate.

REEF PROTECTION ACTIVITY FOR GUESTS AT TURTLE INN

Lionfish are known for their striking appearance in the Caribbean Sea, their delicious taste and unfortunately for their attempts to destroy the barrier reef. There have been a reported 68 different invading marine species found throughout Florida, the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico over the last century, but none have wreaked as much havoc on the marine environment as the voracious red lionfish. Because the fish do not belong in these waters, they have no known predators and there is nothing to stop them from consuming all Caribbean reef fish.

To deal with this growing environmental issue, Turtle Inn has found a creative and exciting way for travelers to experience a unique underwater tour that will simultaneously help protect the environment with providing the opportunity to make a delicious meal out of any they catch.

PLANTING PINE AND MAHOGANY TREES WITH GUESTS

In the year 2000 the pine forest reserve was devastated by the bark beetles. Blancaneaux encourages guests to participate with us by planting more pine trees. Every dry season the Green Team collects pine seedlings that may perish and bring them to our nursery. Once rehabilitated, they are taken out to the field, and they are tagged with guest names and often guests are updated with photos of the seedling progress.

OFFICE POLICY TO REUSE PAPER

All papers are reused as note pads, once we complete the second use, they are shredded and used in our mulch, or to feed out wormy post.

STAFF EDUCATION GREEN TEAM

The Green Team at each Hideaway constantly prepare presentations for the rest of the staff, thereby educating them on our water streams, forests, beaches, reefs,

mangroves and how we continue to conserve and protect all through small and large efforts daily.

RECYCLE

Each department has the task to separate their garbage at the end of each day- this is then take to the scale and documented- items that are not recyclable are prepared for dumping, other are place in a wooden box which is then take to the transfer station at the western border, a fee is paid to the station where it is all classified again then transported to Guatemala where it is recycled.

BEEKEEPING

At Blancaneaux Lodge we recently added bee keeping to our duties. These fascinating insects play an important role in the pollination and sustaining the health of our forest. Honeybees are the heartbeat of our organic garden and helps to maintain a healthy biodiverse environment. We offer tours/education on bees to guests.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH, EDUCATION + SUPPORT

Visit to local schools to educate kids about flora and fauna, as well as sustainable recycling practices.

COMMUNITY FUND 5%

Born out of hundreds of requests we have received from Hideaways guests who have stayed at Turtle Inn and Blancaneaux Lodge in Belize, the Community Fund will benefit well deserved local community and charitable organizations in great need. A simple 5% fee* on the folio of guests staying at the two Coppola Hideaways in Belize will benefit these organizations by providing direct financial support and initiatives to have a meaningful impact each year for our beloved communities.

GARDEN EDUCATION

We encourage children to participate in agriculture training- we offer seedlings and technical assistance allowing local Belize students who may not otherwise

CORNER STONE FOUNDATION

Blancaneaux makes a monthly donation to this feeding program, which assists the local community in providing meals to children and elderly who are in need.

CLEAN UP CAMPAIGNS

Every year we organize a cleanup of Mountain Pine Ridge Road near Blancaneaux and the beaches in Placencia near Turtle Inn, leading up to earth day. All collected garbage is weighed and recorded which is then shared with all participants. We have done this for more than 15 years.

PACK FOR A PURPOSE

Each of our Belize hideaways encourages guest to pack donations for local schools in need of supplies ranging from writing utensils, notebooks, to electronic

tablets and laptops. Often our guests bring their donations directly to the schools in need through partnering with Pack for a Purpose.

SCHOLARSHIPS

We currently provide full academic scholarships to selected local students. Students are selected from our two local communities in the Cayo District town of San Ignacio and in Placencia, Belize. Scholarships include all tuition, fees, and books. All students, once accepted, must provide progress reports throughout their four-year scholarship. Additionally, an in-house foundation called Double Key foundation was started to provide local high school scholarships including laptops.

HEALTH + WELLBEING

We contribute monthly to the health clinic in Placencia to help assist in the cost of medicines and medical equipment for the locals.

INSPIRATION CENTER OF BELIZE

The General Manager of Turtle Inn: Martin Krediet, serves as an honorary board member for the [Inspiration Center of Belize](#). This non-governmental organization in Belize City that provides various therapy and health services to children with disabilities and their families. It was founded in March 2014 by Mrs. Kim Simplis-Barrow, Belize's Special Envoy for Women and Children and Global Ambassador for Special Olympics International, in collaboration with CARE-Belize, the Government of Belize and numerous donors and stakeholders.

SEA BELIZE

Annual donations are made by Turtle Inn to SEA (Southern Environmental Association) Belize – a local Placencia headquartered NGO whose mission is to take a hands-on approach to conservation and management of much of the Southern Barrier Reef.

FRAGMENTS OF HOPE

Turtle Inn partners with [Fragments of Hope](#) – focused on the restoration of coral reef habitats and advocacy for the sustainable management of associated habitats. Guests are given an opportunity to plant mangroves for restoration purposes on-site at Turtle Inn.

KITCHEN

Collect all peels and vegetable trims for composting and all cooking oils for biofuel.

FOOD + BEVERAGE

Provide all wine bottles for foundations and distribute them to local wine makers with corks. Only metal and bamboo straws are available (no single use plastics). All takeaway food is served in corn base materials, including takeaway bags. Our honey comes directly from our bee farm, and we use produce from our on-site farms.

GARDENS + FARMS ONSITE WITH GUEST ENGAGEMENT

Blancaneaux Lodge boasts a 4.5-acre organic garden, more like a farm, that produces 80% of the produce consumed by guests and staff. In 2017 a guest experience was added to showcase our organic practices and an evening on Blancaneaux's farm includes a tour with the head gardener to learn of the practices while enjoying cocktails made with local garden ingredients and finally dining in a palapa set in the garden spot to share a three course completely vegetarian meal. Don't miss meeting or feeding the chickens while visiting the farm at Blancaneaux.

Turtle Inn also offers a smaller scale on-site organic garden, and the head gardener welcomes guests to learn about the gardening practices, assist in harvesting, plant seedlings and perhaps feed the chickens on-site.

We develop insecticides from leaves and other organic materials. Compost is created by collecting manure from the on-site horse stables at Blancaneaux Lodge. Our worm compost project, launched in partnership with the local Ministry of Agriculture, began with just 4 lbs. of worms and has grown to about 50 lbs., producing nearly 1,000 lbs. of compost that is used for all our seedlings.

SEEDS

Our seeds are organic certified.

LISTER PUMP

The pump was discovered on the property when the Coppola family purchased Blancaneaux Lodge in 1981. In 1998, it was rehabilitated and installed downstream. The pump is used solely to feed the horse stables and organic garden.

LANDCAPING

Native plants that don't need excessive watering. Collect grinds and dry leaves to make mulch for the garden. Uses only organic treatment for flowering plants.

HOUSEKEEPING

We only use locally made organic toiletries (shampoo/lotion/conditioner), which are provided in reusable bottles in each guest dwelling (no single use plastics). Guests are given the option of reusing towels and linen. Laundry products are biodegradable and automated for no waste.

Solar emergency lights are available in rooms for emergencies.

STORES

Our team here ensures that we always purchase bulk size items- each purchase is brought in plastic crates that are reusable. In cases where we cannot avoid cardboard boxes, we reuse them as coverings for plants in the gardens.