

# Roatán Beach & Coral Reef Etiquette



## Legend



Dive Sites and  
Coral Reef Areas



Beaches



Mahogany  
Bay

# Welcome to the Island of Roatán

Roatán Island is the jewel of Honduras' Bay Islands. The largest and most populated of the three main islands and located just off the East coast of Honduras, Roatán is well known for its superb scuba diving, warm sunshine and cool trade winds. Unclaimed for many years, the island which is 11 miles long and about 2 miles wide, became a haven to many famous French, English and Dutch pirates. It has been estimated that up to 5,000 pirates may have lived on and ruled Roatán and the Bay Islands during the mid-17th century. Roatán's colorful past is evidenced in the diverse cultures and languages that still exist including those of Punta Gorda's Garifuna community. Its stunning natural beauty and warm, friendly people will touch your soul and leave you longing to return.

## BEACH & CORAL REEF ETIQUETTE

### Beach Etiquette

- Don't discard or leave trash on the beaches; place all trash in trash containers.
- Don't light fires on or near the beach area.

### Coral Reef Etiquette

Coral ecosystems are the most biologically diverse of all marine systems and serve as a refuge for many species. The reefs surrounding Roatán are part of the 561 mile-long Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System which is the 2nd largest in the world behind Australia's Great Barrier Reef. While reasonably well preserved, these reefs are quite fragile and therefore vulnerable to human pressure. Most of Roatán's accessible coral reefs lie within protected Marine Park waters. **THEFORE WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE:**

- **Don't touch, stand upon, walk on, grab onto, drag equipment along, or otherwise disturb the coral.**
- **Don't collect or capture marine life, including shells, whether living or dead.**
- **Don't anchor on coral reefs.**
- **Don't throw any trash into the sea.**
- **Don't use hooks, spear guns, Hawaiian slings or other devices capable of harming marine flora or fauna.**
- **Don't use gloves or knives.**

**REMEMBER, ALTHOUGH CORAL REEFS MAY LOOK LIKE ROCKS, THEY ARE DELICATE LIVING CREATURES.**

## RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Don't disturb wildlife or plants; remember that you are visiting their habitat. Don't feed the fish; doing so could modify their behavior. Cut the rings of plastic can holders before disposing of them in trash receptacles to prevent animals (fish, turtles or birds) from eating or getting tangled in them. Please collect any plastic or other trash you may find floating on the reef or washed ashore and place in the nearest trash receptacle. Fill in any holes created while playing in the sand.

In addition to its many recreational beach and water activities, Roatán also offers many land-based activities to ensure your visit is enjoyable. Take only pictures and bring home only memories.

*And finally... Enjoy your stay in Roatán!*

*Prepared in cooperation with:*



Municipality of  
Punta Gorda



Municipality  
of Roatán



Bay Islands  
Conservation  
Association