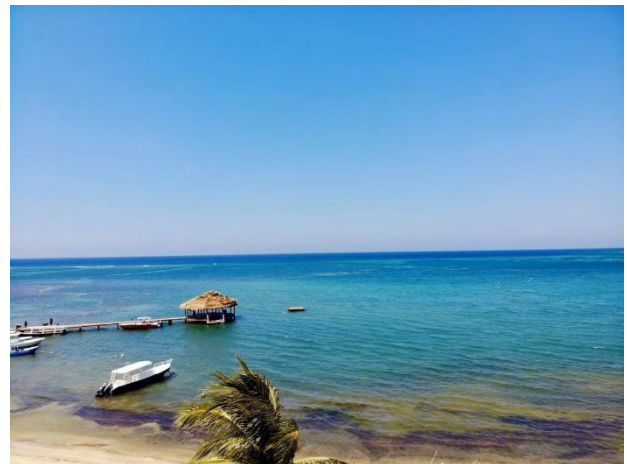


Celebrate the New Year
Roatan is waiting for us
December 27, 2025 to
January 3, 2026



Lets get ready for our group New Year's vacation



ROATAN is an island off the northern coast of Honduras and formed by the Bonacca Ridge, which is an underwater mountain range. Located in the western Caribbean. The island is approximately 40 miles long, 3 miles wide and has annual temperatures with highs of 89.6°F (32°C) and lows of 77°F (25°C). The Bonacca Ridge is responsible for the formation of several small islands and Keys in the surrounding areas including the Island of Utila and Guanaja. Roatan is home to the largest barrier reef in the northern hemisphere. I have been diving it for 12 years (at least once a year and provide diver training there on the trips.

You should register with the Honduran Immigration Services on-line in advance of our trip. You can set up your account now and then 72hr before departure we finalize that advance immigration process on-line. Set up your account now at <https://prechequeo.inm.gob.hn/Login> and select English.

Depart DFW AA #1769 at 10:15AM and Arrive RTB, 1:25PM Dec 27th

Everyone should attempt to schedule their trip on the above flights. Get there however you wish, but no later than 3:00 on December 27th. We (wife and I) are flying home on AA Flight 332 that departs Roatan Jan 3rd at 2:40PM as that will allow those that wish to dive the morning of Jan 2nd to get the two morning dives in for a minimum total of 12 dives (2 a day). The flight goes through Miami. There is a direct to DFW that day but does not offer Business Class and is about an hour later – but less expensive.

LODGING: For \$620 per bedroom enjoying 7 nights in the guest house with AC we are renting a 4 bedrooms with 4 individual bathrooms (a 5th bathroom at the pool), a full kitchen, living room and other features including a pool. We will share in the cost of stocking the kitchen and in 1-2 rental vehicles for our own island transportation. There is a restaurant on site as well. One-bedroom sleeps 3-4 and would be great for a family or several single males (share the cost of the room).

Everyone will be expected to share the cost of stocking the kitchen with food (cost will depend on the number of people going) That cost can't be determined until it happens, but it will be divided evenly and paid at the end. Alcohol/beer or any special items are separate. Everyone is expected to share the cost of the rental vehicles as well. Last year's trip we spent approx. \$1500 on two vehicles and roughly \$100 pp for house food suff. The cash you bring needs to be clean and crisp, especially your large bills (20, 50, 100). Have a bunch of \$20's for rental vehicle, food etc settling up at end of week. Most credit cards are accepted, including at the dive shop (including your tip). The main store we shop at is like a Walmart, it has most everything. There is also a convenience/gas store nearby. Make a list of any preferred stuff for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks and we'll build a shopping list to stock the kitchen with food and drinks. We are planning one evening over in West End for dinner and strolling along the strip. Another dinner and/or lunch we will drive to Roatan Island Brewing Co. for an early supper at their Palmetto Bay location and sampling what is on tap. <https://www.facebook.com/roatanbrewery>. We can do another dinner out in Coxen hole if the group desires and the house cooks have quit (after all it's a vacation).

Roatan Dive Center <https://www.roatandivecenter.com/>

You are encouraged to learn all about our dive operator with the above link. The owners are friends that we've known for over 12 years. Gary Miller (no relation) is from England and has been on the island more than 25 years and married to Mary who is a local gal and PADI DM and the best DM I have ever come across. Her underwater photography is great, and she can really find the good stuff so stay close to her. Gary was a PADI Platinum Course Director when I first met him doing my PADI Staff Instructor training. I talked him into becoming SSI within months of my joining SSI. He and his family are our extended family.

On arrival on Roatan, we work our way through the Immigration system and await the unloading of luggage (dogs will want to sniff your carry-on stuff as you approach the luggage rack so I'd suggest you keep the food etc ready for them to investigate) gather your luggage (takes a while) and then move into line to have them scanned by Customs. As you leave customs head to your left over by the rental car booths and gather while our vehicles are obtained. We will have reserved our transportation in advance, and we'll load most of the baggage in the PU and head to the dive shop and get processed in for Sunday's 8:30 am morning dives. Your dive gear can remain at the shop for the duration of the week. Just bring camera and computers back to the house or other items you might need in the afternoon/evening. Your dive kit will be loaded and assembled on the boat by the crew each morning. After the dive the crew returns and rinses it for storage for the next day. (see the included suggested dive equipment list – the necessary and not so necessary items). Boats will handle 8 divers each max. At the dive site the boat crew will have already assembled your gear and helped you into it for a back roll into the water. Or if the surface is calm you can get in with your MSF and have the crew drop your kit into the water to put it on yourself (the way I do it most of the time). At the end of the dive, you'll keep your mask on your face, and while holding onto the ladder your BCD and then fins before climbing the ladder. I suggest undoing your chest strap and loosening the shoulder straps before coming to the ladder to permit rapid exit from the water. Pass up your fins, then strip your BCD off and climb the wooden ladder into the boat. Keep your mask on your face until you are in the boat. Plenty of dive Pros in the water to assist anyone needing extra help, especially if surface conditions get challenging. I normally strip my BCD off near the boat, using it as flotation and pass my camera to someone already on the boat. Then approach the ladder so the crew can pull it up, strip my fins and up I go.



Dive sites within 10 minutes of the dock.

THE DIVING: You have a minimum of one 2 tank morning dive each day Sun-Friday (12 dive package) then count any afternoon, night or shark dives and come home with a lot of logged dives. The boats will return to the dock after each dive for the surface interval swap tanks and use bathrooms etc., then out for the second dive (although some dive trips out may involve the surface interval to a second site on the way back to the dock when the first dive is a bit further to the east). Take just the minimum for the dive – no dive bags as space on these boats is very limited. Have a small dry bag and something for your glasses, water bottle etc. A sun hat and sunscreen are highly recommended. We dive rain or shine for the most part, as conditions permit, so some trips out and back can be rather cool without a boat coat/wind breaker.

You can get an additional night or shark dive for even more excitement (extra cost). 😊 The Island's Shark Dive is run by one operator on the island and for those having never experienced the excitement of a shark feeding station or wanting to see the frenzy up close, this one is for you. You will need to schedule it with the dive shop Sunday as it fills up quickly with all the dive operators on the island sending their guests. If you've done a shark dive then skip this one.

We'll dive The Mr Budd, the Odessey and the El Aguilar wrecks during our trip. I've been on them numerous times and a great opportunity to earn your Wreck and Advance Wreck cards. Talk to me if you wish to earn your wreck, night, deep, boat, drift or other specialty during the trip. We will plan on at least one night dive (you need to be night certified or get the certification on the trip) and again it needs to be scheduled by Monday with the shop. The same holds for the wreck dives, but those wishing to follow me inside the wreck, please coordinate with us prior to the trip. You do not need a wreck specialty cert if

you **are not** doing a penetration dive – just follow the DM. And of course, we are available for any other specialty training you might wish to accomplish on the trip including Dive Guide/DM.

As previously mentioned, this is a group trip where most of our housing, food and transportation expenses will be shared. I have already paid for the house, but we can expect a few closing costs. I will share the actual expense invoices for the house and rental vehicles with everyone. I would ask that everyone give me their minimum expected number of dives so I can let the dive operator know for planning purposes or at least go to his web site and purchase them.

Mary will be setting up an account for each of you when we arrive and you can clear that account that Friday when we are done diving for the week.