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Hamanasi Adventure & Dive Resort, Belize

A Green Globe Case Study - Category: Boutique Resort Hotel

hamanasi
ADVENTURE & DIVE RESORT, BELIZE



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Beach clean up



Back to school project



Accumulated glass bottles ready to be crushed to be used with a mixture of cement for slabs for our pathways



Pathway from crushed glass bottles

Founded in 2000, Hamanasi is one of the few resorts in Belize and possibly the Caribbean that offers both prestigious diving locations and lush jungle for hikes. This boutique resort located on the beach south of Hopkins is nestled between the Maya Mountains and the turquoise Caribbean Sea. Hamanasi runs a full-service dive shop, restaurant, bar and pool. Being a resort with only 21 rooms spread over 25 acres of land and holding a capacity of 60-65 people, these amenities present a challenge to being eco-friendly.

But Hamanasi has embraced the challenge and succeeded in becoming Green Globe Certified. Hamanasi's goal is to become one of the leading eco-resorts in Belize and contribute to the preservation efforts throughout the country. Hamanasi is committed to protecting our ecosystems and their biodiversity by taking continual steps towards being more environmentally friendly.

Green Team

From the beginning, the resort's owners understood the importance of preserving the local environment and supporting indigenous communities. From its opening, the resort has had no problem finding staff that are friendly and gracious toward the guests. At the same time however, finding employees that understood sustainability was not so easy. From Hamanasi's management a Green Team was organized with staff across the resort; their goal is to promote sustainability through practical green projects.

One endeavor that the Green Team has recently taken on is the continuation of plant labeling in the garden so that guests may enjoy a self-guided tour. The plan is to label many trees, bushes and flowers on the property, put numbers and directions to follow along the paths and a description of the plant, local and scientific name and medicinal purposes or uses. To assist this education program, the Green Team will create a handbook as a guide for guests.

With the aid of the Green Team and the entire Hamanasi staff, Hamanasi will continue to flourish as the first beach resort to be Green Globe certified in Belize.

Giving Back

One of Hamanasi's major charities is Equity House Clinic, which is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of individuals, families and our communities by providing a private health clinic. Equity House depends on donated medical supplies to serve these causes. They also provide an ambulance service in emergency situations upon request.

Hamanasi also sells donated items in the resort gift shop and gives 100% of the proceeds to the Hopkins Belize Humane Society. Free vet services are provided to the community. A free spay and neuter clinic is organized three times a year by Hamanasi and a stateside coordinator, Clara Lee Arnold.

Students and Education

An ongoing project started by Hamanasi in 2006 is the "Back to School Backpack Project". Backpacks and school supplies are donated by Hamanasi guests and visitors throughout the year. Each September, the backpacks and supplies are donated to the schools and families in Sittee River and Hopkins.

A Green Globe Case Study

Hamanasi also supports the educational facilities and programs through our Education fund which come from donations from our guests and the resort. We also help pay school fees for many families from Hopkins every year.

Local Community

The resort also sponsors many other school, organizations' and community projects by donating rooms and tours as prizes. Donations are also given as prizes for the annual Kite Festival & Hopkins Day. Hamanasi is actively involved in the Beautification Project organized by the Hopkins chapter of the BTIA - Belize Tourism Industry Association. This program includes the planting of trees and flowers around the village.

Hamanasi organizes a Hopkins Beach clean-up twice a year to get the local students involved in understanding the need for protecting and preserving their community.

The resort has over 75 employees that are employed throughout the year. Over 90% of the staff are from the neighboring villages; Hopkins, Sittee River and Maya Center. In cases of emergency Hamanasi willing provides aide in the form of transportation, fuel and other means of support.

Training and Skills Development

Utilizing their many years of business experience, the owners of Hamanasi Resort, developed a program to teach a standardized approach to quality service and a method for ongoing maintenance of service quality. Annual training is provided for all staff members and ongoing training opportunities are offered throughout the year for all departments.

We do refresher customer service training for all staff regularly and all new staff as well. All staff benefit from the hospitality training, which includes service quality, emergency plans, CPR/first aid and continuing education in their area of resort management. In addition Hamanasi has organized training and workshops with archeological experts as continuing education for the inland tour guides. The resort also has plans to send all guides to do intense rescue training.

Environmental Responsibility

When it comes to recycling and composting, Hamanasi has a plan for it all. In an ongoing effort to recycle and reuse, Hamanasi recently added a glass crusher to its conservation arsenal. Well over 2000 bottles have been collected over the course of the year from the bar. In the first month of the crushing operation, more than 1225 bottles have been crushed and recycled into pathway cement slabs. The project is an ongoing one, as the bottles continue to be collected from the bar, and slabs are put along pathways to help prevent erosion. The crushed glass will also be stored to use in the construction of Hamanasi's future expansion. The glass/ cement mixture will be used in the floor slabs and other various construction needs.

The resort makes it own compost with food scraps and vegetable peels. The other garbage is sorted properly and sold to a local company who further sorts, sells and reuses the plastics. Wood shavings, leaves and sea grass is raked up daily, mixed with compost and placed among the vegetation between the treehouses on property as fertilizer. The used oils from engines are donated to a local wood cutter to paint posts as a deterrent to termites.



Jewelry display for the Humane society fund raising



Children gather to start Birdwatching with our tour guides - Golden and Pedro



Kite festival banner



Nurse Judy from equity house and friends gather at Hamanasi



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