



## **FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA HIDEAWAYS SUSTAINABILITY & CONSERVATION INITIATIVES**

Blancaneaux Lodge and Turtle Inn in Belize are dedicated to sustainable tourism practices designed to help protect endangered species native to the area and the fragile environments in which they live. Francis and Eleanor Coppola see their role as that of a conservator, working to protect Belize's pristine environment. They are strongly committed to ecotourism and continue to explore new technologies and practices that minimize negative impact on the environment.

### **RAINFOREST ALLIANCE & GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE TOURISM COUNCIL**

In 2011, Blancaneaux Lodge and Turtle Inn achieved Rainforest Alliance Verification for Sustainable Tourism Best Practices. This international nonprofit conservation organization is dedicated to helping businesses develop standards spanning sustainable forestry, agriculture, tourism, climate and education. In February 2011, the Rainforest Alliance verification standard was recognized by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council, the internationally renowned standard for sustainable tourism.

### **RENEWABLE ENERGY & WASTE MANAGEMENT**

For nearly twenty years, Blancaneaux Lodge has implemented eco-friendly systems and procedures including a focus on renewable energy use and waste management. In 1993, the Coppolas installed a hydroelectric plant at the resort that harnesses the energy of the Privassion Creek (the body of water that runs alongside the resort), supplying the property with clean, renewable power. Excess energy that is generated is used to heat the hot pool at the hideaway's Waterfall Spa. Blancaneaux Lodge and Turtle Inn have implemented a comprehensive waste management system that includes bulk purchasing, solid waste management, recycling and the composting of organic waste. Both hideaways have also employed a stainless steel water bottle program aimed at reducing plastic water bottle consumption by guests.

### **HOTEL DESIGN & AMENITIES**

Blancaneaux Lodge and Turtle Inn were created using low profile, environmentally sound designs and materials such as thatch, sustainable hardwoods, pine and bamboo. Louvered windows, screened doors, ceiling fans and high, thatched ceilings allow for sufficient air circulation to enable hot air to escape – designed to keep cool without air conditioning. Flow control showerheads are used in the indoor bathrooms at both properties and the hideaways pools use salt based cleaning systems rather than chlorine.

### **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & WATER MANAGEMENT**

Both hideaways feature expansive organic gardens (Blancaneaux Lodge boasts 3.5 acres) that supply fresh, healthy produce and herbs used in the on-site restaurants. Guests are also supplied with bulk purchased, locally sourced, organic, handmade toiletries. This in turn helps reduce the hideaways' carbon footprint by eliminating the need for packaging and transport. Both hideaways monitor water use and have comprehensive strategies for reducing water consumption. Landscaping focuses on the use of native plants to help reduce the amount of water needed for irrigation. Biodegradable cleaning supplies are used and at Turtle Inn, grey water is treated through a natural filtration system.

### **SUPPORT & PARTNERSHIPS**

Blancaneaux Lodge actively supports a range of scientists and NGOs engaged in biodiversity research. Guests are given an exclusive opportunity to be a part of ongoing research in the field with donations from the trips helping to research and protect endangered species. Guests also have the opportunity to learn about biodiversity conservation during dinner presentations. Valued partnerships include Friends for Conservation and Development, Belize Raptor Research Institute, the Ix Jaguar Research Project, Northeastern State University Jaguar Research project, Dr. Bruce Miller's Belize Bat Risk Assessment and Charles Britt's research work with Belize's endangered Scarlet Macaws. Turtle Inn also supports sustainability efforts in Belize by partnering with marine conservation groups including SEABelize and Alexandra Cousteau's Blue Legacy International, an organization that works to restore natural water systems and connect mainstream audiences with their "waterfront."

## **COMMUNITY BASED ENVIRONMENTAL OUTREACH**

Our conservation team works closely with local schools on environmental education. On behalf of Blancaneaux Lodge, Dr. Erik Terdal of the Rainforest Restoration Foundation is implementing a Woodland Park Zoo Jaguar Conservation Fund grant to create a Wildlife Watching Club for the San Antonio village school (the closest village to Blancaneaux Lodge). The project includes classroom work and field trips focused on identifying and protecting wildlife, biodiversity research techniques, habitat preservation and organic farming.

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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