



## **BLANCANEUX LODGE**

### **FACT SHEET**

<b>ADDRESS:</b>	Blancaneux Lodge Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve Cayo District Belize
<b>WEBSITE:</b>	<a href="https://www.thefamilycoppolahideaways.com/en/blancaneux-lodge">https://www.thefamilycoppolahideaways.com/en/blancaneux-lodge</a>
<b>PHONE:</b>	Belize country code (011) (501) 824-3878
<b>RESERVATIONS:</b>	Toll Free from U.S and Canada: (800) 746-3743 Local: Belize country code (011) (501) 824-4912/14 Email: <a href="mailto:info@thefamilycoppolahideaways.com">info@thefamilycoppolahideaways.com</a>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<p>Blancaneux Lodge is located in the Northwest corner of the 107,000-acre Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve in western Belize's Cayo District. The lodge itself is nestled on the banks of Privassion Creek and is set among tropical pines, oaks, palmetto, craboo, and ancient melastome shrubs. Within a couple of miles of the lodge lie the steep limestone hills and valleys of the 13,000-acre Noj Kaax Meen Elijio Panti National Park. The dense jungle, steep ravines, spectacular waterfalls and fast flowing rivers are home to many rare or endangered species of flora and fauna.</p> <p>Beyond the Mountain Pine Ridge lies the vast uninhabited network of 14 protected areas that comprise the 1.2 million acre Maya Mountain Massif. Less than an hour's drive along dirt roads to Guacamallo Bridge, the granite bedrock and red soils of the Mountain Pine Ridge meet the karst limestone and moist tropical broadleaf forests of the 264,000-acre Chiquibul National Park and the Caracol Archaeological Reserve.</p>
<b>HISTORY:</b>	<p>Francis Ford Coppola discovered Blancaneux Lodge in 1981 while searching for a jungle hideaway in the Maya mountains of Pine Ridge. When he came upon the Lodge, it was abandoned. He jumped into the falls of Privassion Creek and thought it was a wonderful place to write. For more than a decade Blancaneux was used as a family retreat before Francis opened his tropical paradise to the public in 1993.</p> <p>Blancaneux Lodge is a 20-room luxury resort. Privassion Creek flows through the property with tumbling waterfalls that create refreshing swimming holes. Blancaneux Lodge offers modern comforts in an entirely self-sustained jungle sanctuary. Its remote</p>

mountain setting makes it a perfect place to relax, rejuvenate and enjoy life's simple pleasures.

## **CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY:**

Since Blancaneaux Lodge opened in 1993, Francis and Eleanor Coppola have seen their role as that of conservators, preserving the pristine environment. They strongly support Belize's commitment to ecotourism and continue to explore new technologies and practices that benefit the environment. The Coppolas installed a hydroelectric plant in 1993 that harnesses the energy of Privassion Creek, supplying the property with a large amount of renewable power. Excess energy that is generated is used to heat the hot pool at the Waterfall Spa. The property's 3 ½ -acre organic garden supplies all the vegetables and most of the fruit used in the two restaurants.

Blancaneaux Lodge is a leader in conservation and preservation efforts of the surrounding region. In an effort to keep the environment pristine for wildlife, we partner with local NGOs and researchers to help with data collection and logistics for biodiversity research and conservation efforts.

## **DÉCOR:**

Designed by Mexican architect Manolo Mestre in a joint effort with Francis, the décor is based loosely on indigenous designs he had seen in the Philippines while filming "Apocalypse Now." The resort is comprised of a series of stand-alone villas and cabanas that rise from the jungle on stilts and have soaring, hand-woven thatch ceilings. Furnishings for each villa were personally acquired by Francis and Eleanor Coppola from Mexico and Guatemala. The mahogany furniture on the decks and in the restaurants is handcrafted in San Ignacio, the closest town to Blancaneaux Lodge, and a Belizean artisan created the main lodge's slate bar carved with ancient Mayan symbols. There are bright splashes of tropical color - hand-woven bedspreads, carved animals and masks, set against warm wood tones. The spacious bathrooms feature luxurious tiled Japanese baths and local herbal soaps. Pictures of past archeological digs from various Maya excavations in Guatemala and Mexico adorn the walls in the main lodge along with recent images of the elusive jaguars in the surrounding forest, taken by the property's infrared, motion sensitive cameras.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Blancaneaux Lodge's 20 individual mountainside cabañas and villas offer guests a relaxing escape deep within the Maya Mountains.

### **CABANAS**

#### ***Two Garden View Cabanas***

Garden View Cabanas have a large screened-in porch with hammocks, a queen bed, a tiled bathroom and are decorated in Guatemalan textiles. *Maximum occupancy of three people, with additional rollaway bed.*

#### ***One Family Cabana***

The Family Cabana has a queen bed, a pair of twin beds and a large dining table, plus a tiled bathroom and Guatemalan textile décor. *Maximum occupancy of four people.*

#### ***Six Riverfront Cabanas***

Riverfront Cabanas have queen-size beds, and an elegant open wood deck with hammock, a tiled bathroom and Guatemalan textile décor. *Maximum occupancy of three people, with additional rollaway bed.*

#### ***One Honeymoon Cabana***

The Honeymoon Cabana has a large private deck with hammock with a staircase that leads down to a small heart-shaped garden overlooking the falls and enjoyed from lounging chairs. *Maximum occupancy of two people.*

### ***Two Luxury Cabanas***

Luxury Cabanas on the far eastern side of the property offer more privacy and have private infinity plunge pools, a king-size bed, spacious decks, and walled gardens with indoor and outdoor showers. They feature Balinese décor. *Maximum occupancy of two people, and may only be occupied by adults*

## **VILLAS**

### ***6 Two-Bedroom Villas***

Skirting Privassion Creek, the roomy 1,600 square foot villas feature open air living rooms. With one bedroom on each side with its own bathroom, they are ideal for family or friends traveling together while still maintaining privacy. *Maximum occupancy of six people with additional roll away beds.*

### **FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA'S VILLA**

Enjoy dramatic views from the elevated open-plan living area, take a dip in the private plunge pool or relax on the hardwood sun deck set in a lush tropical garden.

Accommodations include two large bedrooms with queen-size beds and a spacious bathroom featuring showers with hand-painted tiles and Japanese tub. The interior design includes regional antiques, Guatemalan fabrics, artisan masks, and hand carved figurines. The Villa also features a small kitchenette with an Illy espresso machine. On the deck is a hand carved dining table (seating up to 14 people) that overlooks the tumbling waterfalls and deep rock pools.

Francis's personal art, photos and antiques are displayed throughout, adding a personal touch to an already unique and stylish environment. The Coppola Villa has a full-time attendant, on-call via a walkie-talkie radio. *Maximum occupancy of six people with additional roll away beds.*

### **THE ENCHANTED COTTAGE**

Reflecting Francis's desire to create a haven in which to reflect, write, and create, the cottage sits atop a steep forested bluff offering panoramic views over the tumbling waterfalls of Privassion Creek and the distant jungle-clad Maya Mountains.

The Enchanted Cottage is secluded and surrounded by lush tropical gardens and spectacular panoramic views. The cottage features one bedroom with king-size bed, writing desk, and fireplace. The heated green slate floor and the fireplace add to the coziness of the bathroom. The shower and Japanese tub open onto the pine forest and include a steam room. The cottage has a kitchen equipped with a wine cooler with Francis Coppola wines, Illy espresso machine, and a breakfast bar opening on the living room area. Screened doors open onto the hardwood deck and the private infinity pool with a stunning view of the Maya mountains. A full-time attendant, on-call via a walkie-talkie radio, will provide you with personalized service. A dedicated golf cart also comes with the Enchanted Cottage. *Maximum occupancy of three people.*

## **AMENITIES & SERVICES:**

Blancaneaux Lodge's dedicated staff is available to assist guests with any needs. On-property services and amenities include:

In-room amenities

- Complimentary continental breakfast featuring freshly baked breads and local fruits
- Wifi internet connection in the main lodge
- Bathrobes
- Organic, locally sourced, handmade toiletries
- Hairdryer
- Safe deposit box
- Mini-bar stocked with wine, water, soft drinks, Belikin beer, local snacks
- Illy espresso machine
- Cookie Jar
- Shellphone for communicating with reception
- Ceiling fan
- Writing Table & Chair
- Flashlight
- Alarm clock & iHome docking station
- Copy of Zoetrope: All-Story magazine
- Yoga mats in room

On-site amenities

- Complimentary use of mountain bicycles
- Complimentary use of river tubes
- Use of all hiking trails
- Guided river tubing
- Eco-initiatives property tour
- Organic garden tour
- Complimentary room service for breakfast
- Complimentary mailing service for postcards purchased at gift shop
- Bar Snack during happy hour
- Filtered Water Stations around property
- Welcome Drink upon check-in
- Swimming pool (including Poolside sunblock amenities, and pool towels)
- Tour of Horse Stables
- Tour of Organic Garden
- Waterfall Spa and hot pool
- Gift Shop
- Guitars available for guest use
- Loaner books, Board games in the Guest Room in the main building
- Yoga once a week (day may change depending on occupancy)
- Sunrise guided birdwatching once a week (day may change depending on occupancy)

**RESTAURANTS  
& BARS:**

**Montagna Restaurant** – Located in the main lodge, our Montagna restaurant features traditional Italian dishes with a special focus on Coppola family recipes. Pastas, fresh fish, and braised or grilled meats are all prepared with organically-grown herbs and vegetables from the 3 ½ acre garden. *Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

Now offering Fork to Table: Spend a few hours with our chef learning about the local gastronomy and collecting produce grown on the property.

**Guatemalteco Restaurant** - Serving dinner nightly, this poolside restaurant specializes in the cooking of Guatemala, a mildly-spiced cuisine that draws on Mexican, Caribbean, and Mayan traditions. Local favorites include Salpicon, a shredded beef salad flavored with sour orange and cilantro, Jocon, chicken cooked with green herbs and spices, and Rellenitos, a delicious dessert consisting of plantains filled with sweetened black beans. *Open for dinner.*

**Jaguar Bar** - The hand-carved slate bar, ceiling fans from the set of “Apocalypse Now,” framed photos of archaeological digs, and handmade furnishings create a truly eclectic atmosphere. Our signature cocktail is Jaguar Juice, a potent concoction of local craboo liqueur, aged rum, and fresh pineapple juice.

**Garden Spot** - For a truly unique dining experience, a “convivial dinner” is offered twice weekly in the organic garden.

The experience starts with cocktails offered upon arrival at the garden, to sip and savor while touring with the head gardener, to learn about the organic farming practices and to see all that uniquely grows here in the verdant environment.

Guests dine at a communal table located on the open-air porch of the new thatched roof kitchen within the organic garden. A three -course meal inspired by ingredients picked fresh that day from salads to soups to pastas and often grilled shrimp.

#### **SPA SERVICES:**

The open air Waterfall Spa offers a variety of treatments, wraps and massages. Known for its Thai massages, the Waterfall Spa staff is a professionally trained team that has studied the ancient techniques at the Sacred Wat Pho Temple in Bangkok.

With a rejuvenating hot pool heated solely by hydro-electricity, spa treatments use only locally sourced organic ingredients. With an open air building design utilizing natural light, the waterfall Spa is eco-luxury at its best.

Complimentary yoga is offered weekly; guest services can arrange private classes at a charge.

#### **TOURS & ACTIVITIES:**

From guided treks to educational excursions, Blancaneaux Lodge prides itself on offering unique tours and activities, as well as the most knowledgeable and experienced guides.

- Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve Excursion
- Caracol Archaeological Reserve
- Caracol, Rio Frio and Rio on Pools
- Xunantunich
- Xunantunich, Cahal Pech, & Green Hills Butterfly Farm
- Tikal, Guatemala
- Barton Creek Cave
- Actun Tunichil Mucnal (ATM)
- Caves Branch Nohuch Che'en Reserve Cave Tubing
- Cayo District Shopping Tour
- Sunrise Bird Watching Trek
- Full Day Jungle Hike
- Night Hike
- Scarlet Macaw Monitoring
- Hike to Howler Hill

- Custom Nature Treks
- Orchid Heaven Trek
- Sunrise Bird Watching
- Hike to Big Rock Falls
- Guided Mountain Biking
- Horseback to Big Rock Falls
- Sunrise Horseback Riding
- Full-Day Horseback Riding
- Swimming

## **GETTING TO BLANCANEUX LODGE:**

### **How to get to Belize:**

All international flights to Belize arrive at Philip S. W. Goldson International Airport (BZE) in Belize City. Airlines include American Airlines with direct flights to Belize from Miami and Dallas; Continental nonstop from Houston (with one direct flight from New York on Saturday); US Airways from Charlotte; Southwest from Houston. Avianca Airlines offers direct flights from Houston, Miami, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York; Delta nonstop from Atlanta; and Tropic Air from Flores and Guatemala City.

### **How to get to Blancaneux Lodge:**

Travelers have two options: To be picked up by our driver (approximately 2 ½ hours from Belize International Airport), or take a charter flight or chartered helicopter into Blancaneux airstrip with a charge. Please note, the two-minute transfer from our private airstrip to the lodge is complimentary.

## **IMAGE DATABASE:**

<https://www.thefamilycoppolahideaways.com/en/blancaneux-lodge/gallery>

and

<https://www.thefamilycoppolahideaways.com/en/resorts/press/downloads>

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## **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

USA - Sarah Rothman  
42West  
[Coppola@42west.net](mailto:Coppola@42west.net)  
(646) 254-6030

France, Belgium and Switzerland – Sophie Rollin  
Bureau de Presse Pascale Venot  
[srollin@pascalevenot.com](mailto:srollin@pascalevenot.com)