

### BUCUTI BEACH RESORT HELPS ENVIRONMENT BY REDUCING IMPORTED WATER BOTTLES



For the Caribbean island of Aruba, which annually hosts thousands of American tourists, discarded water bottles have a direct negative impact on the island's beaches and native wildlife. Bucuti Beach Resort in Aruba is a favorite green destination for many American travelers and is spearheading a project to reduce imported bottled water at the resort. The bottle project will ultimately reduce unnecessary dumping of imported bottles and help keep Aruba's beaches and roads clean.

"We are confident that Bucuti guests will embrace this new policy while supporting Aruba's local water purification plant," said Bucuti Beach owner and CEO, Ewald Biemans. "The majority of our guests are not only savvy supporters of green travel, but committed to protecting our island and our planet."

Bucuti, which has been at the forefront of green tourism for the past 20 years, sees the importance of adding this new proactive step to its long list of other green practices. The resort regularly invites guests and employees to participate in monthly beach clean ups and other environmentally-friendly initiatives. Bucuti's Green

Team has not only taken the initiative with bottled water, they now offer only two types of beer at Sand Bar, part of the Pirate Nest Restaurant. The green resort serves locally brewed Balashi Beer and Heineken, which are both served in returnable, recyclable and locally refillable glass bottles.

Bucuti Beach Resort featuring Tara Beach Suites & Spa is Aruba's premier, intimate, upscale boutique resort. Located on Eagle Beach, Bucuti offers 104 guest rooms and an abundance of contemporary European charm in addition to a caring and attentive staff, innovative technology including advance check-in, high-speed Wi-Fi access throughout the resort and loaner laptops, and a commitment to sustainable tourism. Bucuti Beach Resort is Green Globe 21 and ISO 14001 certified and has been recognized by notable organizations such as the Caribbean Hotel Association, American Express and the International Hotel and Restaurant Association for its environmentally responsible hotel operations. Bucuti Beach Resort, [www.bucuti.com](http://www.bucuti.com)

### SEVEN NIGHTS FOR THE PRICE OF FOUR AT SUGAR BAY CLUB IN ST. KITTS

Sugar Bay Club Suites & Hotel in St. Kitts is celebrating their grand re-opening after a renovation and re-branding by offering guests up to three free nights.

The offer is simple: stay three nights, pay for just two; stay five nights and pay for just three; or stay seven nights and only pay for four. Plus, enjoy complimentary breakfast for two on all paid nights. This limited time offer provides guests a savings greater than 40 percent off.

"This promotion is a way for us to thank repeat guests for returning after our brief hiatus during our renovation and re-branding and to also welcome new guests," commented Kishu Chandiramani, Proprietor of the Sugar Bay Club. "The resort renovations have introduced new bedding, kitchenettes with updated appliances, air conditioning, two resurfaced pools, and cosmetic touches such as painting and landscaping, and we are looking forward to this next chapter at Sugar Bay Club." The next chapter being the addition of a small duty free shopping store located within the hotel.

This introductory offer is valid on reservations made between now and December 19, 2008 on all room categories, which are subject to availability.

Sugar Bay Club Suites & Hotel is celebrating its re-opening as an independently branded property after previously operating as an all-inclusive resort under Elite Resorts. The hotel underwent comprehensive renovation and updates prior to this re-opening.

Located in the lively Frigate Bay area of St. Kitts, Sugar Bay Club Suites & Hotel consists of 94 rooms, cottages and suites whose views overlook lush tropical gardens, a swimming pool with waterfall and the Atlantic Ocean. A relaxing and sociable low-rise resort, Sugar Bay Club is ideal for a romantic getaway or for families seeking an affordable Caribbean vacation.

**Sugar Bay Club Suites & Hotel, 888-390-0055,**  
[www.sugarbayclub.com](http://www.sugarbayclub.com)

## PRESIDENT OF PERU RECOGNIZES AMAZON EXPLORAMA LODGES FOUNDER FOR PRESERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT



Pictured from left to right: Peter Jenson, Explorama Lodges, Antonio Brack, Ministry of the Environment and President Alan Garcia.

Peter Jenson, President of the Board of Directors and founder of Amazon Explorama Lodges, received a distinguished award from President Alan Garcia and Antonio Brack, Minister of the newly appointed Ministry of the Environment. The award honored eight people, including Mr. Jenson, for generating value to Peru's natural environment and contributing to the preservation and promotion of Peru's natural resources and its biodiversity. The ceremony took place on Tuesday, August 19, 2008 at the Presidential Palace and was attended by dignitaries from various countries as well as mayors from different areas of Peru.

Amazon Explorama Lodges, [www.explorama.com](http://www.explorama.com)

## CRILLON TOURS BRINGS THE LATEST NEWS FROM BOLIVIA

Renovation of the lobby and rooms of the Inca Utama & Span in Huatajata is in progress. The reception and dining rooms are almost finished, and everything will be complete in just about two months, without disturbance to the guest's cultural experience and relaxing stay.

Crillon Tours are installing digital audio system for each passenger on their Hydrofoliis, to add to their enjoyment while crossing Lake Titicaca, featuring a selection of the finest Andean folklore and Latin music. In addition, Crillon Tours continues to update its land fleet, with the arrival of new 10 passenger deluxe vans.

In the country, new findings of archeological treasures in the town of Copacabana date back to the Inca and even Tiwanaku time. Metal objects, weavings, and ceramics were found in seven Inca graves and it is expected that more objects will be discovered. The excavation is being led by archeologists from Michigan University.

Eco Lodge Huachi is a 90,000-acre private property, located far from civilization, allowing visitors to escape to an environment rich in nature and abundant beauty. Small airplanes take travelers to

this comfortable lodge, where a wide range of activities are available, including canoeing, boating, jet skiing, cycling, horse-back riding through the Amazon, or simply fishing on the 5,000-acre lake. It is a bird watcher's paradise with 200 species already identified.

Regarding airlines, due to increased demand, in August Aerosur started with their third weekly frequency La Paz - Cusco - La Paz on Tuesdays and changed their flight schedules to/from Uyuni as of August 1. Construction of a new airport in Uyuni has started and is scheduled to be finished a year and a half.

Crillon Tours, [www.titicaca.com](http://www.titicaca.com)

## RIO SAGRADO HOTEL OFFER A MORE RELAXED VISIT TO CUSCO AND MACHU PICCHU

The soon to open (January 2009) Rio Sagrado Hotel, Villas & Spa in the Urubamba Valley will provide visitors with a long needed luxury lodging alternative in the Sacred Valley of the Incas that allows for a more relaxed and soft paced visit to the Inca Land (Cusco and Machu Picchu).

This exclusive property features 21 guest suites with private balconies and gardens, two stand alone independent villas, designer bathrooms, views of the Urubamba River, world class gourmet cuisine and a range of high-end spa luxuries and facilities.

Rio Sagrado Hotel, Villas and Spa, [www.riosagradohotel.com](http://www.riosagradohotel.com)

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## JOSE SAMPOL NAMED REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR TAM'S NORTH AMERICAN OPERATIONS



JOSE SAMPOL

TAM has announced that Mr. Jose Sampol has been nominated Regional Director for TAM's North American operations. In his new endeavor he will oversee all aspects of TAM's operation in the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean, Far East and Australia.

TAM offers service to over 40 destinations in Brazil, five in Europe, two in the United States, and 11 in other South American countries. Currently TAM operates daily service from Miami and New York and is expected to commence non-stop service from Orlando to Sao Paulo on November 21.

Mr. Sampol's professional life has always been in aviation. He began with LAP (Air Paraguay) in Montevideo, and was promoted to diverse positions in Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, and Switzerland. He acted as Commercial Manager for North/Northeastern Brazil, based in Rio de Janeiro, and was eventually transferred to Los Angeles, California. Finally, he came to Miami as Vice President of Sales and Marketing, and has been there for the last 16 years.

At the end of the 1990's, TAM Linhas Aereas S/A (TAM Airlines) acquired LAPSA, and the company went through several transitions. Jose Sampol remained as Sales Manager, and his contribution was a decisive factor in the initiation of the U.S. route from Brazil, which commenced in 1998.

TAM Airlines, [www.tam.com.br](http://www.tam.com.br)

## ENJOY LIFE IN ECUADOR AT SAMARI SPA RESORT

Samari Spa Resort, the newly opened luxury hotel and wellness center is located close to the center of Baños in Ecuador. It is in an unforgettable area of the Andean highland, near the entrance of the Amazonian rain forest. The main building was an antique Jesuit Monastery dating from the year 1745. The comfortable 37 luxury rooms and suites are all equipped with mini bar, safety deposit box, cable TV and wireless Internet. Some rooms offer a romantic corner with fireplace and Jacuzzi. Exotic flowers, trees, bio herbs and vegetables from all over the world decorate the property.

The Spa offers a large heated indoor swimming pool, sauna, Jacuzzi, steam bath, anti-stress treatments, massage, and many other alternative therapies. Guests will find an international gourmet kitchen and a modern convention center, as well as many sports, activities, and adventure possibilities.

Samari Spa Resort is offering a variety of packages, including their "Only for You" one night package from \$200; their "Meet @ Samari" package from \$95 to ensure a successful seminar; their "Anti-Stress Weekend" from \$360; their five-night "Adventure and Wellbeing" package from \$890; and their "Romantic Weekend" package from \$810 per couple.

Samari Spa Resort, [ventas@samarispa.com](mailto:ventas@samarispa.com), [www.samarispa.com](http://www.samarispa.com)

## GO BACK IN TIME TO HACIENDA LOS LINGUES IN CHILE

To go deep into Hacienda Los Lingues is like being taken back in time. It is not only a typical big house of the Chilean countryside but it is also a living testimony of the colonial times. Everything is kept out as in those days. Buildings are made of mud and straw, walls are painted in colonial red and each update is made with the approval of historians to preserve the original architecture.

Hacienda Los Lingues consists of 18 rooms, two of which are Executive and Presidential Suites. All of the rooms are decorated in the Chilean colonial style of the 1560, and provide all the comforts of a luxury hotel. Each room has a wi-fi system, high speed Internet access, telephones, minibar and more.

It is not possible to speak about Los Lingues without mentioning its deeply rooted Spanish tradition among Chilean peasants. Their traditional hospitality, religious faith, simplicity and kindness are permanent symbols of "Chilean-ness" virtues inherited from Spain. In this way, Hacienda Los Lingues is becoming an appealing educational, historic and cultural center that, in a tangible way, contributes to spreading national values across future generations.

Hacienda Los Lingues, [www.loslingues.com](http://www.loslingues.com)

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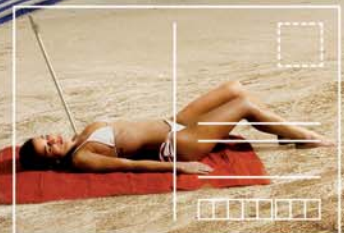
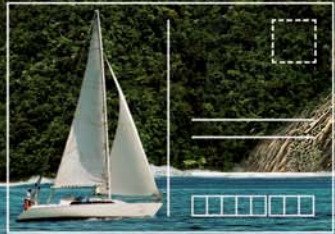
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## ADVENTURES OFF THE BEATEN PATH AWAIT AT TRANQUILO BAY IN PANAMA

Tranquilo Bay is an all-inclusive eco-adventure lodge on the pristine island of Bastimentos in Bocas del Toro, Panama. The secluded destination caters to travelers seeking off-the-beaten-path vacations filled with adventure and fun. Because of the lodge's small size, the staff is able to provide unparalleled personal attention to each guest.


The secluded lodge includes six deluxe cabanas and a main lodge. Tranquilo Bay's air-conditioned cabanas boast comfortable bedding and gracious bathrooms. The beautifully constructed main lodge is the centerpiece of the resort. It is in this building, which features a wrap-around porch that guests assemble for fine dining and evening cocktails.

Tranquilo Bay is centrally located among the most biologically diverse and protected areas in Panama and Central






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America and offers guests the chance to experience a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, kayaking, fishing, birding, snorkeling, scuba diving, swimming, relaxing on the beach, surfing and exploring rain forests.

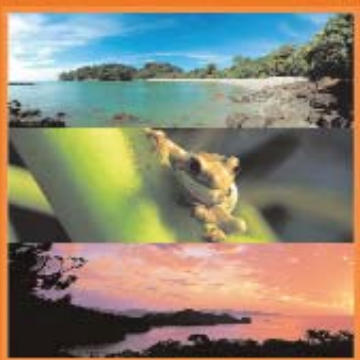
Hike the lush cloud forest of Bosque Palo Seco high in the Talamanca range that teems with jungle wildlife, then return to the Caribbean and enjoy the moonrise over the Zapatilla Cayes.

The islands are blessed with pristine beaches, several of which are protected by

Bastimentos National Marine Park. Four species of sea turtles nest on these shores and inhabit the reefs laden with tropical fish. Sand dollars, seashells and driftwood are easily admired on these uninhabited beaches.

At Tranquilo Bay, eco-tourism is a way of life. They have created an eco-friendly destination that protects and preserves the environment, while offering guests unparalleled access to nature at its natural best.





Tranquilo Bay, [www.tranquilobay.com](http://www.tranquilobay.com)



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## CORAL STAR AND AVET REELS MERGE TOGETHER



AVET Reels has announced that it has purchased controlling interest of the *M/V Coral Star* of Panama. The *Coral Star* is a live-aboard fishing and diving operation with a fleet of seven sport boats that operates in Panama's Pacific waters surrounding the Coiba National Park and Hannibal Bank.

It is the only operation in the area that keeps anglers on the fishing grounds with quick access to the fertile fishing of the Hannibal Bank and the many offshore islands.

Exciting new changes are already underway to maximize anglers' fishing and lodging experience. "We are looking forward to an outstanding year of fishing and service, each of these areas will see changes designed to improve the overall fishing experience," Sarkis Alajajyan, co-owner of AVET Reels stated. In Panama, the crew is busily working to implement these changes and updates prior to the season. Harout Alajajyan added, "AVET and the *Coral Star* are a perfect match, both strive to land big fish and deliver a quality product and excellent customer service!"

"The best possible chance to land big fish is if lines are in the water, therefore our itinerary will remain the same. Weather permitting; we anchor several days at Montuosa Island, that's the closest anchorage to the Hannibal Bank. Montuosa Island is where you need to be for the Marlin and big Yellowfin bite," said Captain Donald Perkins.

"By being out at Montuosa, you are five minutes from fantastic, world class fishing. Our hardcore anglers recognize this and an hour boat ride to and from the most productive fishing grounds every day just isn't acceptable. Add all that up over a six-day charter and the *Coral Star* gives you over 12 hours of additional fishing time over a land based operation." Captain Donald added, "*Coral Star* is the only ship in the area that is equipped to safely anchor at Montuosa Island at this time."

*Coral Star*, 866-924-2837, [info@coralstar.com](mailto:info@coralstar.com)

## HAMADRYADE LODGE OPENS IN THE AMAZON RAINFOREST, ECUADOR

Sebastien and Melanie Cazadehore have announced the opening of the only luxury ecolodge in the Ecuadorian Amazon Rainforest:

Hamadryade. It was named Hamadryade after the tree nymphs in Greek mythology. Hamadryades rely on the health of the forests they inhabit.

Taking the challenge to help the forest flourish, Hamadryade uses and recycles rainwater for the lodge and uses all biodegradable products to ensure less pollution. The philosophy they are developing is eco and ethno-friendly. Using this philosophy, they have defined a set of architectural concepts for the structures, natural light and other ingenious touches. The décor uses all natural, locally produced textiles which contrast with the lush surroundings provided by the rainforest itself.

Dining at Hamadryade is an exotic experience. They offer a three course gourmet dinner using a combination of exotic local fruits, vegetables, and techniques coupled with a French influence to provide a sumptuous dining adventure.

This is a very small, intimate resort, so only a maximum of 11 guests can enjoy Hamadryade at any given time.

They offer packages of three-days/two-nights, to a weeks stay, including accommodation, full board, aquatic transport, and daily jungle tours with bilingual naturalist and native guides. Transportation (additional cost) can also be booked through their representatives. Prices are commissionable and range from \$423 for three days to \$1,234 for seven-days/six-nights.

Hamadryade Lodge, 800-327-3573, [travel@LARC1.com](mailto:travel@LARC1.com)

## SUNBREEZE HOTEL & SUNBREEZE SUITES

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*The perfect combination offering facilities to suit the needs of most travelers seeking a somewhere off the beaten path. A five minute stroll apart, located in the town of San Pedro, yet out of the hustle and bustle. The SunBreeze Hotel features 43 rooms offering the facilities and services of a resort while the SunBreeze Suites has 20 oceanfront fully equipped suites. A variety of packages are available.*

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## TRAFALGAR REVEALS NATURAL GLORY OF SOUTH AMERICA



Trafalgar has launched its 16-day South America Revealed, combining the excitement and exploration of three major cities with trips to some of the most spectacular natural wonders in the world.

Trafalgar will take guests through Rio de Janeiro to Buenos Aires. From there, explore Peru's historical colonial capital and travel to its green valleys and ancient cities.

Highlights of South America Revealed include three days exploring Rio de Janeiro in Brazil including a train ride through the Tijuca Forest and up the Corcovado Mountain to see the famous Christ the Redeemer statue; a trip up the famous Sugar Loaf Mountain by cable car; two-night visit to Iguassu, one of the world's most famous falls; and two days in Argentina's Buenos Aires. Continue by flying to one of the most beautiful areas in the world, Cuzco, and the scenic Sacred Valley in Peru. Here, visit a mighty Inca fortress and explore this quaint village on the Inca Trail, while stopping at the market in Pisac. There will also be two days to explore Machu Picchu including taking the famous Vistadome Valley train to explore the ruins of The Lost City. There is also the opportunity to explore the Peruvian city of Lima. An optional four-day Amazon Jungle Extension includes a tour around Manaus City, as well as a visit to an Amazon tribe and a rehabilitation center for monkeys.

South America Revealed is priced from

\$5,350 per person twin-share (land only). If you take advantage of Trafalgar's Early Payment Discount and book and pay 12 months in advance, you save 10 percent. The price includes accommodation, sight-seeing, all intra-tour flights and round trip transfers between airports and hotels, some meals, and the cost of the English-speaking tour director throughout. Departures from Rio de Janeiro are available February 2, 2009, through March 29, 2010. Trafalgar Tours, 866-544-4434, [www.trafalgar.com](http://www.trafalgar.com)

## CRYSTAL EXPANDS CRUISE RAFFLE FOR CERTIFIED AGENTS

Luxury specialist Crystal Cruises has announced that it will increase the number of free cruise drawings for agents certified through [CrystalCruisesAcademy.com](http://CrystalCruisesAcademy.com) from one to four per year.

Agents who have completed one or both of the training courses offered through its comprehensive online sales training program are eligible to win. The next drawing will be October 1, 2008.

The web-based training program is an ideal forum for home-based agents, allowing them to learn at their leisure, while providing traditional brick-and-mortar agencies with a cost-free option for training each travel agent in their office to be a Crystal specialist. As of September 2008, nearly 10,000 agents have registered for the courses. Upon passing at one or both courses with a minimum grade of 80 percent, agents' names are entered into the drawing for a free cruise. In addition to raffle entries, agents completing Crystal's online training beginning with the first installment course will also receive the line's sales binder filled with valuable brochures, insider information not available in regular brochures, sample menus from each restaurant, resources for more information and other sales tools. To arm Crystal specialists with the most compelling sales tools, agents completing the courses receive E-Values, a weekly e-mail update highlighting the line's current best values to promote to their clients. Agents certified through

[CrystalCruisesAcademy.com](http://CrystalCruisesAcademy.com) will also earn CLIA accreditation towards ACC and MCC. To register, agents can visit [crystalcruisesacademy.com](http://crystalcruisesacademy.com) or access the site through a link on the travel agent center at [crystalcruises.com](http://crystalcruises.com).

Crystal Cruises, 800-446-6620, [crystalcruises.com](http://crystalcruises.com)

## ACAPULCO'S NEW MUNDO IMPERIAL MARKS GRAND OPENING WITH "YANNI VOICES AND SPECIAL GUESTS"

Mundo Imperial, the new resort, convention and entertainment complex in Acapulco, has announced that the grand opening of the Forum at Mundo Imperial will be marked by the debut of "Yanni Voices and Special Guests," November 13-16, 2008.

"We are thrilled that "Yanni Voices and Special Guests" will debut the grand opening of the spectacular Forum at Mundo Imperial," says Seyed Rezvani, Managing Director, Mundo Imperial. "Yanni has performed at such historical landmarks as the Acropolis and the Taj Mahal. Now he will add the majestic Forum at Mundo Imperial to that list, marking the first of many events to take place at the theatre."

Tickets for "Yanni Voices and Special Guests" at the Forum at Mundo Imperial will be on sale starting October 4.

The Forum at Mundo Imperial covers more than 190,000 square feet and will host more than 40 major theatrical events each year. While accommodating 4,000 spectators, all seats provide excellent sight lines and acoustics. The Forum's facade is comprised of the world's largest LED display with a dimension of 21,400 square feet. This broadcast screen is constructed entirely of transparent glass, which can be viewed from the inside as well as the outside of the Forum. Located in Acapulco's ultra-exclusive Punta Diamante district, Mundo Imperial is the result of a \$300 million private investment that brings to Acapulco an unprecedented level of service and luxury in tourism and entertainment offerings.

Mundo Imperial, [www.mundoimperial.com](http://www.mundoimperial.com)

## MEXICO TOURISM BOARD AND THE NEW YORK YANKEES HIT A GRAND SLAM



Mariana Pedrero, Director of the Mexico Tourism Board's New York Office, Alfredo Aceves, Pitcher for the New York Yankees and Rubén Beltrán Guerrero, Mexico's Consul General to New York celebrated Mexico's Independence Day at Yankee Stadium on September 16th.

The Mexico Tourism Board's New York office celebrated Mexico's Independence at Yankee Stadium. Prior to the Yankees taking on the Chicago White Sox, Rubén Beltrán Guerrero, Mexico's Consul General to New York, joined Mariana Pedrero, Director of the Mexico Tourism Board's New York Office, to initiate the game with an acknowledgement ceremony. Alfredo Aceves who joined the Yankees this past August after playing in Mexico's League, also joined them on the field and the MTB gave away more than 20,000 t-shirts in commemoration of their work with the New York team, which has finished their last season at Yankee Stadium.

"Being that this is the last season the Yankees play at their iconic stadium, we wanted to be a part of this location that has seen so many great moments in baseball history," said Mariana Pedrero, Director of the Mexico Tourism Board's New York office.

The Mexico Tourism Board's campaign at Yankee Stadium includes brand display behind home plate and on the bleachers that will remain until the closing of the stadium.

Mexico continues to be one of the top destinations for the U.S. tourists. Last month, Mexico's Minister of Tourism, Elizondo Torres, Secretary of Tourism, announced that 11.5 million foreign tourists arrived during the first six months of 2008, an increase of 4.6 percent from the same period

of 2007. The minister added that the average expenditure of travelers during the first six months of this year was \$800 dollars, a record for a semester.

The MTB's campaign at Yankee Stadium is part of a strategic plan that looks to attract specific people to Mexico and continue its growth as an international destination for Americans. At the beginning of the month it also paired up with Travelocity to facilitate travel plans on its website, [www.visitmexico.com](http://www.visitmexico.com).

The Mexico Tourism Board (MTB), [www.visitmexico.com](http://www.visitmexico.com)

## CAPELLA HOTELS AND RESORTS NAMES ROMANA HEEG GENERAL MANAGER OF CAPELLA IXTAPA

Romana Heeg has been appointed General Manager of Capella Ixtapa, an intimate and luxurious 59-suite hideaway set to open on November 15, 2008. She will oversee all operations of the resort, which joins a growing roster of acclaimed Capella Hotels and Resorts properties around the globe, and marks the brand's first property in Mexico.

A veteran hotelier, Heeg brings almost 30 years of luxury hospitality experience to Capella Ixtapa. Her career began at Inter-Continental Hotels in her native Germany then spanned several continents as she served in management roles at five-star properties in Europe, the U.S., and South America. Most recently she was General Manager of the Colony Club Hotel in Barbados, earlier as Hotel Manager of Cambridge Beaches Resort in Bermuda, and Director of Food and Beverage for Virgin Gorda's Little Dix Bay Hotel.

Heeg resides with her husband in Ixtapa. Capella Hotels and Resorts, [www.capellahotels.com](http://www.capellahotels.com)

## MEXICO TOURISM INDICATORS UP FOR THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 2008

During the first seven months of the year, there was an influx of \$8.475 million dollars from the spending of foreign tourists,

which signified a 6.3 percent increase compared to the same period in 2007, according to Rodolfo Elizondo Torres, Secretary of Tourism of Mexico (SECTUR).

According to the most recent data from the Bank of Mexico's International Visitor Count, Secretary Elizondo said in the January-July 2008 period, the country received 13.620 million tourists, a quantity that represented a 5.2 percent increase compared to the same period in 2007.

Likewise, the head of SECTUR said that the average spending of tourists who traveled further than the border - those who have the longest stays and greater spending - was of \$788 dollars per trip, which represents an increase of 3.8 percent from 2007.

Lastly, he said that as of July 2008, the Mexican Social Security Institute has a registry of 2.234 million workers in the tourism industry, which represents a 2.3 percent higher rate than the one registered in the same month in 2007.

The Mexico Tourism Board (MTB), [www.visitmexico.com](http://www.visitmexico.com)



**The Lodge at Chua Creek**  
*Wildly Costly +*  
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