

## Banana Coast Unveils Diverse Shore Excursion Program

Published by Ozgur Tore

TUESDAY, 20 MARCH 2012 19:21

Principals of Banana Coast, Honduras – the only new Caribbean cruise destination under construction – unveiled the port's initial tours in a diverse shore excursion program designed to offer something for everyone, including cultural, soft-adventure and eco-tour offerings.

The tours enable guests to explore the area from land, air and sea. In addition to the signature tour — Campo del Mar Nature Park & Beach Break — highlights include a VIP airplane ride to the Mayan ruins at Copan, a zipline that runs through a lagoon, rainforest and over the beach; a snorkeling adventure at a beautiful starfish bank, and kayaking in the pristine Guaimoreto Lagoon. Guests looking to stay on land have the chance to discover the port's appeal through an exciting mountain ATV ride, a culinary tasting tour or a trolley ride through the colonial town of Trujillo.

"Banana Coast Tours has put together a collection of shore excursions that highlight the charms of the colonial Spanish town of Trujillo, the historic surrounding areas, the beautiful seashore and the lush tropical rainforests," said Shannon McKee, director of Banana Coast Tour Company. "There are few Caribbean cruise destinations that are able to offer cruise lines such a wide array of shore excursions as Banana Coast."

Initial shore excursions include:

### Adventure Tours

#### Guaimoreto Zipline Adventure

Travel at exhilarating speeds through a labyrinth of 18 towers while enjoying incredible views of the Guaimoreto Lagoon with its system of mangroves, canals and a multitude of bird and animal species.

#### Jungle ATV Extreme

Ride through the jungles of Honduras on your own all-terrain vehicle. Relish this off-road adventure through the magnificent cloud forests with spectacular views and unlimited fun. Cool off with an ocean dip and then indulge in an outdoor barbecue party.

#### Reef & Starfish Snorkel

Experience the waters that Christopher Columbus discovered 500 years ago in the Cayo Blanco eco-system. Here you'll experience the underwater magic of colorful coral and vibrant fish before you continue your travels over the azure seas to the unique starfish bank. Dive beneath the pristine waters to get your own "touch" experience with these beautiful ocean creatures.

### VIP

#### Ruins of Copan

Soar via private plane over the breathtaking mountains and rainforests of Honduras on your way to the legendary ruins of Copan, a feature attraction with its rich stone sculptures and intricate hieroglyphics. Discover with a private guide this Mayan civilization that flourished for more than 2,000 years and was thought to be one of the most lavish cultural centers in the New World.

#### Tried & True

#### Trujillo by Trolley

Discover the highlights of the colonial town of Trujillo on board an open-air trolley train. You'll learn about Christopher Columbus' landing here in 1502, American filibuster William Walker, the Santa Barbara Fort, the escape of the Garifuna people and more, all while relaxing in the cool ocean breeze. Hop-on. Hop-off. Discover the sights at your leisure.

#### Best of Trujillo

Combine the history of the trolley train, cultural diversity of the Garifuna, the flora and fauna of Campo del Mar, the intricate eco-system of the Guaimoreto Lagoon and the natural wonders of the hot springs — and you'll experience the best of Trujillo.

#### Taste of Trujillo

Local cuisine, wine, bitters and chocolate — all made the traditional way. Journey through time on a tasting tour that will take you to the days of the banana boom, the tall ships with their controversial cargo and finally, the legendary Mayans. Experience how it was done not just 100 years ago, but 1,000 years ago. An educational, yet deliciously satisfying, sensation for your taste buds.

#### Fun in the Sun

#### Campo del Mar Nature Park & Beach Break

Circulate among the 22 acres of flora and fauna, drink from a coconut, make a few animal friends and just bask in the warmth of the sun on the unspoiled beaches to truly immerse yourself in the delights of Campo del Mar. Cool off with an ocean dip for a perfect day.

#### Waterfall & Lagoon Adventure

With two large mountains and multiple rivers, waterfalls are everywhere at Banana Coast. Trek through a small local village, wade through streams, hike quartz-filled hills to discover the hidden waterfalls and lagoon of Betulia. Swim in the refreshing mountain stream lagoon, snorkel for fresh-water shrimp or explore the riverside.

#### Guaimoreto Lagoon Kayak

Discover the delicate bio-diverse ecosystem found in the mangroves as you kayak through the fascinating Guaimoreto Lagoon, which encompasses a complex area of wetlands rich in birdlife, flora, fauna and indigenous Central American animals.

The \$30 million Banana Coast project, led by Grande Trujillo Autoridad, Desarrollos Vision de Vida and Miami-based Global Destinations Development, currently is in the site-work stage with dredging, marine works and site-fill under way.

Plans for Banana Coast call for construction of a two-berth, Post-Panamax dock and a 50,000-square-foot shopping facility and transportation hub on 10 acres of beachfront land. Themed "Where the Rainforest Meets the Sea," Banana Coast is in talks with several cruise lines and expects to accept its first cruise ship reservations for the 2013 season.