



A possible geologic explanation regarding the existence of such a dramatically sheered undercut wall may well illustrate how these atolls were created. Geologic data confirms that a series of slip strike faults run nearly parallel to Ambergis Caye (Belize's most prominent barrier island) with each landmass or "block" slipping seaward. The first block being responsible for Ambergis Caye, the second for Turneffe Atoll, and the third for Glover and Lighthouse Atolls.

The atolls have remained above water solely due to the corals "growth ability." As the landmass along the fault line slips downward the coral atop the structure must grow

at a near equal rate upward for the atoll to remain a living reef system. This geologic phenomena has lead to the deep drop-offs along all the atolls, with many of these fault escarpments "i.e. walls" plunging past 10,000 feet.

Dolphins

After a typical two tank morning dive and a hearty lunch back at the resort, most days divers have the option of a single afternoon dive or a snorkel trip in search of wild dolphins.

For two days there was tremendous excitement at meal times regarding encounters with a single bottlenose dolphin. Tales of personal and near

intimate encounters with this specific dolphin affectionately called "Pito" by the staff, prompted us to seek out this marine mammal.

So, a small group of guests (tired of hearing these near ridiculous claims) sped away with Captain Ramone across the patch reefs and coral lagoons to see first hand if these fish tales were indeed accurate.

After ten to fifteen minutes of zig-zagging in, out, and around the mushrooming coral heads, passengers were suddenly greeted by a dolphin's aerobic leap that would rival Flipper on one of his more spirited days.

Almost immediately, Ramone anchored the boat in a turquoise hued pool surrounded by orangish elkhorn and brain corals. As each snorkeler slid into the water they were personally greeted by Pito. To say that Pito was friendly is truly an understatement. Actually, the word "ham" better describes his personality and interest in showing off for humans.

After almost an hour of dolphin antics and inquisitive encounters, each free diver, now exhausted, had no choice but to retire topside. Upon our departure from this friendly dolphins lair, Pito performed once again with a final leap which all took to represent his bid goodbye.

Back on shore, and with the afternoon still young, I remembered reading about the supposed bonefish that frequented the flats directly in front of our villas. So, armed with an ultra light spincaster I set out to confirm or dispel these fish yarns. Within only a few minutes any skepticism that may have existed was now erased as I gazed through my polaroid glasses at a school of grey ghosts rummaging just within casting range.

After only three casts a brawny bonefish took the jig and proceeded to head for parts unknown. Subsequent to several minutes of high speed runs followed by some persuasive coaxing and retrieval of my striped line the bonefish abandoned his departure plans. Upon releasing this masterful fish, and with the sun beginning to set, I reflected on the day's events.

However, soon my thoughts turned to anticipation on what next to expect from this magical atoll. The next day was no disappointment, as we headed south weaving our way amongst scattered coral clusters in search of the infamous **Blue Hole**.

Blue Hole

This cobalt blue collapsed cave system made famous by a 1970 Cousteau expedition is now one of the best known dive sites in Belize. With a near perfect diameter of just over 1,000 feet and a depth of 415 feet, this prehistoric aqueous sink hole allows divers to travel backwards through geologic time.

Upon descending, divers will glide down a rapidly sloping bottom to 50 feet. At 50 to 60 feet a near vertical limestone wall begins, covered with cornflake algae and feather dusters. Little other marine life is common in this isolated chasm. At 100 feet

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