

Jungle Bay Journal ~ Winter 2007

Welcome to the Jungle Bay Journal

Greetings from Jungle Bay, Your Caribbean Home!

Dominica's decision makers are faced with the daunting task of trying to create jobs and economic opportunities for her people. From time to time investment proposals surface that are not necessarily in keeping with the island's pristine image. We thought you would be interested in the following related op-ed by Sam that was published in a February issue of Dominica's leading newspaper The Chronicle. [Continue below...](#)

Feature Jungle Bay Employee 'Brother'



No other staff member knows the history of Jungle Bay like our very own Francis Emmanuel, known by most as 'Brother'. As the first employee for this community tourism project, Brother came being a banana farmer to being one of the resort's most well-known employees. He recalls first meeting Sam Raphael, the owner at the start of the property, cutlass (machete) in hand as he cut away at the first track into what is now the Front Gate and Reception Center at the resort.



Today guests at the resort get to hear the history of Jungle Bay first hand as Brother takes them walking through the property or driving to one of the nearby sites.

When asked how the SE region of the island has changed since the introduction of Jungle Bay, Brother will tell you about how the introduction of ecotourism was very instrumental in developing many natural attractions on the island such as; Sari Sari waterfalls hike, Victoria Falls trail, Rivine Cyrique, and of course the one most dear to Brother's heart-Glasee Ocean Pools. These trails attract tourists in need of local tour guides, in turn generating great employment for the area's residents. In addition, some of the laborers trained by Jungle Bay have now moved on to working construction jobs at Rosalie Bay Nature Resort and some are self employed.

How has being a part of this project changed Brother? From a gentleman who had never interacted with international employees, it is quite exciting for him to now be featured in articles in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and Martha Stuart's Body + Soul Magazine. Brother's photos are now in past guests' photo albums around the world and testimonials of his guiding skills are on blogs and in TripAdvisor.com. Brother has been able to finance his children's secondary education and is now putting his son through College. These opportunities were not possible years ago when the banana industry crashed leaving many on the island including Brother unemployed.

Brother is most proud of the resort's high standards. He is confident that 'Jungle Bay has put Dominica on the map' and introduced so many travelers to the treasures that our island has to offer.

CARIB CRAFT



This is the first in a series of articles on our very own local art in Dominica.

Dominica is known to the local people as "Waitukubuli's" meaning "Tall is Her Body". Just as Dominica's tall picturesque mountains form a basket protecting the natural beauty from the outside world, you will find the same mountains protecting the rights of our local artists. Dominicans Indigenous people, the Carib Indians live and work within the majestic rainforests of the Island creating an art that has been handed down from generation to generation.



Carib Indians use a plant called the Larouman-pronounced "lahwma" to create their extraordinary woven art. Larouman, whose scientific name is Ischnosiphon Arouma, is a reed-like plant with simple rounded leaves.

Found in the low lying areas of the rainforest, the Larouman can grow to be well above 10 feet tall. After the plant has been harvested, it is then skillfully stripped into small pieces measuring 2 cm thick by 2 1/2 inches long and left to be dried by the sun.

Once dried, the hard inner core is removed and the long beautiful straw is ready to be colored. The straw is given its color by burying it under the soil with roots, peels and tubers for up to two weeks. Common colors are purple, green, yellow, orange and brown, though the possibilities are virtually endless. Over this two-week period of treatment, the straw is checked from time to time to ensure even coloration.

Once colored the Carib Indians begin weaving intricate and unique baskets, table mats, floor mats, coasters, as well as traditional fun items such as the 'wife leader'. As you see, it is a long and laborious procedure preparing the larouman and turning it into the "final product.... A beautiful piece of art. We feature these unique pieces in the Carib Corner of our Gift Shop. Feel free to stop by the Gift Shop during hours of operation from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. See you there!

NEW: OUR JUNGLE BAY GIFT SHOP

Our Jungle Bay Gift Shop is up and running! Open daily from 9:00am-5:00pm and hosted by Jerry, our newest Jungle Bay Employee, our gift shop is conveniently located next to the main Yoga Center near reception. It features a variety of products from tasty local snacks, organic Dominican coffee, cocoa, jams & jellies, award winning pepper "Special" sauce by Bello and of course an assortment of Dominica's local rums.

In great demand are our hand-woven baskets and crafts by our indigenous Carib Indians, as well as stunning local paintings by artists Petros Meaza & Hilroy Fingal. Their creations capture unforgettable scenes of Jungle Bay and other dramatic landscapes from around the island; the perfect gift or souvenir from your visit with us.

We have stocked the gift shop with top quality clothing and shoes suitable for all aspect of your trip from the hiking to the candle light dinners. Check out our specialty/name brand hiking gear, swimwear, Pevonia skincare & organic spa products from the Amazon, Yoga attire, signature Jungle Bay Polo shirts, Tee shirts and much more.



So if you enjoy shopping or have just packed in a hurry forgetting a few items, No Worries! You can get everything you need in just one visit at our gift shop. Don't leave without stopping by!

Chicken Roti Recipe

A FAVORITE recipe from the Pavilion Restaurant!

INGREDIENTS:

- 1lb chicken boned diced (you can also use fish or shrimp)
- 2lbs potato cubed
- 2lbs carrot cubed
- ½ cup chopped green onions, onions, bell pepper, and celery stock
- ½ cup olive oil
- 3 Tbs curry powder (more or less to taste)
- Seasoning salt or salt to taste
- 3 cups water
- Whole wheat Tortillas
- *Coconut milk can be added to taste if desired

*Roti's can also be made without the meat... making this a delightful vegetarian dish!

PREPARATION:

In a large pan sauté: green onions, white onions and bell peppers in olive oil until tender
Mix in water and curry powder allowing the water to come to a boil.
Next, add the cubed potatoes and carrots, allowing water to boil until potatoes are tender.
Sauté chicken in a separate pan until cooked through, add to curry mixture.
Once filling has been prepared, spoon a generous amount into the middle of the whole wheat tortilla
Close the tortilla by bringing all the sides towards the middle.
Flip the Roti over and garnish the top with raisins.

Enjoy!

Joanne Hilaire - Head Cook
Pavilion Restaurant



Irvin's Herbal "Bush" Tea Recipe



Boil one cup of water and pour over one large fresh tobacco leaf.

Let steep until water is cool enough to drink.

Strain water so no leaf is left. Drink and Enjoy....

This "Bush Tea" is commonly used as a strong laxative, stimulating the bowels.

Update From Sam



Continued from above...

Dominica's Economic Future

Following years of colonialism & dependence, Dominica finds herself on a difficult journey in a new globally competitive world with neither map nor compass.

Due to difficult mountainous terrain, few white sandy beaches and an overabundance of rainfall, Dominica remains "largely underdeveloped" in comparison with its Caribbean neighbors. Hitherto, the escape valve has been massive outward migration which has resulted in the loss of a large segment of the productive population.

Political leaders, under the weight of pressing economic challenges and political cycles are forced to focus only on short term emergency action at the expense of a more sensible and sustainable long term development strategy.

If Dominicans are indeed serious about the long term economic development of our island, we must take a hard look at the realities of our situation and find a consistent, consensual sustainable development strategy. The challenge is: what is the best way to move Dominica forward from relative poverty to prosperity that will be shared by all taking into account the harsh realities before us?

In the search for Dominica's greatest potential, it is only prudent that we begin by identifying our areas of competitive economic development advantage (the lowest hanging fruit at our disposal), especially in light of the new globally competitive environment. In an almost ironic twist, the explosion of eco-adventure tourism and the thirst for unspoiled destinations/locations for leisure travel has now placed Dominica in a unique position of being voraciously sought after by tourists and investors alike, who are in awe of the island's pristine natural environment. Many of today's tourists are tired of the "boring" sun and sand previously offered by our neighbors. More and more investors are recognizing Dominica's niche tourism potential and are deciding to make significant investments which, if sustained, will significantly improve the living conditions of the people of our island in the not too distant future. A significant fact is that these investors assume that the government recognizes enormous potential for eco-adventure tourism in Dominica and is pursuing a national policy that is consistent with the preservation of the natural environment. Dominica's pristine environment is based largely on perception which can quickly be destroyed by a few, simple decisions that are inconsistent with the image of a pristine destination. Since the tourism product of most other Caribbean destinations do not depend on the perception of them as being pristine, certain activities that they may have allowed cannot be accommodated in Dominica. The entire world is trying to reverse decades of bad environmental decisions; our Caribbean neighbors are no exception. Unfortunately, in the past, other Caribbean islands had been forced to choose between the preservation of their natural environments and their economic survival.

Fortunately for us, the preservation of our natural environment is the key to our economic development, to creating jobs and opportunities for the economic advancement of our people so we are in the enviable position of being able to have our cake and eat it at the same time. It is about time that All Dominicans begin to recognize and embrace this good fortune.

A Practical Example: In addition to providing tremendous tourism attractions our continuous volcanic activity presents a tremendous opportunity for Dominica to propel itself into international prominence as the first country to rely solely on renewable geothermal energy for all of its electricity needs. A national commitment to achieve this goal by 2012 would result in unprecedented international attention. Even in the short term the public relations hysteria from such an announcement would result in an enormous boost in our tourism industry from both visitors and potential investors. The implementation of this commitment would result in a significant reduction in the electric bills of non tourism businesses, improving their competitiveness and most importantly it would bring much needed relief to "the masses".

I have been fortunate to be associated with a new eco-tourism development, Jungle Bay Resort & Spa, which was designed to complement the natural environment with structures made of wood and stone, carefully perched on stilts between the trees allowing for minimal disturbance to the surrounding coastal forest. Over the past year we have been able to attract thousands of visitors to Dominica to mingle with the wonderful people of the south east and to enjoy our pristine rivers & waterfalls, sulfur springs, clean coastal waters, etc, etc. Without exception, they leave Dominica eager to tell friends about this newly discovered paradise and also planning to return themselves. Jungle Bay is part of Dominica's growing trend of eco-adventure resorts that clearly demonstrate the economic viability of ecologically friendly tourism facilities even in the most remote places of Dominica. In addition to employing 58 full time employees, the property regularly purchases huge quantities of fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers, fish from local fishermen, other goods from local vendors & service providers and contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars in Value Added and Departure Taxes to the national treasury. Indeed, Jungle Bay is just one of a wave of similar ventures that are being developed and proposed that completely rely on Dominica's pristine image for its survival. Actually, Dominica's entire tourism industry, cruise and stay over, is based exclusively

on this image of pristine natural splendor. Today our tourism sector is Dominica's the largest source of export trade and direct foreign investment, and its potential is enormous as long as we effectively maintain a handle on social challenges and preserve our image as the Nature Island of the Caribbean.

Therefore, "all de politicians who claim to represent de masses", please remember that in our quest to rapidly move our island forward, our pristine image and natural attractions are our greatest economic asset. Also remember that in this electronic age our image can be severely damaged with a few simple inconsistent actions and decisions, so let us all reflect on the reality of our situation and begin to present Dominica to the world as the Nature Island with the promotion and protection of its natural environment as its national identity.



Sincerely,

Sam Raphael
Developer of Jungle Bay Resort and Spa

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