

HOT TROPICS REAL ESTATE

Newsletter # Twenty-Seven

May 16th, 2007

MAGIC

Mentally floating back through the 19 years I've spent living in Costa Rica, I consider it a magical place. Extraordinary things happen everywhere in the world to ordinary people, certainly. But there is something here, something in the humid tropical air that encourages the miraculous event, the enchanted moment.

Some friends of friends, a youngish couple from Northern California, both attorneys, both with that indoor office paleness that just screams for a little sun and salt water, arrived on a brilliant rain-washed morning after a red-eye flight, pawing the ground and aching to go.

They had booked a dive trip off of Isla del Coco, located some 15 hours off of the Pacific coast. They were breathlessly anxious to get to the boat to

take them there. We poured down some coffee and I drove them to Puntarenas, to the docks an hour and a half away. They didn't want to rest, nor take time to eat. They just knew that there was something out there, waiting for them. After finding the dive boat launching area, I waved goodbye from the pier, and drove back to Santa Ana.

Eight days later they returned, and I was waiting for them at their hotel here as they arrived. I wish you could have seen them, seen the difference; they jumped out of the taxi, energized to the point of mania, eyes flashing, mouths beaming with unkillable grins, skin now radiating the colors of roses, noses sun burnt and their hair unwashed, salty and gloriously wild. It was hard to believe that these were the same pale city people that I had shouted "Hasta luego!" to, waving from the pier just a little over a week ago. The transformation was miraculous.

Anne, the 34 year-old marriage/divorce attorney, didn't even want to put her bags of gear down; she wanted to recount everything right then and there; eager and excited, she spoke rapidly, barely taking time to breathe, "Rays, great huge Manta rays, ten of them, five times the size of this door here, and we rode one of them.

"Unbelievable! I mean, just un-be-lievable! This one enormous ray just backed up to us and stayed right there, fluttering underwater, and he turned, inviting me, so I could see that there were small gray pilot

fish attached to his body, and all I had to do was grab them, like living quivering handles, to hold on. When he was sure I had a good grip he just took off, flowing like some great miraculous living creature, great ray wings just so effortlessly flying us through the clear warm waters off of Coco! Yowwww! God it was something! And he stayed fairly shallow, as though he knew that humans can not adjust to depth changes very rapidly. I had the longest most incredible ride; it was as though I was under his spell and I only had to just hold on and he was this magnificent flying, living sea creature showing me that anything and everything was possible..."

Her husband, Louis, smiled as Anne dramatically described the diving event, nodding from time to time, and when she paused to take a breathe, he added, "And when Anne and the ray disappeared out to sea, beyond my sight lines, a large school of Hammerhead sharks circled me, mostly just intrigued, you know, acting just a little interested and not being threatening, and then this one large shark spun around and came charging at me at full speed. It seemed like he was going 30 knots. It screamed right for my head, and I thought he was going to ram me. At the last possible second, he pulled up and avoided slamming into me. I thought I was dead, and I would have been if it hadn't decided to veer off. Pheww. And then I saw the huge Manta ray with Anne riding on its back... suddenly returned, just appearing as though it was out of a dream, out of the crystal blue, as though to make sure everything was OK; that no one was hurt

or anything; like the ray was checking everything out to make sure that I was protected.

He angled his huge body upward and Anne let go, and she just slid off towards me. Then he backed up into me, really gently, and waited there again, so I could grab the pilot fish on his back and have my turn riding him. Then he just took off, accelerating from total stillness. During the ride we broke the surface of the water several times, and it was like flying, really flying. The whole time I kept thinking that no one, absolutely no one is going to believe that this is happening."

Anne and Louis's excited narrative went on for a while. And at one point I realized that a small group of hotel guests had just been standing there in the lobby, for a long time, motionless, listening in awe, with Anne and Louis still holding their bags, their faces flushed with the excitement of their fabled diving story; all of us silently listening to their tale of magic off of the island called Coco.

Hearing them, watching their joy and excitement unfold in their story, I remember wanting to take off right then and there for Coco and seek the great enchanted Manta ray, who would, we were all sure at that moment, be there still waiting, waiting for the next group of divers.

Harvey

Osa Peninsula

To those people who write us asking for "steals" in coastal real estate, we are usually obligated to be the bad guys, the bearers of bad news, and to let them know that things have changed somewhat since 1975, and although there are still good buys from time to time, there just are no longer "steals" along the central Pacific and north Pacific coast beaches of Costa Rica.

Then there is the south Pacific area of the Osa peninsula, where it is still rough and beautiful and where the prices are, indeed, pre-1970s. Here there are serious steals. Consider it.

The Osa Peninsula is still a frontier, and to this area flock about 10% of Costa Rica's tourism. The clientele is, for the most part, eco-tourists seeking nature, sport fishermen, surfers, and simply those who want to avoid the crowds and see Costa Rica "the way it was".

Facilities range from rustic palapas to luxurious ocean view rental houses with all of the amenities. The majority of the Osa Peninsula is still "off the grid", so in this area, many of the people who live here incorporate sustainable power methods and building materials, and create an indoor/outdoor

environment that allows for full involvement with the exuberant foliage and wildlife.

Puerto Jimenez is the main town on the Peninsula, with airport services, bank, schools, shopping, and medical care. There is a ferry that crosses the Golfo Dulce several times a day to reach Golfito and the mainland.

It is the way much of coastal Costa Rica was only 20 years ago. Very, very nice.

Following are some examples of real estate that is for sale today, and which are considered a very good deal, in the Osa Peninsula:

66,000 m² Beach Property with Hotel/Retreat & Existing Structures, Beachfront Cabinas with potential for private retreat or commercial business
price: \$685,000

Hotel at Puerto Jimenez 15,000 m² with Units & Restaurant/Bar & Hotel/Retreat & Pool. In town Convenience with Wilderness Resort Feeling.
price: \$1,900,000

Apartments in Puerto Jimenez 345 m2 with Existing Structures Three, 2bedroom, 1bath, Apartment Unit Complex
price: \$165,000

Puerto Jimenez. 1,197 m2 Beach Property with Ocean View & Restaurant/Bar & Hotel/Retreat & Existing Structures. Popular Titled Waterfront Hotel/Bar/Restaurant
price: \$1,000,000

Puerto Jimenez 190 m2 with Mountain View & Existing Structures. 2-Story House in Town, Perfect for B & B or Business & Home Combo
price: \$250,000

Puerto Jimenez. 1,100 m2 Beach Property with Ocean View & Existing Structures. 5000 sq ft Waterfront Building for Commercial or Private Use. Great for B & B.
price: \$250,000

1,000 m2 Beach Property with Existing Structures. Beach House with Guest Cabin. 200 meters from Osa's Finest Beach.
price: \$300,000

100,000 m² (25 acres) Beach Property with Mountain View & Ocean View & Existing Structures & Primary Forest, Rental Home+ Additional property available 5.5 hecets with beachfront cottage.

Rainforest Meets the Sea.

This is a Very Special Property.

price: Inquire

Hotel with Tourism Package Deals

Puerto Jimenez 600 m² with Hotel/Retreat & Existing Structure. 17 Room Hotel with Options including Boats and Canopy Tour Businesses.

price: \$275,000--\$1,450,000 depending on options included.

Hotel. 370,000 m² with Mountain View & Ocean View & Restaurant/Bar & Hotel/Retreat & Existing Structures & Primary Forest, Ocean View. Facility with 14 hecets (35 acres) of primary forest,

price: \$1,500,000

Hotel. 200,000 m² with Mountain View & Ocean View & Restaurant/Bar & Hotel/Retreat & Existing Structures & Primary Forest, Great for Commercial or Private Development.

price: \$475,000

*Thanks for listening, for still being there.
Talk to you soon, and look for #28*

Harvey

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