

Fact Sheet

About Tranquilo Bay:

Tranquilo Bay is an all-inclusive, luxury adventure lodge on the pristine island of Bastimentos in Bocas del Toro, Panama. This secluded destination caters to travelers seeking off-the-beaten-path vacations filled with adventure and fun.

Nestled among 68 gorgeous tropical islands that make up the archipelago (a group of islands formed by volcanoes) of Bocas del Toro, Tranquilo Bay offers guests the chance to experience a variety of outdoor activities: hiking, kayaking, fishing, birding, snorkeling, scuba diving, swimming, relaxing on the beach, surfing and exploring rain forests.

The secluded lodge includes six deluxe cabanas and a main lodge. Tranquilo Bay's air-conditioned cabanas boast comfortable bedding with fine linens and gracious bathrooms complete with granite counters and plenty of amenities to make your stay relaxing. The beautifully constructed main lodge is the centerpiece of the lodge. It is in this building, which features a wrap-around porch, that guests assemble for fine dining and evening cocktails.

Because of the lodge's small size, the staff is able to provide unparalleled personal attention to each guest.

Where We Are Located:

Tranquilo Bay is situated on 95 lush acres in Isla Bastimentos, Panama — the westernmost portion of the country. The lodge is located in the beautiful Panamanian jungle overlooking turquoise Caribbean waters.

The central location within the archipelago of Bocas del Toro allows guests to explore some of the most biologically diverse areas within Panama and Central America.

How it began:

More than 15 years ago close friends Jim and Renée Kimball and Jay Viola decided that they wanted to do something different and meaningful with their lives — besides living life in the big city of Houston, Texas.

Leveraging the group's diverse talent and background, they decided to build a lodge. The next step was to find the perfect location. While working full-time in Houston, the group spent 8 years researching different parts of the world. In the end, they fell in love with Panama.

Jim and Jay came to Panama in 1999 and 2000 respectively to build Tranquilo Bay. Living primitively on the 95 acres they acquired, the duo set about constructing the lodge. They have been hands-on every step of the way, physically and mentally managing every aspect of the project from developing the water filtration system to erecting all of the lodge's buildings. Meanwhile, Renée supported the cause from Houston working on the soft side of the lodge's development.

Jim brought Renée and son Tres to the island in September 2004, just shortly before the lodge officially opened its doors. And in July 2006, Renée and Jim welcomed their second child, Boty, to the Tranquilo Bay family.

Jay and his family, wife Stefanie, and son Scott, live on-site as well.

What Customers Say:

"Tranquilo Bay seems like a million miles away, but the memory keeps me going...(Tranquilo Bay is) this perfect little getaway in the middle of paradise. A place where you can turn your mind off and relax while basking in comfort and style. Where people make sure that you are never bored yet never pressured. And where the food tastes like it comes out of a five star kitchen. A place where you feel like family and where you will want to come back to again and again. Thanks for letting us experience Tranquilo Bay. It was perfect."

Dave & Sarah, New York

"I appreciate all that you did for us before and during our stay. You know we had a great time. What I didn't tell you was what a healing time it was for our family... You can't know how much it meant that you had everything worked out down to the last minute detail of our trip. Our little family was renewed by the healing of the quiet bay waters, the hospitality of our hosts, the wonderful activities and the stunning beauty of what is and surrounds Tranquilo Bay. Thank you so much."

Clay, Emily & Evan, Ohio

"We were treated like royalty at Tranquilo Bay. Very peaceful, beautiful grounds, stunning views - the best experience in Panama so far. I highly recommend it. It's impossible for the photos on the website to do it justice."

Ron & Patricia, Panama

"Our group of six men has chosen a Caribbean site to Scuba Dive annually for the last 15 years. Tranquilo Bay was the most interesting and pleasant of any place we have stayed. And their story is fascinating! They literally created this first class lodge from the Panama jungle. It is clean, modern, and beautifully constructed. There is plenty to do, including visiting a native village. We strongly recommend it."

Kent, Kansas