



# The Ahau Chronicles



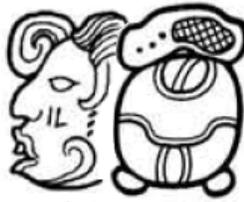
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10 Ahau



8 Kumku



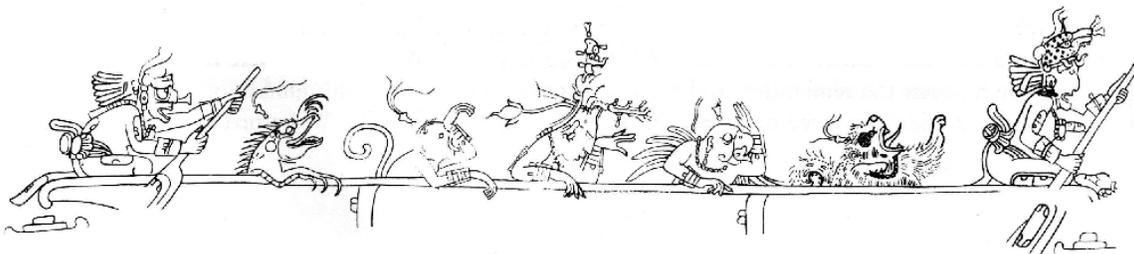
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MAYAPOLOOZA - Part 2



As of today there are 240 days left until the Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Total Solar Eclipse. With this auspicious occasion fast approaching I would like to take this opportunity to once again discuss "MAYAPOLOOZA: The Crusoe 2012 Eclipse Festival." This festival, from November 8-13<sup>th</sup>, will be the only truly authentic Ahau Day celebration. Even though the eclipse begins at sunrise in Northern Australia, this location lies west of the International Date Line where it will already be Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, or the Maya date 4 Imix 4 Keh. The eclipse shadow travels west-to-east, crossing backwards over the Date Line and ending at sunset the day **BEFORE** it started, on the sacred Ahau day! Robinson Crusoe Island is a unique location in the world for viewing the final Total Solar Eclipse of 2012.

The mysteries of the island all point toward a spectacular revelation related to the eclipse date at the end of the 5,125-year Great Cycle of the Mayan calendar. Come and participate in history as we gather within the shadow portal of the eclipse and witness the great investiture of the Mayan Time God at the completion of the 13<sup>th</sup> Baktun.



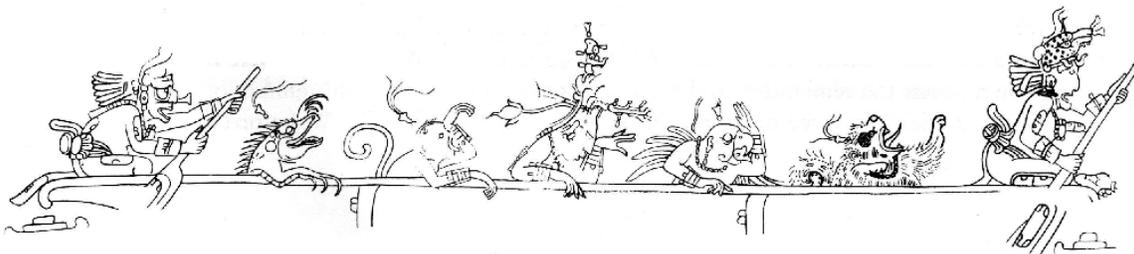
Even though we will be on Robinson Crusoe Island, there is no need to live like a castaway. The former *El Pangal* hotel has been refashioned into a swanky upscale complex now called *Crusoe Island Lodge*. You can relax on the expansive outdoor terraces, read up on the island history in the comfortable lounge, and enjoy delicious fresh seafood prepared daily for the resort guests.



For the budget conscious traveler, there are also accommodations in hostels, cabanas, and private residences on the island. Many of these also offer meal plans for their guests. The *Solar de Selkirk*, shown at left below, was where I spent a night upon our arrival on the island for the filming of the History Channel movie *Apocalypse Island*. [Spoiler alert: We stayed in the village the night before our dangerous beach landing on the other side of the island!] Since the village lies near the water in the main bay of the island, almost all houses have beautiful ocean views.

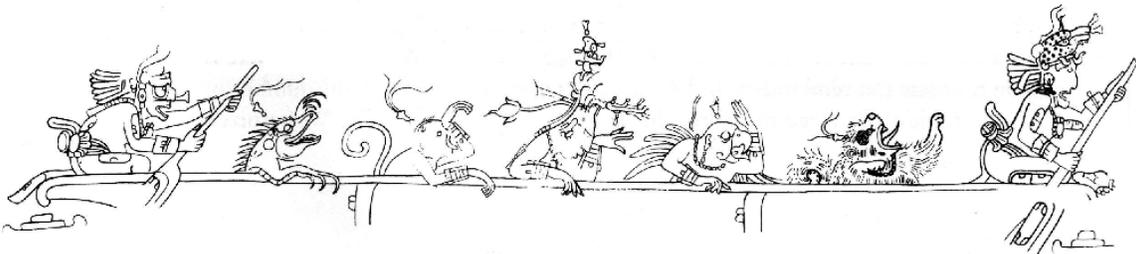


For the more intrepid traveler there are several areas where camping is permitted in and around the village. Bring a tent (or at least a hammock!) and rough it in true Selkirk style. There are also grocery stores and restaurants to offer sustenance during your stay as well as a bountiful supply of fresh seafood provided by the many fishermen.





As eclipse day nears, we will move to the other side of the island to get in position to view the eclipse. The first stop will be the *refugio* shown above which lies within an hour's hike of the monument. I would like to arrange for some local music to be enjoyed here. I first met Guido Balbontin (left) in Santiago in the weeks before my first trip to the island. Guido is one of the island singers and his music is both beautiful and haunting. A campfire serenade would be an unforgettable experience.

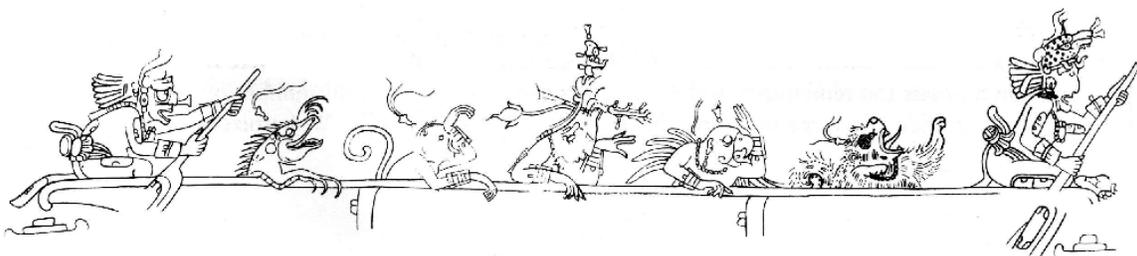




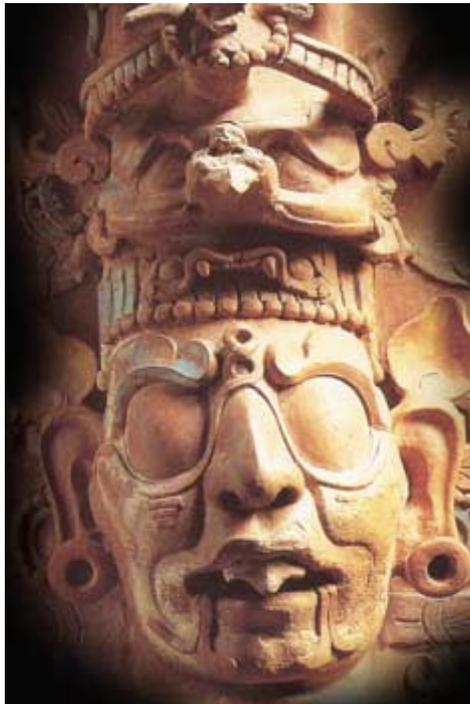
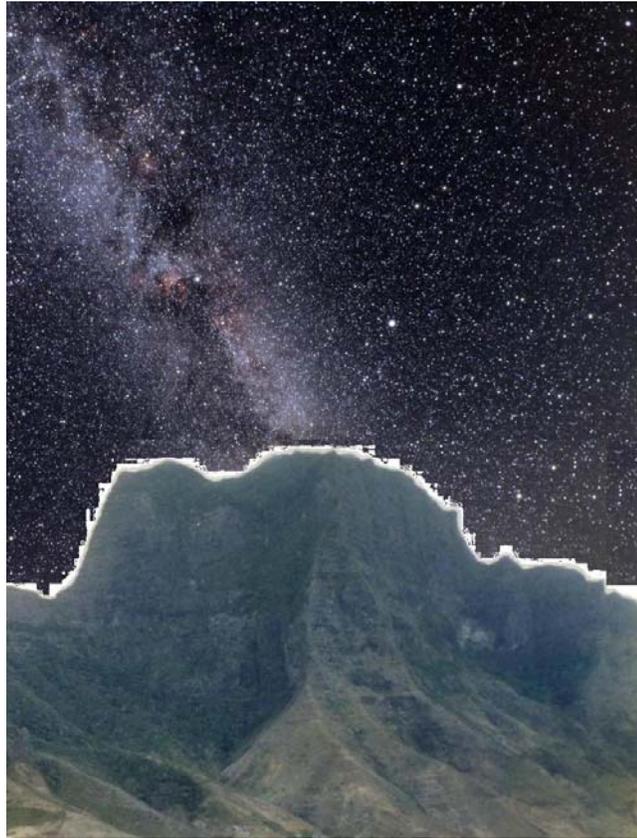
The view above shows the Plains of El Yunque, the wide grassy flanks of the volcano from where I first recognized the island monument. The pair of tents at right are mine and Jeff Salz' which appeared in the History Channel movie. This is the ideal location for viewing the eclipse and hopefully we will be granted permission to camp here in the days leading up to the eclipse. I envision a tent city of cosmic dreamers along with temporary art installations and maybe even a sound stage and some video screens. Ideally, MAYAPOLOOZA could resemble a mini version of its larger cousin where a festival atmosphere would permeate our nomadic community.



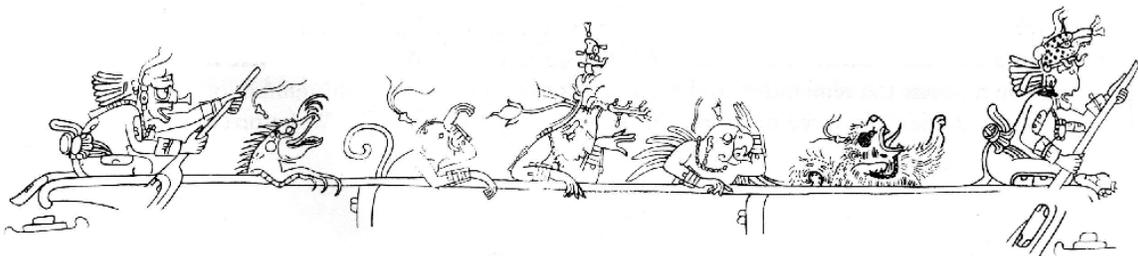
Communal meals are one of the most enjoyable aspects of island life and none more than those cooked outside while camping. There is something innately satisfying about living well in a rugged environment. At left, Pedro Niada prepares some fresh fish for the cast and crew of the History Channel movie. I love this photo and still remember the delicious taste of that meal!



By definition, a solar eclipse occurs at new moon. The moonless skies of the nights leading up to the eclipse will reveal perhaps the darkest skies you will ever experience, absolutely devoid of any light pollution. The Milky Way arches overhead and appears three-dimensional with depth and texture. From our camp location the Milky Way appears to emanate out of the mouth of El Yunque. As the world slowly spins, the galactic disk seems to pour out of the mouth of the mountain profile as if a cosmic volcano was spewing stardust overhead. And with the mountain profile an exact replica of the Egyptian Sphinx one is overcome with a profound sense of mystery.



The Maya Sun God, Kinich Ahau, depicted at left and also on the megalithic island monument, is recognizable in part by large oversized eyes. I have long thought that these looked like sunglasses even though no example of any such artifact has been recovered from the archeological record. Nevertheless, I would like to use the design to manufacture customized eclipse shades for viewing the solar eclipse. Eye protection is absolutely necessary for viewing the sun to prevent eye damage. I have been in contact with the company **Rainbow Symphony, Inc.** and they have assured me that they can produce these glasses. Following the lead of the giant monument we will don our sun shades and gaze west where the eclipsed sun will set at the close of the 13<sup>th</sup> Baktun.



For readers of this newsletter with more than a passing interest in the subject I would recommend you ponder this trip with a profound seriousness. It will undoubtedly be the trip of a lifetime. The sunset eclipse alongside the ancient monument is a unique experience that has the power to transform the participants. My research strongly suggests that something magical is bound to happen here, the fitting climax to one of the greatest mysteries of human history. Rarely in a lifetime does one have the opportunity to participate in something of such grandeur and importance. Consider joining us on this adventure for the ages.

At the end of the filming of the History Channel movie in October 2010 there was a palpable feeling of higher energy amongst the crew. This good vibe, or *buena onda* in Spanish, was experienced by everyone in the group. Our rally cry of “Chan Bahlum!” could be heard echoing across the grassy slopes toward his masterful monument. The photo below shows the film crew and support team as we wound down the shoot. From left there is Max and Toby, who sailed with us on the Tio Tomas, followed by Stephan and Jim. Jeff Salz is at top center with Pedro, Daniel and Marco of Endemica Expediciones to his left. You can read the excitement and energy on each face after a week spent exploring the wonders of Robinson Crusoe Island. Don’t miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to live the dream for yourself.



## MAYAPOLOOZA: The Crusoe 2012 Eclipse Festival

